

Health Matters

Burning clean, natural vegetation such as lawn clippings, leaves and tree limbs produces dangerous pollutants. Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is especially harmful to human health. Those at greatest risk are children, pregnant women, the elderly and anyone suffering heart or lung ailments such as high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure, asthma, emphysema and bronchitis.

Burning also produces carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHG).

The Washington State Legislature regulates burning to protect public health and property. Some types of burning have been prohibited in many areas of the state. Burn bans may also be called for a number of reasons (see details inside) so before you burn, check the ORCAA website for the latest rules and restrictions.

www.ORCAA.org

Trash Burning is Illegal!

Where burning is allowed, only natural vegetation (leaves, brush, etc.) may be burned.

State law prohibits the burning of the following materials, including, but not limited to, *paper or newspaper (except to start a fire), cardboard, household garbage, treated or painted wood, plywood, construction debris, paints, tires and other rubber products, plastics, asphalt and building materials, chemicals, petroleum products, and metal.* Smoke, odor, or ash which goes beyond your property and impacts a neighbor is illegal.

Violations of outdoor burning laws may result in fines up to \$14,915 per violation!

Further Information

To receive further information about the legal requirements of residential burning, contact:

Olympic Region Clean Air Agency

(360) 539-7610 – www.orcaa.org

Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

(800) 527-3305 – www.dnr.wa.gov

Thurston County Fire Agencies

Bald Hills Fire Department (TCFD#17)

(360) 894-2517

East Olympia Fire Department (TCFD#6)

(360) 491-5533

Gibson Valley Fire Department (TCFD#16)

(360) 278-3334

Griffin Fire Department (TCFD#13)

(360) 866-9000

Lacey Fire Department (TCFD#3)

(360) 491-2410

McLane Black Lake Fire Department

(360) 866-1000

Olympia Fire Department

(360) 753-8348

South Bay Fire Department (TCFD#8)

(360) 491-5320

Southeast Thurston Fire Authority

(360) 458-2799

Tenino Fire Department (TCFD#12)

(360) 264-4116

Tumwater Fire Department (TCFD#15)

(360) 754-4170

West Thurston Fire Authority

(360) 352-1614

TO REPORT A FIRE, CALL 9-1-1



THURSTON COUNTY
WASHINGTON
SINCE 1852

Residential Outdoor Burning Requirements



General Outdoor Burning Rules

WAC 173-425, RCW 70A.15, ORCAA Regulation 6: Rule 6.2

If you choose to burn your yard waste, **and you live in an area where it is legal to do so**, please follow these guidelines:

- ◆ **Get a Permit.** All fires within Thurston County require permits.
- ◆ **Do NOT use a burn barrel.** Burn Barrels are illegal under state law and their use may result in fines.
- ◆ **Burn only natural vegetation** originating on the property where the burn occurs. Trash burning is illegal and may result in fines.
- ◆ **Check the weather** prior to starting your burn. Don't burn during air stagnation nor in windy conditions.
- ◆ **Fires must be attended at all times.**
- ◆ **Do NOT create a nuisance.** You are responsible for your fire. Creating smoke, odor, and ash that unreasonably impacts neighboring properties is illegal.

Permit Information

Residential Outdoor Burning

If you live in an area where burning is allowed you may obtain a Residential Outdoor Burning Permit at www.ORCAA.org or by calling (360) 539-7610. A new permit is required each burning season (starting Oct. 1 each year).

Land Clearing Burning

You must obtain a Land Clearing Burn Permit from www.ORCAA.org.

The Residential Outdoor Burning Permit is NOT valid for Land Clearing Burns.

Alternatives to Burning

Composting, chipping and recycling are alternatives to burning that create a resource rather than air pollution. Other options include:

- **CURBSIDE YARD COLLECTION**
This service is available for most areas of the county. Contact your waste hauler.
- **CHIPPING PROGRAMS**
Wood chips make great compost or mulch for gardens and flower beds. Chippers can be purchased or rented.
- **SELF-HAUL TO LOCAL COMPOST CENTERS**
Contact Thurston County, (360) 357-2491 or www.co.thurston.wa.us for locations
- **BACKYARD COMPOST BINS**
Get instructions to make your own compost bin. Contact WSU Extension Office, (360) 786-5445, ext. 7908.
- **ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING RESOURCES**
Contact ORCAA, (360) 539-7610, to receive information on alternatives to burning resources. Or find it at www.ORCAA.org.

Types of Burning

Recreational Fires: Fires used for cooking or recreation. Must be 3-feet in diameter or smaller and burning only charcoal or firewood.

No trash burning allowed!

Residential Fires: Burning of yard and garden debris, such as leaves, weeds, prunings and garden refuse. Permits ARE required – they are available at www.ORCAA.org or by calling (360) 539-7610. **No trash burning allowed!**

Land Clearing Fires: Burning of trees, stumps, shrubbery, and other natural vegetation from land clearing projects. Permits issued by ORCAA are required. **No trash burning allowed!**

Burn Ban Areas

Since, 2007, state law prohibits burning in all designated Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) and their associated cities. In Thurston County, the UGA Burn Ban Areas area:

Bucoda, Grand Mound, Lacey, Olympia, Rainier, Tenino, Tumwater, Yelm.

To determine if you reside in a No Burn Area, check the map link here: <https://bit.ly/Thurston-Burning>. On the map, use search (magnifying glass) to enter your address. If it is in a shaded area, you are within a no burn area. Click on the shaded area to see the conditions of that jurisdiction (city or UGA).

Burn bans may be called in ANY area for a variety of reasons, including:

- ◆ **Impaired Air Quality.** When air pollution levels are measured at elevated levels and forecasts indicate continued deterioration of air quality, ORCAA may call a burn ban.
- ◆ **High Fire Danger.** Fire officials may announce a fire-safety burn ban during periods of dry weather.

No Burn Area



**Outdoor Burning
PROHIBITED in
Urban Growth Areas**

RCW 70.94.743