



Know the laws about outdoor fires – Always check with your local fire department to find out what rules apply in your area before starting any outdoor fire. For more info visit: pscleanair.org/outdoorfires



Fires cannot cause a nuisance to neighbors – To reduce smoke, burn small, hot fires, and give them lots of air. If smoke from your fire bothers your neighbors or damages their property, you must put it out immediately.



If smoke from an outdoor fire is bothering you – Try talking to the people responsible for it, we've found they usually aren't aware their fire is bothering others. If that doesn't work, contact your local fire department: they may tell you to call 911. Call 911 if the smoke or fire is causing an emergency.



Residential burning of yard waste
Burning branches, weeds, grass clippings, etc. is not allowed at any time, in most areas. Check with your local fire district to learn whether burning is allowed in your area, and what restrictions or permit requirements apply. See back for alternatives.



Land-clearing fires – Commonly associated with commercial construction operations, these fires are prohibited in King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties. Under state law, developers are required to use alternatives to burning such as on-site chipping and removal, or off-site wood waste recycling.



Don't get burned
Violating outdoor burning regulations can be costly. Fines typically start at \$2,000 and can exceed \$17,000 per day, plus reimbursement costs for fire department responses.



What is a "recreational fire"? – Recreational fires include: cooking fires, campfires, and bonfires, as well as fires lit in chimeneas, fire pits, fire bowls, and similar free-standing devices. These fires may be allowed on private property and in designated public locations.

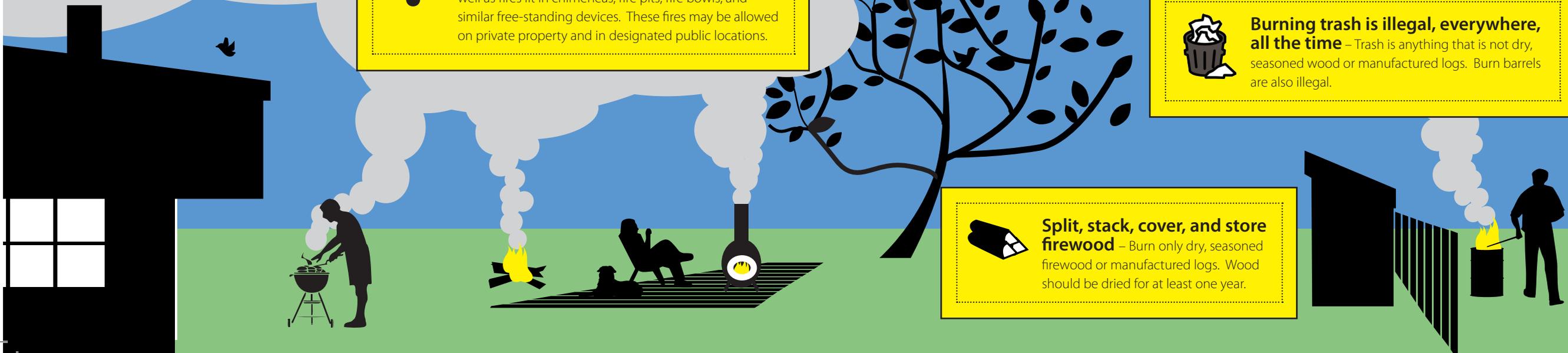


Burning trash is illegal, everywhere, all the time – Trash is anything that is not dry, seasoned wood or manufactured logs. Burn barrels are also illegal.



Split, stack, cover, and store firewood – Burn only dry, seasoned firewood or manufactured logs. Wood should be dried for at least one year.

What you should know about Outdoor Fires



Health Effects of Breathing Smoke



Short-Term Effects

- Irritated eyes, lung, throat, sinuses
- Headaches and allergies
- Trouble breathing
- Asthma attacks



Long-Term Effects

- Chronic lung disease
- Chronic bronchitis
- Emphysema
- Nose, throat, lung, blood and lymph system cancers
- Risk of heart attack and stroke

Consider clean, healthy alternatives to burning yard waste:



Curb It

Sign up with your county solid waste department to have yard waste picked up at the curb, or self-haul to a nearby recycling station.



Compost It

Let your yard waste decompose and recycle it as an excellent fertilizer for your soil.



Chip It

Rent or hire a chipping machine to turn branches into great mulch for your yard.

Solid waste departments may have alternatives to burning in your area:

King County (206) 296-4466

Kitsap County (360) 337-5777

Pierce County (253) 798-2179

Snohomish County (425) 388-3425

To report an air quality complaint:

- 1) **Go ONLINE** for the quickest response:
www.pscleanair.org/complaint
- 2) **CALL** our air quality complaint line:
800-552-3565, ext. 6
- 3) **MAIL** your complaint to:

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
ATTN: Inspection
 1904 Third Avenue - Suite 105
 Seattle, WA, 98101

NOTE: *Your complaint will become a public record.*

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Outdoor Fires

Know the law before you burn

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Smoke from burning leaves and wood may seem harmless, but it's

as dangerous as cigarette smoke.

Burning garbage is even worse, and **always** illegal.

