

## Oregon Outdoor Burning Guide



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

### A source of air pollution

In parts of urban and rural Oregon, burning waste continues to be the disposal method of choice for a significant part of the population. Besides smoke created by an outdoor burn, the activity emits a number of air pollutants that can adversely affect public health.

Each day, DEQ analyzes air quality and weather data to determine if ventilation is sufficient to allow open burning in the Willamette Valley, and notifies the State Fire Marshall. The Fire Marshal forwards this information to all fire districts in the valley. This notice applies to the Willamette Valley only.



This guide outlines DEQ's burning regulations for debris from land clearing, agricultural, commercial, construction and demolition, and domestic (residential household) activities. Since some Oregon cities and counties have local burning ordinances, there may be additional restrictions in your area.

### Materials that cannot be burned

DEQ regulations prohibit open burning of the following materials at anytime, anywhere in Oregon:

- Rubber and plastic products
- Tires (includes burning tires to start an approved agricultural waste fire)
- Wet garbage
- Petroleum and petroleum-treated materials
- Asphalt or industrial waste
- Any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors.

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

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

### Check before you burn

It may be illegal to burn certain types of waste in the area where you live, or you may need a permit to burn your waste. **Caution:** Always check with [your local fire](#) department before you burn. DEQ does not issue burn permits. Do not risk a fine! Within special control areas, the following materials are prohibited from being burned:

- Waste from commercial establishments
- Forest slash
- Construction and demolition debris
- Land clearing
- **Material moved off the property of origin cannot be burned without a permit.**

Contact [your local DEQ office](#) to confirm whether your area has any specific restrictions.

### Alternatives to open burning

- Compost or chip plant materials on-site
- Organize Community Cleanup Days
- Curb-side pick up
- Take materials to a local recycling center or landfill
- Reclaim used lumber
- Utilize construction site recycling programs
- Use debris as fuel for a municipal steam generator

### Backyard burning (Household and yard debris)

Open burning associated with a residence "backyard burning" is prohibited in and around the Portland metropolitan area, unless a hardship is demonstrated and DEQ has issued a "hardship permit". Contact [your local fire district](#) or the Portland office of DEQ to find out if you are in this prohibited area.

In most of the Willamette Valley where backyard burning is not prohibited, open burning of yard debris is only allowed on a seasonal basis. The seasonal restrictions include whole fire districts near Portland and the Eugene-Springfield area of Lane County.

Restrictions also apply in Oakridge, West Fir, and up to six miles beyond the city limits in the Corvallis and Salem-Keizer areas. In and around other Willamette Valley communities of 1,000 or more population, seasonal restrictions apply out to three miles beyond the city limits.

Seasonal burning in most of the Willamette Valley is limited to "burn days" authorized by DEQ during the spring (**March 1-June 15**) and fall (**October 1-December 15**) seasons. In central Lane County, the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) authorizes open burning from **October 1 through**

### Portland

700 NE Multnomah St.  
Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97232  
Phone: 503-229-5696  
800-452-4011  
Fax: 503-229-6762

### Bend

475 NE Bellevue Drive  
Suite 110  
Bend, OR 97701  
541-388-6146

### Pendleton

800 SE Emigrant Ave  
Suite 330  
Pendleton, OR 97801  
541-276-4063

### The Dalles

400 E Scenic Drive  
Suite 307  
The Dalles, OR 97058  
541-298-7255

### Salem

4026 Fairview Industrial  
Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302  
503-378-8240

### Medford

221 Stewart Avenue  
Suite 201  
Medford, OR 97501  
541-776-6010

[www.oregon.gov/DEQ](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ)

*DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.*

**June 15.** Open burning is prohibited in the Ashland, Medford, and Grants Pass areas from November through February.

### **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 of Forestry. It is **not** the clearing of forestland for any other purpose.

### **Agricultural burning**

Open burning for agricultural purposes is usually allowed anywhere in the state, unless fire safety concerns restrict or prohibit burning on a given day. Agricultural burning is limited to genuine 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 burning must be an integral and necessary part of the agricultural activity. The agricultural activity might include clearing of land, but does not include the construction and use of dwellings. Burning associated with a dwelling is considered to be domestic burning, backyard burning, or burning of yard debris and is not part of the farming operation.

Agricultural open field burning, the burning of residue left from the harvest of a grass seed crop, is regulated in the Willamette Valley under a separate program operated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Questions about field burning should be directed to the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

DEQ approval is not required for agricultural permits. Contact your local fire department to inquire if an agricultural burn permit is otherwise needed.

### **Contact information**

Individual fire districts may issue fire permits and may prohibit open burning based on local fire safety or air quality concerns. **Always contact your local fire department to find out if burning is authorized on a particular day.**

For more information, contact:

- [Lane Regional Air Protection Agency](http://www.lrapa.org)  
<http://www.lrapa.org>  
541-736-1056 or 877-285-7272  
LRAPA 24-hr line: 541-726-3976
- Office of State Fire Marshal  
<https://www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm>

### **Alternative formats**

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).