

What are the Dangers of Residential Trash Burning?

Today's trash contains inks, dyes, chlorine, plastics, toxic metals and a variety of synthetic materials that can produce toxins when burned, especially at low temperatures and low oxygen levels typically present in burn barrels.

Dioxin and other highly toxic chemicals are released into the air when trash is burned outdoors.

Smoke and toxic emissions from burning residential trash stay close to the ground, affecting your family and neighbors, especially children.

Burning trash at home can create a fire hazard and a health risk.



Burning a week's worth of trash from a single home in an open barrel can put as much of some toxic chemicals (such as dioxin and furans) in the air as a well-controlled municipal incinerator burning the trash from thousands of homes!

Source: US EPA Report on Barrel Burning, January, 2000

State Law Prohibits RESIDENTIAL TRASH BURNING

What Materials CAN Be Burned Outside? (only with a permit from your local fire warden)

- Clean untreated wood
- Leaves and brush less than 5 inches in diameter
- Campfire wood or charcoal
- On-premises burning for frost prevention, agricultural, forestry, or wildlife habitat improvement
- Untreated wood from the construction or demolition of a building

Penalties for burning without a permit are punishable by fines of up to \$2,000 or one year imprisonment, or both. The N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development has enforcement authority under RSA 227-L.

What Materials CANNOT Be Burned Outside?

- Household trash
- Packaging materials
- Coated or laminated papers
- Wood – painted, treated, plywood, etc.
- Coated or treated cardboard
- Animal, vegetable, and kitchen waste
- Plastics or metals
- Rubber, including tires
- Oily rags

Penalties for illegal burning of trash may include a warning, with an explanation of the ban; fines of up to \$100 for the first offense; and fines of up to \$250 for subsequent offenses. The N.H. Dept. of Environmental Services has enforcement authority under RSA 125-N.

How Should I Dispose of My Household Trash?

New Hampshire communities are required to provide access to solid waste management facilities for their residents. Some towns provide curbside pickup, and many have transfer stations and recycling facilities. Here are some suggestions for proper waste management:

Reduce your household's waste. In particular, throw out less, and avoid purchasing groceries and other products packaged in plastic. Plastic contains both carbon and chlorine, which form dioxin when burned.

Reuse as many items as possible, such as food containers.

Recycle glass, plastic, newsprint, aluminum, used motor oil, and other recyclable materials whenever possible.

Compost organic material such as leaves, grass clippings and vegetable scraps. Compost makes excellent mulch and natural fertilizer for gardens.

Take your household hazardous wastes (e.g., cleaners, oil paints) to a local household hazardous waste collection site.

Never burn household trash in a woodstove or fireplace.



Before you burn ... Call your town office to find out more about recycling opportunities, proper trash disposal, and obtaining a fire permit.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

For more information on proper solid waste management or residential trash burning in New Hampshire, contact the Department of Environmental Services at:

(800) 498-6868

*For info on trash burning and
air pollution regulations*
Air Resources Division

(603) 271-3713

For info on recycling/trash disposal
Solid Waste Technical Assistance Section

(603) 271-2047

*For info on household hazardous
waste disposal*
Household Hazardous Waste Section

N.H. Department of Environmental Services
PO Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-3503
www.des.nh.gov

Think Before You Burn!

Residential trash
burning releases toxic
air pollutants that put
you, your children,
and your neighbors
at risk.

Protect Your Health
Protect Our Future
Be a Good Neighbor



*Printed on 100% Recycled, Process
Chlorine-Free Paper*

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RSA 125-N

A Public Health Risk



**What Every
Homeowner
Should Know**



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