Your Health Matters

Burning natural vegetation, such as lawn clippings, leaves, and tree trimmings produces harmful air pollutants. Breathing these pollutants can have serious health impacts. Those at greatest risk are children, the elderly, and those suffering from chronic respiratory conditions, such as asthma, emphysema and bronchitis.

The Washington State Legislature regulates burning to protect public health and is phasing out certain types of burning in many areas of the state.

Please burn responsibly.

For over 35 years, it has been the Northwest Clean Air Agency’s job to ensure that people in our region have clean air to breathe. This is accomplished through the following programs and services:

- Asbestos
- Business Assistance
- Climate Change
- Complaint Response
- Indoor Air
- Outdoor Burning
- Public Information
- Permitting
- Wood Stoves

For more information about these or other services, please visit us on the web at www.nwcleanair.org.
Permanent Burn Ban Areas

Residential and land-clearing burning was permanently banned within the city limits and urban growth areas of Anacortes, Bellingham, Burlington, Ferndale, Lynden, Mount Vernon, Oak Harbor, and Sedro-Woolley on January 1, 2001.

Beginning January 1, 2007, the permanent burn ban of residential yard debris and land-clearing fires extends to the following cities and all urban growth areas:

**Island County:** Coupeville and Langley
**Skagit County:** Concrete, Hamilton, La Conner, Lyman, Bay View and March Point
**Whatcom County:** Blaine, Everson, Nooksack, Sumas, Birch Bay, Cherry Point and Columbia Valley (Paradise Valley, Peaceful Valley, Kendall)

To find out what alternatives to burning are available in your area, visit www.nwcleanair.org.

* Contact your local planning department if you have questions about urban growth boundaries or visit www.nwcleanair.org.

Burn Bans

There are several different types of burn bans:

- **A burn ban due to impaired air quality** is announced when air pollutants are measured at unhealthy levels. No outdoor burning is allowed during this period.
- **A burn ban due to high fire danger** is announced by fire officials during extended periods of dry weather.
- **A permanent burn ban** prohibits all residential and land-clearing fires in cities and urban growth areas.

Definitions of Burning Types

**Recreational fires** are three feet in diameter or smaller, consist only of charcoal or firewood, and are used for cooking or pleasure. Call your fire department for permit requirements.

**Residential fires** are for disposal of leaves, clippings, and other yard and garden debris generated on-site. All residential fires in Island and Whatcom counties require a permit. In Skagit County, residential fires larger than four feet in diameter require a permit.

**Land-clearing fires** are for disposal of natural vegetation generated from land-clearing projects and require a written permit.

Alternatives to Burning

To learn about what you can do, contact your Solid Waste Department:
- Camano Island .................. 360.629.4522 ext. 7386
- Island County .................. 360.679.7386
- Skagit County .................. 360.336.9400 ext. 3124
- Whatcom County ................ 360.676.7695

Burn Ban Information

Island, Skagit & Whatcom ........ 360.428.1617 ext. 4

Permit Information

Recreational, Residential & Land-clearing:
Call your local fire department if you live within city limits. Call one of the numbers below if you live outside city limits.

**Island County:**
- North & Central Whidbey ........ 360.679.7350
- South Whidbey .................. 360.321.5111 ext. 7350
- Camano Island .................. 360.629.4522 ext. 7386

**Skagit County:**
- General information ............. 360.336.9410
- Burn permits ..................... 360.419.7789

**Whatcom County:**
- Burn Information Line ............ 360.676.6934

General Information

Island, Skagit & Wahtcom .......... 360.428.1617 ext. 4

Violation of outdoor burning laws may result in fines of up to $14,000.