

There are alternatives...

Throughout our region, and particularly wherever outdoor burning is prohibited, alternatives to burning are available.

▪ Curb it

Sign up for curbside recycling service for yard waste, or self-haul to a nearby recycling facility.

▪ Compost it

Convert dead leaves and grass clippings into healthy food for your shrubs.

▪ Chip it

Hire a professional chipping service or rent or buy your own chipper to munch larger branches and other woody debris into a great mulch.

For more information about alternatives to outdoor burning in Pierce County:

- Pierce County Public Works & Utilities Solid Waste Division
253-798-2179
www.co.pierce.wa

Violations of outdoor burning regulations can be costly. Fines can exceed \$16,000 per day and typically start at \$2,000.

These fines are enforced by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.



West Pierce Fire & Rescue

3631 Drexler Drive West
University Place, WA 98466
253-564-1623
www.westpierce.org

☰ In West Pierce...



Get the facts
before you burn.





GET THE FACTS....

In Washington State...

- It's always illegal to use a BURN BARREL.
- It's always illegal to burn **prohibited materials including**
 - Garbage or refuse
 - Cardboard or paper (except what's necessary to start the fire)
 - Building materials, including paints, vinyl flooring, roofing and scrap lumber
 - Rubber products, including tires
 - Plastics or petroleum products
 - Dead animals
 - Any other material that creates smoke that is offensive or harmful to your neighbors
- **It is always illegal to smoke out your neighbor.**

If your fire is determined a nuisance, you will be asked to put it out.

Washington State law prohibits residential burning in urbanized areas.

The Puget Sound Clean Air agency has adopted state outdoor burning regulations and enforces them in Pierce County.

Why is outdoor burning prohibited for most of us? Because breathing smoke is bad for your health, particularly for children, people over 50 and anyone with asthma or other respiratory problems.

Recreational fires

Even within the urbanized no-burn areas, recreational fires are allowed on your own private property and in designated locations in some public parks. According to state rules (WAC 173-425-030), the term "recreational fires" means "cooking fires, campfires, and bonfires using charcoal or firewood that occur in designated areas or on private property for cooking, pleasure, or ceremonial purposes."



Fires lit in chimineas, fire pits, fire bowls and similar free-standing devices, commonly sold at home-improvement stores and mass retailers, fall under this definition. Fires used for debris disposal purposes are not considered recreational fires.

Remember, it is always illegal to smoke out your neighbor and if your fire is determined a nuisance, you will be asked to put it out.

Land-clearing fires are prohibited throughout our region

Land-clearing fires are no longer allowed in Pierce County. Under state law, developers are required to use alternatives such as on-site chipping and removal off-site wood waste recycling.

Temporary burn bans

If a fire-safety burn ban is in place or if an air-quality burn ban is called, outdoor fires are prohibited on public and private property. Call 1-800-595-4341 for burn ban information.

Resources

Visit the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency web site at www.pscleanair.org or call 1-800-552-3565.