

Health Matters

Burning clean, natural vegetation such as lawn clippings, leaves and tree limbs produces dangerous pollutants. Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) is 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.

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

Cleaner Air for Better Health!

Since 1968, ORCAA has been serving the residents of Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Pacific and Thurston Counties.

The agency promotes air quality and takes actions that protect the health and welfare of the people and the natural environment in ORCAA's jurisdiction.

For more information please visit

www.ORCAA.org

Olympic Region Clean Air Agency

2940 Limited Lane NW

Olympia, WA 98502

(360) 539-7610

Trash Burning is Illegal!

Where burning is allowed, only natural vegetation may be burned.

State law prohibits the burning of the following materials: paper or newspaper (except what is necessary to start a fire); cardboard; household garbage; 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 which goes beyond your property and impacts a neighbor is illegal. Violations may result in fines up to \$14,915 per violation.



Outdoor Burning: Requirements for safe & legal burning



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.** Free permits are required in Thurston County. Burn notification is requested in all other counties. The free self-issuing permit and notification form is available online at www.orcaa.org.
- **Do NOT create a nuisance.** You are responsible for your fire. Creating smoke, odor and ash that unreasonably impacts neighboring properties is illegal.
- **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 and other burn containers are illegal under state law.
- **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** until no smoke or flames remain.

Types of Burning

Recreational Fires: Fires used for cooking or recreation. Must be under 3-foot diameter and burning only charcoal or firewood.

Residential Yard Waste Burns: Burning of yard and garden debris, such as leaves, weeds, prunings and garden refuse. **No trash burning!** Before burning, please complete the notification form.

Land Clearing Burns: Burning of trees, stumps, shrubbery, and other natural vegetation from land clearing projects. Permits ARE required – consult ORCAA.

Alternatives to Burning

Composting, chipping and recycling are alternatives to burning that create a resource rather than air pollution. For more information about alternatives to outdoor burning in your area, visit www.ORCAA.org or contact your local Solid Waste Department.



Burn Ban Areas

Land Clearing and Residential Outdoor Burning has been banned in most cities and urban growth areas (UGAs) within Washington state. *Additionally, 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 to protect human health.
- **High Fire Danger.** Fire officials may announce a fire-safety burn ban during extended periods of dry weather.

Permit Information

For residential yard waste burning, free, self-issuing permits are required in Thurston County. In ORCAA's other counties, we request that burners complete a free notification form.

The permit/notification program is valid for an entire burn season (Oct-July most years, depending on fire safety concerns).

The 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 form is available online at www.orcaa.org.

Fire Safety

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

