



Do's and Don'ts for Outdoor Burning at Your Residence

Answers to Some Burning Questions

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality GI-415
3/11

Burning Trash or Land-Clearing Debris: Some Do's and Don'ts to Remember

Do's

- Call City Hall (972-752-5791) to make sure that burning is not against the city ordinance. Also make sure that a burn ban is not in place for your area (to prevent wildfires, Collin County Fire Marshal sets the burn ban during dry weather).
- Burn only allowable trash (see below) and land-clearing debris that was generated at the residence.

Don'ts

- Don't create a traffic hazard: make sure that smoke doesn't blow across roads.
- Don't burn anything that may create excessive smoke or toxic fumes, such as plastic, tires, or shingles.
- Don't burn trash or anything else from a business.

- Don't cause a nuisance: make sure you don't smoke out your neighbors.
- Don't burn anything during a Burn Ban or during a Red Flag Warning.
- Never burn on windy days.

When is outdoor burning okay?

To protect the quality of the air we breathe in Texas, the TCEQ rules prohibit outdoor burning anywhere in the state. However, the TCEQ allows for exceptions in specific situations when the burning activity does not pose a health threat or nuisance and is an acceptable practice.

Ceremonial and Recreational Fires

The TCEQ allows bonfires (not construction debris or other waste), fire pits, and cooking fires (grills), as long as they do not cause nuisance smoke or traffic hazards and as long as special attention is given to safety. Never burn anything on the "Never Burn" list, below.

Are there alternatives to burning?

There are several alternatives that you should explore before you resort to burning. The four principal alternatives are:

- Recycling
- Composting
- Mulching
- Disposal in local landfills. NTMWD charges \$45.00 per ton with one ton minimum charge. The transfer station only accepts credit/debit cards. Contact 972-442-5405 for more information.

Are there any items I should not burn?

There are some items that you should never burn, under any circumstances, because such burning would pose a safety or health threat. The basic six "Never Burn" items are listed below:

Never Burn

- Electrical insulation
- Tires
- Treated lumber (such as in construction or demolition waste)

- Heavy oils or asphalt materials
- Potentially explosive materials or chemicals
- Plastic

How can I find more information?

There are numerous ways to get more information about outdoor burning in Texas.

- Visit the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's website, at <www.tceq.texas.gov>.
- Read the Outdoor Burning rules, 30 TAC 111.201–221, by clicking on "Rules" on the TCEQ home page.
- Download TCEQ publication RG-049, Outdoor Burning in Texas, for a description of the rule in plain language and FAQs by clicking on "Publications" on the TCEQ home page.
- Call the Small Business and Local Government Assistance Hotline, 800-447-2827, or go to <www.TexasEnviroHelp.org>.
- Call your TCEQ Regional Office, at 888-777-3186.
- Find a map of current county burn bans and related maps (such as fire-danger and drought-index maps) by going to <txforestservice.tamu.edu> and clicking on "Fire Danger/Advisories."
- Learn more ways to do your part for the Texas environment by going to <takecareoftexas.org>.
- See Ordinance 2019-0319-001 at City Hall or see it on the City's website at: https://blueridgcity.com/documents/156/2019-0319-001_Burning_Prohibited.pdf