

Backyard Debris Burning (Yard and Household Debris)

Open burning of yard debris or household waste is prohibited in Durham per Oregon Department of Environmental Quality regulations. Report illegal burning by calling your local DEQ office at 503-229-5263.

Recreational Burning (Outdoor Fire Pits)

Recreational burning in fire pits is allowed unless there is a specific burn ban. The maximum size that a recreational fire can be is 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet high. Recreational fires must be located in outdoor fireplaces or portable fireplaces (chimneys, metal pits, etc.). Individuals intending to burn should use extreme caution, and all combustible vegetation and materials should be cleared from the area. Additionally, all recreational fires must be constantly attended until the fire is fully extinguished.

During times of air pollution or extreme fire danger, local burns bans may be in place. Check with the Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue or the Oregon DEQ about specific burn bans.

If you choose to have a recreational outdoor fire please be aware that outdoor burning creates smoke and fine particulate matter that can be unhealthy for people to breathe. Use good burning practices like keeping wood dry before burning to minimize smoke. Burn materials in small, dry piles with lots of air circulation and extinguish fires by early afternoon.

Be a good neighbor. Do not share your smoke. If the smoke is affecting others around you, put out your fire. It's against the law to burn any of the following: wet garbage; plastic; asbestos; wire insulation; automobile parts; asphalt; petroleum products (wrappers); petroleum treated materials; rubber products; animal remains, or animal or vegetable matter resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking, or service of food; of any other material that emits dense smoke or noxious odors when burned.

Do not burn during air inversions and periods of air stagnation, when smoke impacts and air pollution levels are at their worst. Please check with DEQ's Air Quality Index before you burn.

To see current pollution levels in Oregon, visit DEQ's website at www.oregon.gov/DEQ. Click on "Advisories" in the top right corner and choose "[Air Quality Index](#)." For real-time, hourly data on air pollution in Durham, click on "[Hourly Data](#)" on the left sidebar.