

## Open Burning Regulations for the Mid-Willamette Valley

Pollution from outdoor burning can pose a threat to public health and the environment and can be a public nuisance. Using fire to dispose of debris is a major source of complaints to fire departments and environmental agencies.

Open Burning includes any burning conducted outdoors. A fire in a burn barrel is open burning, as is burning debris in an outdoor fireplace or backyard incinerator. Other examples include burning piles of yard debris, stumps, construction debris or the remains of demolished structures.

### It is against the law to conduct any open burning that:

- Unreasonably interferes with the enjoyment of life or property
- Creates a public or private nuisance
- Is a hazard to public safety

### DEQ regulations prohibit open burning any time, anywhere in Oregon of the following materials:

- Rubber products, including tires
- Plastic
- Wet garbage and food waste
- Petroleum and petroleum-treated materials
- Asphalt and asbestos
- Wire insulation
- Automobile parts
- Animal remains
- Any material that produces dense smoke or noxious odors

### DEQ regulations prohibit open burning of commercial waste in the Willamette Valley.

Examples of commercial waste are waste material from:

- Offices
- Wholesale and retail yards and outlets
- Warehouses
- Restaurants
- Mobile home parks
- Domestic waste removed from the property of origin
- Waste from dwellings that contain four or more living units

### Special Control Areas:

Special Control Areas have been established to minimize the impacts of open burning on populated or congested areas. Special Control Areas are established around cities and extend 3 or 6 miles from the city limits, depending on population.

County	Cities	Miles
Benton	Corvallis	6 Miles
Benton	Albany	3 Miles
Benton	Philomath	3 Miles
Linn	Albany	3 Miles
Linn	Brownsville	3 Miles
Linn	Harrisburg	3 Miles
Linn	Lebanon	3 Miles
Linn	Lyons	3 Miles
Linn	Mill City	3 Miles
Linn	Sweet Home	3 Miles
Linn	Tangent	3 Miles
Marion	Salem & Keizer	6 Miles
Marion	Aumsville	3 Miles
Marion	Gervais	3 Miles
Marion	Hubbard	3 Miles
Marion	Jefferson	3 Miles
Marion	Mill City	3 Miles
Marion	Mt Angel	3 Miles
Marion	Silverton	3 Miles
Marion	Stayton	3 Miles
Marion	Sublimity	3 Miles
Marion	Turner	3 Miles
Marion	Woodburn	3 Miles
Polk	Salem	6 Miles
Polk	Dallas	3 Miles
Polk	Falls City	3 Miles
Polk	Independence	3 Miles
Polk	Monmouth	3 Miles
Polk	Willamina	3 Miles
Yamhill	Amity	3 Miles
Yamhill	Carlton	3 Miles
Yamhill	Dayton	3 Miles
Yamhill	Dundee	3 Miles
Yamhill	Lafayette	3 Miles
Yamhill	McMinnville	3 Miles
Yamhill	Newberg	3 Miles
Yamhill	Sheridan	3 Miles
Yamhill	Willamina	3 Miles

Special Control Areas also include any area between the areas listed above, where 3 miles or less separate the boundaries.

### When is open burning allowed?



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

### Air Quality Division Open Burning Program

Western Region  
750 Front St. NE, Ste. 120  
Salem, OR 97301-1039  
Phone: (503) 378-8240  
(800) 349-7677  
Fax: (503) 378-4196  
Contact:  
Felica D. Sonnenschein  
[www.deq.state.or.us](http://www.deq.state.or.us)

Open burning is allowed on approved burn days. Call your local fire department's burn line for information regarding burn days and times.

Inside Special Control Areas burning is usually allowed March 1 through June 15, and October 1 through December 15. Local burning ordinances may be more restrictive than DEQ rules.

Outside Special Control Areas burning may occur on any approved burn day.

### **What Can You Burn?**

Inside a Special Control Area:

- Yard debris

Outside a Special Control Area:

- Construction waste
- Demolition waste
- Yard debris
- Residential waste

### **What is Considered Yard Debris?**

Materials from trees, shrubs or plants that grow in your landscaped yard, for example:

- Grass clippings
- Tree leaves and needles
- Small branches
- Rose bush clippings

### **What is Domestic Waste?**

Household waste generated in or around a house, such as:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Clothing

### **What is Demolition Waste?**

- Material from a complete or partial destruction of any man-made structure
- Clearing any site for land improvement or cleanup

### **What is Construction Waste?**

Material from a building or a construction project, such as:

- Lumber and other building material
- Crating and packing material

### **What is Agricultural Waste?**

Agricultural waste is material generated by an agricultural operation that uses, or intends to use, land primarily for the purpose of obtaining a profit in money by raising, harvesting and selling crops or raising and selling animals (including

poultry), or the products of animal husbandry. Prohibited materials can't be burned, even in an agricultural setting.

Agricultural activities may include clearing land, but does not include the construction and use of dwellings. The burning of materials associated with a dwelling is not considered part of the farming operation.

DEQ does not have the authority to regulate agricultural burning. However, some fire departments require agricultural burning permits. Contact your local fire department for more information.

Agricultural field burning is the burning of residue left from the harvest of grass seed or cereal grain crops, and is regulated in the Willamette Valley under a separate program operated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

### **What is Slash Burning?**

Slash burning (burning debris from logging) is limited to burning on forestlands for forest management, and is usually managed by the Oregon Department Forestry. It is not the clearing of forestland for any other purpose. Contact your local Department of Forestry Office for more information.

### **What are other Alternatives to Open Burning?**

- Donate unwanted clothing, furniture, and toys to friends, relatives or charities. Give unwanted magazines and books to hospitals or nursing homes.
- Separate the recyclable items from other waste and prepare them for collection or drop-off at a local recycling station. Chip wood waste and use as mulch. Compost organic material and use as a soil amendment.
- Arrange for your non-recyclable waste to be picked up or take it to a transfer station or landfill.

**For more information contact your local fire department or DEQ's Western Region-Salem Office at (503) 378-8240 ext. 278 or toll free at 1-800-349-7677.**