General Outdoor Burning Rules

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 or file a notification.** A permit is required in Thurston County. Burn notification is requested in all other counties. The free self-issuing permit and notification form is available online at: **orcaa.org/burning/outdoor-burning**
- **Do not create a nuisance.** Creating smoke, odor, and ash that unreasonably impacts neighboring properties is illegal. You are responsible for your fire.
- **Burn only natural vegetation** originating on the property where the burn occurs. Trash burning is illegal and may result in fines.
- **Do not use a burn barrel**. Burn barrels are illegal under state law.
- **Check the weather** prior to starting your burn. Don't burn during air stagnation or in windy conditions.
- **Fires must be attended at all times** until no smoke or flames remain.

Our Mission

ORCAA promotes air quality and takes actions that protect the health and welfare of people and the natural environment in the agency's six-county jurisdiction (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston Counties).

Our Vision

All individuals in ORCAA's jurisdiction—especially children and the elderly—can live, work, and play in a healthful and clean environment, free from the harmful and destructive effects of air pollution.

Decades of Service

Since 1968, Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) has served the residents of Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston Counties.

For more information, contact:

Olympic Region Clean Air Agency
2940 Limited Lane NW
Olympia WA 98502
(360) 539-7610

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Outdoor Burning

Requirements for Safe and Legal Burning

Types of Burning

Recreational Fires: Fires used for cooking or recreation must be under 3-feet diameter, burning only charcoal or firewood.

Residential Yard Waste: Includes yard and garden debris such as leaves, weeds, prunings, and garden refuse. No trash burning is permitted. Before burning, please complete the notification form.

Land Clearing: Burning of trees, stumps, shrubs and other natural vegetation from land clearing projects. Permits are required.

For guidance, visit:

orcaa.org/burning/land-clearing-burn-permit-application/

Permit Information

For residential yard waste burning, permits are required in Thurston County. For Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, and Pacific County residents, we request that burners complete a free notification form. The permit/notification program is valid for an entire burn season, typically October through July, depending on fire safety conditions.

This notification system helps ORCAA and fire agencies provide better education, compliance, and complaint response. The system gives burners information on fire safety and smoke mitigation before the fires are ignited. It also provides burners with a means to receive updated fire and air quality information during the burn season.

The free self-issuing permit and notification forms are available online at:

orcaa.org/burning/outdoor-burning

Burn Ban Areas

Land Clearing and Residential Outdoor Burning has been banned in most cities and urban growth areas (UGAs) within Washington state. Burn bans may be called in ANY area for a variety of reasons, including:

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

Fire Safety

For fire safety rules and considerations, please contact your local fire department.

Trash Burning is Illegal

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

State law prohibits the burning of the following materials: paper or newspaper (except what is necessary to start a fire); cardboard; household garbage; processed, treated, painted, or stained wood; plywood; construction debris; paints; tires and other rubber products; plastics; asphalt and building materials; chemicals; petroleum products; metal; and dead animals.

Smoke, odor, or ash that extend beyond your property and impact a neighbor is illegal. Violations may result in a large fine.