
**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



NH Dept. of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-3503

Revised 11-13

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



State Law Prohibits It

**Before You Burn,
Learn The Facts.**

What are the Dangers of Residential Trash Burning?

Today's trash contains **inks, dyes, chlorine, plastics, toxic metals** and a variety of synthetic materials that can produce **toxins** when burned, especially at low temperatures and low oxygen levels typically present in burn barrels.

Dioxin and other highly toxic chemicals are released into the air when trash is burned outdoors.

Smoke and toxic emissions from burning residential trash stay close to the ground, creating a possible **health risk** for your family and neighbors, especially children.

Burning trash at home can create a **fire hazard** and a health risk.

Burning a week's worth of trash from a single home in an open barrel can put as much of some toxic chemicals, such as dioxin and furans, in the air as a well-controlled municipal incinerator burning the trash from thousands of homes!

Source: USEPA Report on Barrel Burning, January 2000

State law, RSA 125-N, prohibits residential trash burning.

What materials are **NOT ACCEPTABLE** for burning?

- Household trash
- Packaging materials
- Tires
- Plastics
- Coated or laminated paper
- Coated or treated cardboard
- Oily rags
- Animal, veg. and kitchen waste
- Used Oil, gas. and haz. waste
- Brush greater than 5 inches in diameter
- Wood that has been painted/stained, glued, or treated
- Construction & Demo. debris

What materials are **ACCEPTABLE** for burning?

- Campfire wood
 - Charcoal
 - Clean pallets
- If generated on-site**
- Brush less than 5 inches in diameter
 - Clean lumber scraps (private single family residences only)

How Should I Dispose of My Household Trash?

New Hampshire communities are required to provide access to solid waste management facilities for their residents. Here are ways to reduce your trash before you dispose of it.

Reduce your household's waste. Avoid purchasing groceries and other products with excessive packaging and plastic. Plastic contains both carbon and chlorine, which form dioxin when burned.

Reuse as many items as possible, such as food containers.

Recycle glass, plastic, newsprint, aluminum, used motor oil, and other recyclable materials whenever possible.

Compost leaves, grass clippings and vegetable scraps. Compost makes excellent mulch and natural fertilizer for gardens.

Take your household hazardous wastes such as cleaners and oil paints to a local HHW collection site.

Never burn household trash in a woodstove, fireplace, or in the open outdoors.