

Applying for a DEQ Outdoor Burning Permit

When is an outdoor burning permit required?

DEQ regulations prohibit certain types of burning in selected areas of the state. In cities larger than 4,000 people outside the Willamette Valley, Oregon's air quality rules prohibit open burning of commercial, construction, demolition, and land clearing debris within three miles of the city limits. Similar restrictions apply in prescribed areas in the Rogue Valley (Medford to Grants Pass), the Umpqua basin (Myrtle Creek to Sutherlin) and along the southern Oregon coast (Reedsport, Coos Bay, Coquille and Brookings).



Prevent smoldering fires

In the Willamette Valley the restriction on these types of burning, including residential household burning, applies within three miles of cities over 1,000 in population. The restricted area extends to six miles for Willamette Valley cities with populations of over 45,000 people.

The burning of industrial waste anywhere in the state is prohibited without a permit from DEQ. A permit is also required for any material to be burned that has been moved off the property of origin.

Under rare circumstances, when no other means of disposal is available or is severely restricted, DEQ may issue a permit called an "open burning letter permit" to allow the burning of these kinds of waste in the restricted areas.

How to qualify

To qualify for a DEQ open burning letter permit you must first obtain a permit to burn the debris from your local fire department. In addition you

will be asked to provide the following information:

- A listing of alternate disposal methods other than burning;
- The approximate cost of each alternative disposal method;
- The quantity and type of material to be burned.
- The anticipated amount of time it will take for the material to be completely burned;
- The methods proposed to ensure a safe, efficient and complete burn;
- The location of the proposed burn site;
- A diagram showing the proposed burning site, structures and facilities near the proposed burn site and the distances between the structures and facilities at the proposed burn site;
- If the application is for prescribed burning of vegetation to create or restore a wetland or to promote or enhance habitat for indigenous plants or animal, a statement from a federal or state agency recommending the prescribed burning must be included;
- The anticipated need to dispose of similar material by burning in the future;
- Any other information the applicant feels may be relevant in determining the necessity of issuing an open burn permit.

Please submit the information listed above to the nearest DEQ office that handles applications for open burning letter permits. Offices are listed on page 2.

Use good burning practices to promote efficient burning and prevent excessive smoke:

- Assure all combustible material is dry and/or seasoned (leaves and needles are brown). This may include covering the combustible material to protect from moisture (including precipitation or dew).
- Avoid igniting a large pile. Begin with a small pile to establish a hot bed of coals, and feed additional combustible material while maintaining a hot fire, free of excessive smoke. A combustion promoting fan is very effective on large land clearing debris burns. Eliminate dirt, rocks or other



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www.oregon.gov/DEQ

noncombustible material from the burn pile prior to igniting.

- Periodically re-stack or feed the burning pile to ensure combustion is robust and essentially completed.

Good fire control practice

Not only can fires have adverse health effects due to smoke, they can also spread into dangerous wildfires. Follow these guidelines to minimize the risk of wildfire:

- Move all burnable materials at least ten feet away from a fire
- Do not build a fire on windy days
- Never leave a fire unattended
- Always have water and a rake or shovel on hand
- Always make sure the fire is completely out when done

Alternative Formats

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another format.

To make these arrangements, contact DEQ Communications and Outreach in Portland at 503-229-5696 or call toll-free in Oregon at 800-452-4011; fax to 503-229-6762; or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

People with hearing impairments may call 711.

For More Information

For more information on DEQ's open burning regulations in your area, contact your local DEQ office.

NW Oregon/Portland

2020 SW 4th Ave
Suite 400
Portland, OR 97201
Phone: 503-229-5600
Fax: 503-229-6945

Willamette Valley

750 Front St NE
Suite 120
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-378-8240
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Central Oregon

475 NE Bellevue, Suite 110
Bend, OR 97701
Phone: 541-388-6146
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Eastern Oregon

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South Coast

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Southern Oregon

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