

Burning waste – domestic and rural sites

Introduction

Burning is often seen as a quick and easy way to get rid of domestic waste. However, fires produce smoke, fumes and particles that may be harmful to the environment and human health.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council has rules in place to limit these effects.

Alternatives to burning

There are several options available for waste disposal that make it unnecessary to burn waste.

Paper, cardboard, glass bottles & jars, aluminium cans, tin cans and grade 1 & 2 plastics can be recycled, and general waste sent to landfill.

Consider composting or setting up a worm farm at home for food and garden waste.

For more information on reducing household waste, call **0508 NO WASTE (0508 669 2783)**.

Prohibited

Burning of the following items is prohibited:

- Animal waste (unless generated on production land)
- Tyres and other rubber
- Waste oil, or any waste containing hydrocarbons
- Wood treated with chemicals or painted
- Chipboard
- Plastic
- Asbestos
- Medical or chemical waste
- Any combination of metals and combustible materials, including coated or covered cables.

When can you burn?

You will need to comply with the following rules if you are burning anything at home or on production land:

- The waste being burnt must have been generated on your property – you can't burn someone else's rubbish.
- The fire can not contain any material in the prohibited list. Essentially this means you can only burn prunings, trees, untreated timber, paper and cardboard.

- Smoke, ash, odours or gases from the fires must not cause a problem beyond your boundary. I.e. smoke blocking visibility on nearby roads, or smoke and ash drifting onto your neighbour's property.
- There are different rules for burning on trade or industrial sites, which are explained in a separate Environment Topic.



Burning fresh green waste can cause a smoke nuisance

Before you burn

Following some basic good burning practices can help prevent your fire affecting others.

- Burn only well dried material – if it's green or wet it will produce much more smoke.
- Check the weather before lighting your fire. Wind speed and direction are important considerations.
- Avoid burning on still winter mornings when smoke can become trapped by the inversion layer.
- Be considerate of your neighbours.

Contact your District or City Council to make sure you comply with their bylaws, as fire permits may be required.

Also in this series: "Burning waste – trade & industrial sites"

For further information:

Please contact Regional Council Compliance Officers for information or advice on any air issues, or to obtain a copy of the Regional Resource Management Plan.

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Fax	06-835 3601
Toll Free	0800 108 838
Email	info@hbrc.govt.nz
Website	www.hbrc.govt.nz