



**Know the laws** – Always check with your local fire department to find out what rules apply in your area before starting any outdoor fire or visit: [pscleanair.org/outdoorfires](http://pscleanair.org/outdoorfires)



**Don't get burned**  
– Outdoor burning violations can be costly. Fines typically start at \$1,000 and can exceed \$17,000 per day.



**Fires cannot cause a nuisance to neighbors**  
– If smoke from your fire bothers your neighbors or damages their property, you must put it out immediately.



**Burning trash is illegal, everywhere, all the time** – Trash is anything that is not dry/seasoned wood, manufactured logs, or charcoal. Burn barrels are also illegal.



**Land-clearing fires are prohibited** – in King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Counties. Developers must use alternatives to burning including: on-site chipping and removal, or off-site wood waste recycling.



**Hauled Material** – Outdoor fires cannot include material hauled from another property unless it is dry, seasoned firewood.



**Agricultural Burning** – Commercial agricultural operations can apply for a permit to burn at: [pscleanair.org/agburnpermit](http://pscleanair.org/agburnpermit) or by calling (206) 343-8800 or (800) 552-3565.



**Residential burning of yard waste** – Burning branches, weeds, grass clippings, etc. is not allowed at any time, in most areas. Check with your local fire district to learn whether burning is allowed in your area, and what restrictions or permit requirements apply. See back for alternatives.

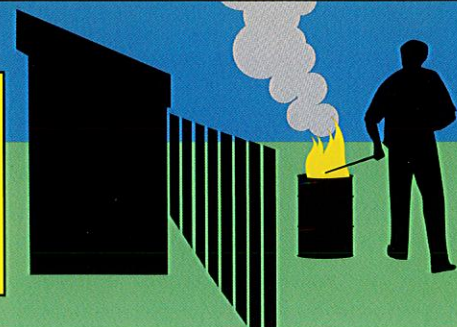


**Split, stack, cover, and store firewood** – Burn only dry, seasoned firewood or manufactured logs. Wood should be dried for at least one year.



**What is a "recreational fire"?** – Recreational fires are on private property or designated public locations and include: cooking fires, campfires, and bonfires (permit required); as well as fires lit in free-standing devices. The fuel must be limited to seasoned wood, manufactured logs, charcoal, natural gas, or propane. Fires used for debris disposal purposes are not considered recreational fires.

# What you should know about Outdoor Fires





## Health Effects of Breathing Smoke



### Short-Term Effects

- Irritated eyes, lung, throat, sinuses
- Headaches and allergies
- Trouble breathing
- Asthma attacks



### Long-Term Effects

- Chronic lung disease
- Chronic bronchitis
- Emphysema
- Nose, throat, lung, blood and lymph system cancers
- Risk of heart attack and stroke

### Consider clean, healthy alternatives to burning yard waste:



#### Curb It

Sign up with your county solid waste department to have yard waste picked up at the curb, or self-haul to a nearby recycling station.



#### Compost It

Let your yard waste decompose and recycle it as an excellent fertilizer for your soil.



#### Chip It

Rent or hire a chipping machine to turn branches into great mulch for your yard.

Solid waste departments may have alternatives to burning in your area:

**King County** ..... (206) 296-4466

**Kitsap County** ..... (360) 337-5777

**Pierce County** ..... (253) 798-2179

**Snohomish County** ..... (425) 388-3425



### If smoke from an outdoor fire is bothering you – Try

talking to the people responsible for it. We've found they usually aren't aware their fire is bothering others. If that doesn't work, contact your local fire department. Call 911 if the smoke or fire is causing an emergency.

[pscleanair.org](http://pscleanair.org)  
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

# Outdoor Fires

Know the law before you burn

[pscleanair.org](http://pscleanair.org)  
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Smoke from  
burning leaves and  
wood may seem  
harmless, but it's

**as dangerous as  
cigarette smoke.**

Burning garbage  
is even worse, and  
**always** illegal.