

Prohibited Debris: Before You Burn...Learn!

Burning Basics

While burning may be the simplest way to clean up a site, you may be breaking the law.

Open burning, in a barrel or not, can release pollutants, reduce visibility, create unpleasant odors and cause toxic contamination.

With this in mind, burning can still be an effective way to clean some of the debris from your yard, farm or work site. However, you should keep in mind that under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*, burning certain materials is illegal.

What You Can Burn

Burnable debris includes:

- Brush and fallen trees
- Used power and telephone poles **that do not contain preservatives**
- Wood or wood products **not containing preservatives**
- Solid waste from tree harvesting
- Straw, stubble, grass, weeds, leaves and tree prunings
- Solid waste from post and pole operations **that does not contain wood preservatives**

What You Can't Burn

Prohibited debris includes:

- Animal manure
- Pathological waste (waste from human health centres)
- Wood or wood products containing wood preservatives
- Waste materials from construction sites
- Rubber, including tires
- Plastic, including baler twine
- Oil
- Containers that held pesticides, or any other chemicals
- Plastic or rubber-coated materials, including copper wire

Remember to Recycle

- Many items that you may consider burning, can be recycled
- Plastic, paper, cardboard and metal materials, used oil, tires and beverage containers along with many other items are recycled in Alberta. Call the Recycle Info Line at 1-800-463-8320 for local information
- It's often more effective to chip and compost yard waste. Composting reduces household waste by up to 30 per cent.

When do you need a permit to burn?

A permit is needed to burn:

- Prohibited debris anywhere in Alberta
- Burnable debris in restricted areas
- Contact your local fire department to learn more about restrictions and requirements
- Fire season starts March 1 in Alberta and runs to at least October 31, though it can be extended. During the fire season all burning activities in Alberta's Forest Protection Area, excluding campfires, will require a fire permit. Fire permits are free and can be obtained by contacting your local Alberta Environment and Parks office. Phone toll-free 310-0000 to locate your nearest office or call the department's Information Centre for assistance.

Where You Can't Burn

Prohibited areas include:

- Unauthorized burning is prohibited in all landfills
- Burning is restricted in Calgary, Edmonton and many other rural and urban municipalities
- Burning in the Forest Protection Area requires a permit. To examine a map of the forest protection area and its constituent fire control zones go to this webpage:
 - [Wildfire Administrative Boundaries](#)

- During fire season, it's possible fire bans will be in place during times of increasing fire hazard. To find out where current fire bans are located, go to this webpage:
 - albertafirebans.ca

Be Sure

Different laws regulate where you may burn, and some require you have a permit even for burnable debris. Always contact your local municipality prior to striking a match.

Additional brochures on fire bans and wildfire prevention are available through the Information Centre.

For More Information

For more information on prohibited debris, contact the Alberta Environment and Parks regional office nearest you.

- aep.alberta