What You Can Do

Instead of Open Burning

• Reduce the amount of waste you generate.
• Reuse items in another way.
• Recycle - Contact your waste disposal provider about curb-side pickup or drop-off locations for bulky or hazardous items.
• Compost yard trimmings and food scraps, while creating a natural, free fertilizer.

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Why is open burning a problem?

Open burning can release many kinds of toxic fumes. Leaves and plant materials send aloft millions of spores when they catch fire, causing many people with allergies to have difficulty breathing.

The pollutants released by open burning also make it more difficult to meet health-based air quality standards, especially in or near large cities. The gases released by open burning can also corrode metal siding and damage paint on buildings.

What open burning is never allowed?

Under Ohio law, these materials may not be burned anywhere in the state at any time:

• garbage—any wastes created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking or consuming food;

• materials containing rubber, grease and asphalt or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars and auto parts, plastics or plastic-coated wire; and

• dead animals—unless approved for control of disease by a governing agency.

Other restrictions:

• Open burning is not allowed when air pollution warnings, alerts or emergencies are in effect.

• Fires cannot obscure visibility for roadways, railroad tracks or air fields.

• No wastes generated off the premises may be burned. For example, a tree trimming contractor may not haul branches and limbs to another site to burn.

Can a community regulate open burning?

Yes. However, local ordinances cannot be less strict than the state law.

What happens if I’m caught illegally open burning?

Ohio EPA has the authority to enforce the state’s open burning laws. Violations can result in substantial penalties. If you have any questions, or would like to report a suspected open burning incident, contact your Ohio EPA district office or your local air pollution control agency. See the map in this brochure for the agency to contact in your area.

Health Concerns

Burning household waste produces many toxic chemicals and is one of the largest known sources of dioxin in the nation. Other air pollutants from open burning include particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, lead and mercury.

These pollutants have been linked to several health problems, including asthma, respiratory illnesses, nervous system damage, kidney and liver damage, and reproductive or developmental disorders.

Before You Light It... Know Ohio’s Open Burning Regulations

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Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

For a complete copy of Ohio’s open burning regulations, contact:

Ohio EPA
Division of Air Pollution Control
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049
(614) 644-2270
epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/openburning

Open burning is any time you light an outdoor fire without a chimney or stack.

When burning refuse in burn barrels or open piles, the potential cost to your health, your home, your neighbors and your environment far exceeds the price of adequate collection services.

Protect yourself, your neighbors and your wallet by knowing the rules—what you can burn and where.
Local Air Pollution Control Agencies

1. Akron Regional Air Quality Management District
   (800) 589-2480
   araqmd.org

2. Canton Division of Air Pollution Control
   (330) 489-3385
   cantonhealth.org/apc/

3. Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency
   (800) 899-0474
   southwestohioair.org

4. Cleveland Division of Air Quality
   (216) 664-2297
   clevelandhealth.org/network/air_quality/air_quality.php

5. Regional Air Pollution Control Agency
   (800) 458-2115
   rapca.org

6. Portsmouth Air Pollution Control
   (740) 353-5156
   portsmonthio.org/health/air-division/

7. Regional Air Pollution Control Agency
   (800) 480-2115
   rapca.org

The Division of Air Pollution Control’s jurisdictional boundaries for district offices and local air agencies are not the same as Ohio EPA’s standard district boundaries. Standard district boundaries, indicated by the dark lines, are for reference only.

Ohio EPA District Offices

- **CDO** Central District Office
  (800) 686-2330*  (614) 728-3778
- **NEDO** Northeast District Office
  (800) 686-6330*  (330) 963-1200
- **NWDO** Northwest District Office
  (800) 686-6930*  (419) 352-8461
- **SEDO** Southeast District Office
  (800) 686-7330*  (740) 385-8501

* Full area numbers are for calls within Ohio.

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