

Open Burning

Your guide to safe and legal open burning



Serving Butler, Clermont, Hamilton
and Warren counties in Ohio

250 William Howard Taft Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

🔥 What Is Open Burning?

Open burning is any outdoor fire that does not vent to a chimney or stack.



LEGAL OPEN BURN

🔥 Why Is Open Burning Prohibited?

- Open burning pollutes the air we breathe. Even small campfires burning clean wood can emit harmful chemicals.
- The pollutants released by open burning make it more difficult to attain health-based air quality standards, especially in or near the major metropolitan centers.
- Open burning releases various harmful pollutants, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter (PM) and carbon monoxide, all of which contribute to air pollution.
- These pollutants can lead to breathing difficulties and increased asthma attacks. Additional health risks include heart damage and neurological symptoms such as headache, nausea, fatigue and vomiting.

🔥 How Do I Apply for a Permit?

Contact Mike Fair (513-946-7711) at the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency, two to three weeks in advance of your scheduled open burn date to discuss the purpose of the fire. You can then receive the permit application by mail, or you may download it at: SouthwestOhioAir.org/open-burning.

🔥 What Are the Consequences of Illegal Open Burning?

Ohio EPA has the legal authority to enforce the open burning law. Violations can result in penalties. If you have any questions, or would like to report a suspected open burning incident, contact the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency at 513-946-7777 (serving Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, Warren counties).



ILLEGAL OPEN BURN

What Are the Alternatives to Open Burning?

You can reduce waste by participating in these environmentally-friendly activities:

- **Compost:** start a compost pile in your backyard.
- **Recycle:** most communities in our area provide curb-side or drop-off recycling.
- **Properly dispose of yard trimmings:** take advantage of your county's yard trimmings drop-off sites.
- **Properly dispose of household hazardous waste:** check with your county's solid waste district to learn how to safely dispose of hazardous materials.



COMPOST



RECYCLABLE ITEMS



YARD TRIMMINGS



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

🔥 What Can I Burn?

Visit SouthwestOhioAir.org/open-burning to search the burning requirements for your community.

The chart to the right lists open burns that are allowed in Ohio.

🔥 What Open Burning is Never Permitted?

- Garbage: any wastes created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking or consumption of food.
- Dead animals.
- Materials containing rubber, grease, and asphalt or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars and auto parts, plastics or plastic-coated wire.

The following open fires are allowed in Ohio:

Type of Fire	Inside a village or city* (if generated on property)	Outside a village or city* (if generated on property)
Campfires and Portable Fire Pits	Wood stack no larger than 3 feet wide by 2 feet high. Use clean, seasoned firewood.	Wood stack no larger than 3 feet wide by 2 feet high. Use clean, seasoned firewood.
Agricultural Waste	Agricultural wastes and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and material from crop or livestock production. This includes fence posts and scrap lumber, but not buildings. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building. Must notify Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency in advance.	Agricultural wastes and plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and material from crop or livestock production. This includes fence posts and scrap lumber, but not buildings. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building.
Land-clearing Waste	Not permitted in city limits.	Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues, with prior written permission from the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency; allow two weeks.
Residential Waste	Not permitted in city limits.	Plant matter such as tree trimmings, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and crop residues. Also wastes such as wood or paper products that are generated by one-, two- or three-family residences. Fire must be more than 1,000 feet from neighbor's inhabited building.
Ceremonial Fires	Wood stack no larger than 5 feet wide by 5 feet high. Duration no longer than three hours. Use clean, seasoned firewood or equivalent. Must notify Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency in advance.	Wood stack no larger than 5 feet wide by 5 feet high. Duration no longer than three hours. No notification required.
Occupational Fires (welding torches, heating tar, heating for warmth of outdoor workers and strikers)	Use clean, seasoned firewood.	Use clean, seasoned firewood.
Explosive Materials Disposal; Firefighter Training	Must have prior permission from the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency; allow two weeks.	Must have prior permission from the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency; allow two weeks.
Horticultural, Silvicultural, Range or Wildlife Management Practices	Must have prior permission from the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency; allow two weeks.	Must have prior permission from the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency; allow two weeks.
Disease or Pest Control	Local health department, the Ohio Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Department of Agriculture verifies to the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency that open burning is the only appropriate control method and must notify the Air Quality Agency in advance.	Local health department, the Ohio Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Department of Agriculture verifies to the Southwest Ohio Air Quality Agency that open burning is the only appropriate control method.

* Call your local municipality for corporation boundaries. Restricted areas are defined as follows: 1. Within the boundaries of any village or city. 2. For any city or village with a population of 1,000 to 10,000, the restricted area extends to include a 1,000-foot zone beyond the city or village's boundaries. For any city or village with a population of more than 10,000, the restricted area extends to include a one-mile zone beyond the city or village's boundaries. 3. Township residents: if you live in a township, please contact Mike Fair at 513-946-7711 to determine whether or not your residence falls within your neighboring city or village's restricted area.