

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov

CO-20

2013

Q & A on the Burning of Construction & Demolition Debris *A Guide for Fire Wardens, Solid Waste Facility Operators and Municipal Officials*

What is the definition of construction and demolition debris?

Construction and demolition debris (C&D) is defined in state law as any waste building materials and rubble that are solid waste resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair or demolition of structures or roads. Specifically, the definition includes:

- Asphalt pavement
- Bricks
- Concrete and other masonry materials
- Dry wall
- Fixtures
- Glass
- Non-asbestos insulation or roofing shingles
- Plaster
- Plumbing
- Wall coverings
- Wood

Can construction and demolition debris be burned as a means of disposal?

No! Currently, state regulations (Env-A 1000) prohibit the burning of all components of C&D. Prior to 2007, the burning of clean, untreated wood from C&D activities was permitted, though the burning of painted, treated or composite wood products was not. However, in 2007 the New Hampshire Legislature passed a law that prohibits the combustion of the clean wood component of C&D debris. Now, the combustion of all wood components of C&D is prohibited, including any painted, treated or composite wood product and all clean wood such as dimensional lumber.

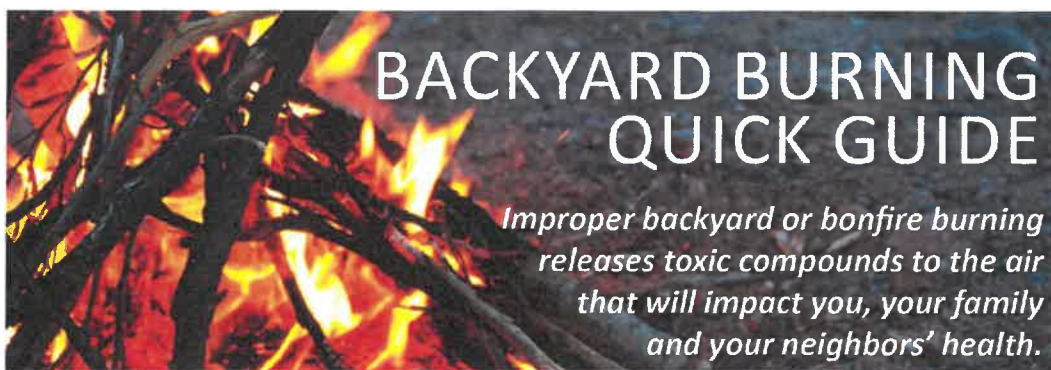
What is considered “combustion”?

Combustion means the burning of material in a stove, boiler, furnace, outdoor fireplace, any outdoor fire pit, bonfire or any manner where the material is consumed by fire.

To whom does the law apply?

The law applies to any individual, partnership, firm or co-partnership, association, company, trust, corporation, department, bureau, agency, private or municipal corporation, or any political subdivision of the state, the United States or political subdivisions or agencies thereof.

The law also applies to municipal waste combustion facilities. However, the prohibition does not apply to the “incidental combustion” of such materials at these facilities.



BACKYARD BURNING QUICK GUIDE

Improper backyard or bonfire burning releases toxic compounds to the air that will impact you, your family and your neighbors' health.



MATERIALS ACCEPTABLE FOR BURNING

- Campfire wood.
- Charcoal.
- Clean pallets.
- Brush (<5 inches in diameter).
- Clean lumber scraps (homeowner, at primary residence).



MATERIALS NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR BURNING

- Plywood and painted, stained, glued or otherwise treated wood.
- Construction/demolition debris.
- Tires and plastics
- Household trash.
- Used oil and hazardous waste.
- Plastic- or wax-coated paper or cardboard, and magazines.

Additionally, brush and clean lumber scraps cannot be transported off-property for burning elsewhere.



In the last five years, people in New Hampshire who violated the Open Burning law have paid fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 dollars.

Don't be one of them!

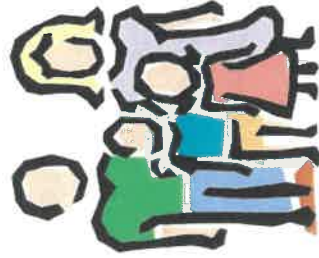
NHDES Air Resources Division
(603) 271-1370
www.des.nh.gov



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

**Think Before
You Burn!**

**Protect Your Health
Protect Our Future
Be a Good Neighbor**



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

For information on trash
burning and state air
pollution regulations, proper
solid waste management or
household hazardous waste
disposal, go online at

www.des.nh.gov



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**Residential
Trash Burning
Is A Public
Health Risk**



**State Law Prohibits It
Before You Burn,
Learn The Facts.**