

BACKYARD BURNING INFORMATION

The *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Smoke) Regulations 2019* permits burning on properties of any size; however, the following applies for a land area less than 2000m²:

- The backyard burning is done in accordance with any relevant fire permit, Environment Protection Notice (EPN) or Council bylaw; and
- All practical means are taken to prevent or minimize air pollution (considering weather conditions, nearby neighbours and only burning dry vegetation).

Before any burning is undertaken on your property, please check if there are fire bans, alerts, or permit requirements with Tasmania Fire Service. Check their website at www.fire.tas.gov.au or call 03 6173 2740.

In addition, section 53 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* has a requirement that when undertaking backyard burning a person should not cause an 'environmental nuisance'. It is your responsibility to ensure you minimise any smoke created and do not cause a nuisance to nearby residents.

Please note, burning should only be used as a last resort.

If you must burn, help avoid creating a nuisance to neighbouring properties using the following key principles:

- Dry your fuel.
- Consider the weather conditions, any current weather warnings, and time of day.
- Avoid burning late in the day – especially in cool weather – when rising relative humidity and low temperatures inhibit the burn. Also, if an atmospheric temperature inversion layer forms in the late afternoon or evening it can trap smoke at low altitudes and limit dispersion.
- Consider the proximity of any nearby residents.
- Keep your burn small and feed the fuel to it.
- Burning with a clear flame and don't let the fire smoulder and smoke.
- Watch your smoke and stop burning if there is too much.
- Consider the wind direction and wind speed to see where any smoke might blow and if it is safe to light the fire.
- Assess the length of time that the vegetation or vegetative waste being burnt is likely to burn.
- Ensure you only burn clean/untreated and uncontaminated wood, dry vegetation, and dry vegetative waste.

You are prohibited from burning the following material on any size property:

- asbestos
- tyres
- coated wire
- paint containers and residues
- chemical containers and residues
- timber treated with copper chrome arsenate (CCA), pentachlorophenol (PCP), oil or any other chemical.
- rubber
- painted wood
- plastic
- oil
- household waste
- linen
- foam rubber
- polystyrene

Barbecues and other small fires used solely for heating or cooking are not considered to be backyard burning. However, if you use them to dispose of vegetative or other types of waste, then the above backyard burning restrictions do apply. The requirements for wood-fired heating and cooking can be found at EPA Tasmania's website at <https://epa.tas.gov.au/epa/air/wood-fired-heating-and-cooking>.

