

What is open burning?

Open burning is any burning outdoors that does not pass through a stack, duct, or chimney. This includes outdoor residential, crop residue, and prescribed burning. Open burning also applies to material that is burned in burn barrels, air curtain destructors, or other such devices.

Since many open-burning practitioners are focused on fire safety, they may not realize additional rules apply to protect public health. Regulation of open burning is needed to minimize the impact of smoke on public health. Open burning in Idaho is regulated by state law and rules, tribal code, and local ordinances.

Open burning is restricted by air quality rules and permit requirements year-round.

Sections 600–623 of the “Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho” describe the state’s regulatory authority over open burning under the jurisdiction of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The state rules apply to all lands other than the five Indian reservations.

Open burning is limited to dry vegetative material and should occur only on days when good ventilation will provide excellent smoke dispersion.

For more information

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

State Office
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0502

Regional Offices

Boise
1445 N. Orchard
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 373-0550
toll-free: (888) 800-3480

Lewiston
1118 F Street
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 799-4370
toll-free: (877) 541-3304

Coeur d’Alene
2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
(208) 769-1422
toll-free: (877) 370-0017

Pocatello
444 Hospital Way #300
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208) 236-6160
toll-free: (888) 655-6160

Idaho Falls
900 N. Skyline, Suite B
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 528-2650
toll-free: (800) 232-4635

Twin Falls
650 Addison Ave. W,
Suite 110
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(208) 736-2190
toll-free: (800) 270-1663

DEQ Air Quality Advisory Hotlines

Kootenai County: (800) 633-6247
Lewiston Region: (855) 401-4636
Pocatello/Chubbuck: (208) 236-6173
Greater Sandpoint: (800) 633-6247
Silver Valley: (800) 633-6247
Treasure Valley: (208) 373-0313

Web Resources

Daily Air Quality Reports and Forecasts: www.deq.idaho.gov/daily-air-quality-reports-forecasts

Real-Time Air Monitoring:
<http://airquality.deq.idaho.gov/>



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Know Before You Burn!



Open Burning Do's and Don'ts



Idaho Department of
Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov



What cannot be burned?

Burning of most processed or manufactured materials is prohibited (exemptions may apply), including the following:

- Garbage
- Dead animals or animal waste
- Motor vehicles or parts
- Tires or other rubber materials
- Plastics
- Asphalt, tar and petroleum materials, and paints
- Trade waste materials (dimension lumber, hay not in field, sawdust, etc.)
- Insulated wire
- Pathogenic (disease-causing) waste
- Hazardous waste

Local ordinances may further restrict or prohibit open burning. In addition, burners may be required to obtain permits in some jurisdictions.

Burn bans

DEQ may issue burn bans as a result of weather and air quality conditions. When a burn ban has been issued, outdoor open burning is prohibited and local ordinances may limit the use of wood stoves and fireplaces.

The following resources will help you find out if a burn ban has been issued:

- News on your local radio or TV station
- DEQ's Daily Air Quality Reports and Forecasts webpage at www.deq.idaho.gov/daily-air-quality-reports-forecasts
- DEQ's Air Quality Advisory Hotline for your area (see numbers on back panel)

What can be burned?

Unless a burn ban is in effect and/or other restrictions apply, the following types of burning may be conducted:

- **Residential yard waste burning.** Tree leaves, yard trimmings, and gardening waste may be burned if allowed by local ordinance or rule and conducted on the property where the waste was generated.
- **Recreational and warming fires.** Fires for preparation of food, campfires, and barbecues are allowable, as are small fires for hand warming.
- **Weed control fires.** Fires for weed abatement and blown vegetation debris (e.g., tumbleweeds and pine needles) only along fence lines, ditch banks, and canal banks are allowable.
- **Training fires.** Fires to train firefighters are allowed. Contact your local DEQ regional office prior to burning.
- **Prescribed burning.** Open burning of forest and rangeland to accomplish land management objectives is allowed.
- **Crop residue burning.** Growers may burn crop residue when approved by DEQ. Training, permits, and fees are required.



Avoid burning whenever possible!

Burning can waste valuable resources. It may be possible to avoid open burning by better planning, reuse, or recycling.

- Recycle paper products whenever possible.
- Compost yard debris and kitchen scraps.
- Buy or rent a chipper and use chips for mulch and compost.
- Take hazardous materials, including oil-based paints, solvents, garden chemicals, and car fluids, to a hazardous waste collection site. Burning these materials is illegal and extremely dangerous.
- Donate materials.

If you must burn

If no alternative to burning is available, DEQ advises potential burners to check with local fire protection districts and the Idaho Department of Lands to find out if a permit is required and to either call DEQ's Air Quality Advisory Hotline (see numbers on back panel) or log onto the agency's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/daily-air-quality-reports-forecasts to check whether burning has been regulated.

The following guidelines will help minimize smoke impacts from burning:

- **Burn only dry material.** Green limbs and other vegetative garden waste smolder and produce excessive smoke.
- **Keep burn pile small and manageable.** Large piles develop lots of ash, robbing the pile of oxygen and causing smoky conditions.
- **Burn during the midday hours when solar heating and ventilation are at their maximum.** To prevent smoke from lingering near the ground, never start a burn in the evening or early morning hours. Complete burning before dusk.