



# What you need to know about **OPEN BURNING**

## WHAT'S ALLOWED?



Clean Wood



Charcoal



Paper



Yard Waste

## WHAT'S PROHIBITED?



No Trash



No Chemicals  
or Plastics



No Tires



No Homes/Buildings



No Demo/Construction  
Debris



## RESIDENTIAL BURNING

[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

## Indiana Department of Environmental Management

### Residential Burning in Indiana

Indiana's air pollution control rules generally prohibits open burning. There are certain agriculture and maintenance exceptions to the open burning rule. Smoke from burning household trash, including plastic containers, is more toxic than the smoke from burning clean wood. Protecting your health is worth the small fee for proper waste disposal. IDEM always encourages alternatives to open burning such as recycling.

#### These rules **must** always be followed:

- Only clean wood products may be burned. Treated wood is not clean wood.
- Wood products coated with stain, paint, preservatives, glue or other coatings are not allowed to be burned.
- Residential open burning of clean wood products shall be in a noncombustible and ventilated container.
- Recreational or ceremonial fires, such as fires for scouting activities or cooking may only burn clean wood products, paper, or charcoal.
- Burning must be done during safe weather conditions, not during high winds or on pollution alert days.
- Fires must be attended until completely extinguished, and adequate fire suppression equipment present.
- Non-recreational burning must be done during daylight hours and extinguished prior to sunset.
- Open burning is not allowed at mobile home parks, apartment or condominium complexes or buildings of more than four dwelling units.
- Fires must be extinguished if they create a fire hazard, nuisance, pollution problem or threat to public health.
- Burning must comply with all other federal, state and local laws, rules or ordinances.
- Additional restrictions apply in Lake, Porter, Clark or Floyd counties. No open burning of trash, leaves or yard waste is allowed.
- Want to learn more? Visit IDEM's open burning site at [www.idem.IN.gov/airquality/2411.htm](http://www.idem.IN.gov/airquality/2411.htm).

To report illegal open burning, call the Indiana  
Department of Environmental Management  
at (800) 451-6027, option 3.



Recycle  
when possible



Properly dispose of trash,  
chemicals and/or debris