What is "Backyard Burning"?

Backyard burning is the use of outdoor fires for disposing of dry natural vegetation from a single– or two-family home. The vegetation must originate from and be burned on the property of the home.

The best practice is to **keep burn piles covered** prior to burning so they will be dry and ready to burn when conditions become favorable.

Why is Smoke a Concern?

Smoke from burning dry vegetation is a significant source of air contaminants including volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, fine particulate matter, and carbon monoxide. Smoke can cause a nuisance and adverse health impacts in your neighborhood.

Composting, chipping, using a weekly green waste pick-up service, hauling material to landfills where it will be chipped, and goat grazing are all cleaner disposal methods for yard waste.

Burn Smart to Avoid Costly Violations

Burning on "no-burn" days, burning prohibited materials, or otherwise violating the open burning regulations may result in fines or penalties.

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BURN CLEAN TIPS

✓ Obtain Burn Permit and Daily Authorization

✓ Maintain 100 feet Distance from Adjacent Structures

✓ Burn Dry Materials

✓ Maintain Loosely Packed Pile

✓ Extinguish Fire by 4pm

Burning of piled leaves and needles is prohibited.

For Additional Information Contact Us:

www.montereybaycleanair.org

(831) 647-9411

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Backyard Burning of Dry Vegetation

in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties
(excluding San Lorenzo Valley)

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Backyard Burning Requirements

Air District Rule 438 "Open Outdoor Fires" regulates the air emissions from all outdoor fires in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties.

Can I Conduct a Backyard Burn?

If you live in a single– or two-family home in Monterey, San Benito, or Santa Cruz counties, and if your local fire jurisdiction allows it, you may be able to conduct backyard burning under certain conditions. You must have a valid permit. *Backyard burning is illegal for businesses or apartment complexes.*

How Do I Get a Permit and Authorization?

Contact the Air District or your local Fire Department to obtain a permit. The Air District permit application is available online at:

www.montereybaycleanair.org

On the day you want to burn, contact the Air District to receive authorization. Burn day authorizations for the next day are normally available by 4 p.m. the previous day.

What Can I Burn?

Only dry plant pruning's, shrubbery, tree trimmings/ branches, and weeds may be burned. Grass clippings and piled leaves/needles are prohibited from being burned because they tend to create smoke.

Backyard Burn Checklist

√ **Property size 1/2 acre or greater**
(outside San Lorenzo Valley smoke sensitive area)

√ **Burn pile location must be greater than 100 feet from adjacent structures**

√ **Obtain permit for backyard burn**

√ **Allow material proper drying time**

√ **Receive daily authorization from Air District**

When Can I Burn?

Backyard burning is allowed only on California Air Resources Board declared burn days between December 1 and April 30. Check the burn day status by calling 1-800-CAL-BURN (1-800-225-2876).

Burns hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. No materials may be added after 3:00 p.m. All fires must be completely extinguished by 4:00 p.m.

Burn Efficiently

- Arrange the material loosely to allow air to circulate freely. Do not use burn barrels.

- Burning garbage, household rubbish, and treated wood is strictly prohibited.

- Do not create a public nuisance with excessive smoke.

- Avoid burning poison oak.

Burn Safely

- Clear all flammable material and vegetation within **10** feet of the outer edge of the burn pile.

- An adult must be in attendance at all times until the fire is extinguished.

- A water source and appropriate fire fighting tools (shovel, rake, hoe, etc.) must be at the burn site.

- If weather conditions make it unsafe for burning, do not burn.

Burn Dry to Minimize Smoke

Burn materials must be dry, and reasonably free of surface moisture and dirt. Mandatory drying times for burn materials:

- Up to 2 inches in diameter: dry 30 days

- 2 - 6 inches in diameter: dry 60 days

- Over 6 inches in diameter: dry 180 days