



Answers to Some Burning Questions



OUTDOOR BURNING IN TEXAS

GI-415 (Rev. 4/25)

Outdoor Burning



When is outdoor burning okay?

To protect Texas' air quality, TCEQ prohibits outdoor burning anywhere in the state. However, TCEQ allows for exceptions when the burning does not pose a health threat or nuisance.

CEREMONIAL AND RECREATIONAL FIRES

TCEQ allows bonfires, campfires, and cooking fires if they don't cause nuisance smoke or traffic hazards. Never burn anything on TCEQ's "Never Burn" list.

WASTE-DISPOSAL FIRES

Where your local government doesn't provide trash pickup services, outdoor burning is allowed for the disposal of some household wastes. Under certain conditions, you may also burn brush from on-site land clearing. The specific exception for disposal fires is outlined in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC), Section 111.209.



Are there any items I should not burn?

There are some items that you should never burn, because burning them would pose a threat to safety and health.

NEVER BURN

- Electrical insulation
- Tires
- Treated lumber (such as construction or demolition waste)
- Heavy oils or asphaltic materials (such as roofing shingles)
- Potentially explosive materials or chemicals

ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING?

There are several alternatives that you should explore before you resort to burning:

- Recycling
- Composting
- Mulching
- Disposal in local landfills

Some Dos and Don'ts for Outdoor Burning

DOS:

- ✓ Do call your local officials (e.g. your local code enforcement office, fire department, law enforcement office, or your local environmental health department) to make sure burning doesn't violate any local laws or ordinances, and that a burn ban is not in place.
- ✓ Do limit burning to allowable trash and land-clearing debris 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 inconvenience your neighbors.
- ✗ Don't burn anything during a burn ban or during a red flag warning.

Where can I find more information?

Visit the TCEQ website:

tceq.texas.gov

Read the Outdoor Burning rules (30 TAC Chapter 111, Subchapter B):

tceq.texas.gov/goto/rules/outdoor-burning

Download TCEQ's guidance on Outdoor Burning in Texas (RG-049):

tceq.texas.gov/goto/rg-049

View Texas A&M Forest Service maps of county burn bans, fire danger, and drought indexes:

www.tfsweb.tamu.edu/CurrentSituation/

Contact the Small Business Local Government Assistance program by phone at 800-447-2827 or by email at texasenvirohelp@tceq.texas.gov.

Find additional compliance information:

www.TexasEnviroHelp.org

Find your regional TCEQ office:

tceq.texas.gov/agency/directory/region



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