

Open Burning Regulations for the Mid-Willamette Valley

A Source of Pollution and Complaints

Pollution from outdoor burning can pose a threat to public health, the environment, or become a public nuisance. Using the air we all breathe to dispose of trash is a major source of complaints to fire departments and environmental agencies.

What is “Open Burning?”

“Open Burning” is any burning that is conducted outdoors. A fire in a burn barrel, an outdoor fireplace, or in a backyard incinerator is considered open burning. Other examples include burning yard debris, stumps, remains of demolished structures, or construction materials.

It is Illegal to do any Open Burning that:

- Unreasonably interferes with the enjoyment of life or property of another
- Is not attended by a responsible person
- Does not have adequate water or equipment
- Is a hazard to public safety

It is Illegal to Burn any of the Following Materials:

- Rubber products, including tires
- Plastic
- Wet garbage and food waste
- Petroleum and petroleum-treated materials
- Asphalt and asbestos
- Wire insulation
- Automobile parts
- Animal remains
- Any material that produces dense smoke or noxious odors

Open Burning of Commercial Waste is prohibited in the Willamette Valley.

Examples of commercial waste are debris from:

- Offices
- Wholesale and retail yards and outlets
- Warehouses
- Restaurants
- Mobile home parks
- Domestic waste removed from the property of origin
- Waste from dwellings that contain four or more living units

Special Open Burning Control Areas:

Special Open Burning Control Areas have been established to minimize the impacts of open burning on populated or congested areas. Such

areas are established around cities in the Willamette Valley and extend 3 or 6 miles from the city limits, depending on the population.

County	Cities	Miles
Benton	Corvallis	6 Miles
Benton	Albany	6 Miles
Benton	Philomath	6 Miles
Linn	Albany	6 Miles
Linn	Brownsville	3 Miles
Linn	Harrisburg	3 Miles
Linn	Lebanon	3 Miles
Linn	Lyons	3 Miles
Linn	Mill City	3 Miles
Linn	Sweet Home	3 Miles
Linn	Tangent	3 Miles
Marion	Salem & Keizer	6 Miles
Marion	Aumsville	3 Miles
Marion	Gervais	3 Miles
Marion	Hubbard	3 Miles
Marion	Jefferson	3 Miles
Marion	Lyons	3 Miles
Marion	Mill City	3 Miles
Marion	Mt Angel	3 Miles
Marion	Silverton	3 Miles
Marion	Stayton	3 Miles
Marion	Sublimity	3 Miles
Marion	Turner	3 Miles
Marion	Woodburn	3 Miles
Polk	Salem	6 Miles
Polk	Dallas	3 Miles
Polk	Falls City	3 Miles
Polk	Independence	3 Miles
Polk	Monmouth	3 Miles
Polk	Willamina	3 Miles
Yamhill	Amity	3 Miles
Yamhill	Carlton	3 Miles
Yamhill	Dayton	3 Miles
Yamhill	Dundee	3 Miles
Yamhill	Lafayette	3 Miles
Yamhill	McMinnville	3 Miles
Yamhill	Newberg	3 Miles
Yamhill	Sheridan	3 Miles
Yamhill	Willamina	3 Miles

Special Open Burning Control Areas include any area between the areas listed above, where 3 miles or less separate the boundaries.

When is Open Burning Allowed?

Open burning is allowed on approved burn days during authorized times. Call your [local fire department's](#) burn line for information regarding burn days and times.



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Western Region Air Quality

Open Burning
750 Front St. NE, Ste. 120
Salem, OR 97301-1039
Phone: (503) 378-5085
(800) 349-7677
Fax: (503) 378-4196
Contact: Jennifer Claussen
www.oregon.gov/DEQ

Please call your local fire department to report an open burning complaint.

You may also contact DEQ's complaint hotline at 888-997-7888 or submit a complaint online at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/complaints/>

You will need to provide a complete address if you would like DEQ to follow up on your complaint.

Inside Special Open Burning Control Areas

Burning is usually allowed March 1 through June 15, and October 1 through December 15. Local burning ordinances may be more restrictive than DEQ rules.

Outside Special Open Burning Control Areas

Burning may occur on any approved burn day provided that no prohibited material is burned.

What Can You Burn?

Inside a Special Control Area:

- Yard debris
- Agricultural Waste

Outside a Special Control Area:

- Construction waste
- Demolition waste
- Yard debris
- Domestic waste
- Agricultural waste
- Slash

What is Yard Debris?

Materials from trees, shrubs or plants that grow in your landscaped yard, for example:

- Grass clippings
- Tree leaves and needles
- Small branches
- Rose bush clippings

What is Domestic Waste?

Domestic waste is typically waste generated in or around a house, such as:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Clean wood waste

What is Demolition Waste?

- Clean wood waste from a complete or partial destruction of a man-made structure
- Clearing any site for land improvement or cleanup

What is Construction Waste?

Material from a building or a construction project, such as:

- Lumber and other building material
- Crating and packing material

What is Agricultural Waste?

Agricultural waste is material generated by an agricultural operation that currently uses, or intends to use, land primarily for the purpose of obtaining a profit in money by raising, harvesting and selling crops or raising and selling animals (including poultry), or products of animal husbandry.

Prohibited materials cannot be burned, even in an agricultural setting. All burning must occur during authorized burn days and times.

Agricultural activities may include clearing land for an agricultural purpose, but does not include construction and use of dwellings. The burning of materials associated with a dwelling is not considered part of an agricultural operation.

Some fire departments require agricultural burning permits. Contact your local fire department for more information.

Agricultural field burning is the burning of residue left from the harvest of grass seed or cereal grain crops, and is regulated in the Willamette Valley by the Smoke Management Program operated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

What is Slash Burning?

Slash burning, is the burning of forest debris that originated from the management of forest land used for growing and harvesting timber. Slash burning is prohibited inside of Special Open Burning Control Areas not regulated by the Department of Forestry.

Slash burning is not the clearing of forestland for any other purpose. If there are no intentions for the logged land to be replanted, then it is considered demolition burning. Contact your local Department of Forestry Office for more information.

Alternatives to Open Burning

- Donate unwanted clothing, furniture, and toys to friends, relatives or charities. Give unwanted magazines and books to hospitals or nursing homes.
- Separate the recyclable items from other waste and prepare them for collection or drop-off at a local recycling station. Chip wood waste and use as mulch. Compost organic material and use as a soil amendment.
- Arrange for your non-recyclable waste to be picked up or take it to a transfer station or landfill.

Call [your local fire department](#) to report an open burning complaint. You may also contact DEQ with a complaint. For more information visit <http://www.deq.state.or.us/complaints/>

Alternative Formats

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ Public Affairs for more information 503-229-5696.

