

WHAT IS RESIDENTIAL BURNING?

Residential burning is the disposal of green waste from a residence by burning it outdoors on the ground.

HOW IS IT HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH?

Residential green waste burning is a serious health problem for many people exposed to the toxic air pollutants found in the smoke. Immediate effects may include burning or itchy eyes, shortness of breath, and asthma attacks. Long-term effects may include respiratory disease, lung or immune system damage, cancer, and premature death. Infants, small children, the elderly, and people with ailments like asthma and emphysema are especially sensitive to the toxic compounds produced by burning residential green waste.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT COMMUNITY HEALTH?

Even in small communities, smoke travels easily through neighborhoods. Many persons view exposure to smoke from burning residential green waste as a public nuisance, but it can be far more. Smoke released at ground level means pollution from residential green waste burning can directly affect the health of those conducting the burning, their families, and neighbors.

WHY SHOULD WE REDUCE THESE TOXICS IN OUR ENVIRONMENT?

The toxic air pollutants produced from burning residential green waste can travel long distances and deposit on soil, plants, and in water. The leftover ash in the burn pile also contains toxic pollutants, which can spread into the soil and water. Animals and fish can ingest the pollutants and accumulate them in their tissue; plants can absorb them too. When this contaminated food is eaten, the pollutants are passed on to people. Therefore, simply avoiding the plume of smoke does not eliminate potential health risks.

WHAT IS THE STATEWIDE RULE TO REDUCE THIS POLLUTION?

Beginning **January 1, 2004**, household waste cannot be burned at residences. The following restrictions will be enforced by the Imperial County APCD.

1. No residential household waste /green waste burning is allowed within city limits and identified townships.
2. Only vegetation grown on your property can be burned at your residence.
3. All material must be dry and free of trash or dirt.
4. The use of burn barrels or backyard incinerators is not allowed. Burning must be flat on the ground.
5. If you are allowed to burn vegetation (green waste), you must start the fire with an approved ignition device.
6. All burn piles cannot be larger than 10X10 feet wide and 5 feet high.
7. Outdoor residential green waste burning can only occur on a permissive burn day.
8. All residents eligible for residential green waste burning must first contact the Imperial County APCD for approval and conduct the burning within allowable burning hours.
9. Burns may not cause a nuisance with smoke and ash to neighbors.
10. All burns must be terminated by sunset of each day.

ARE THERE ANY EXEMPTIONS?

No exemptions are allowed for burning plastics and household garbage.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH HOUSEHOLD WASTE?

Reduce: Avoid disposable items. Buy products in bulk or economy sizes rather than individually wrapped or single serving sizes. Buy durable, repairable products and products that can be recharged, reused, or refilled.

Reuse: Donate unwanted clothing, furniture and toys to friends, relatives, or charities. Give unwanted magazines and books to hospitals, schools, libraries, or nursing homes. Mend and repair rather than discard or replace.

Recycle: Separate recyclable items from residential waste and prepare them for a waste collection service or drop them off at a local recycling center.

then, Dispose properly: If you are unable to get routine waste collection service at your residence, combine trips to approved waste disposal facilities with other errands. Hazardous household waste such as solvents, oils, and oil-base paints must go to a local hazardous waste collection site.

WHAT APPROVED RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL FACILITIES ARE NEARBY?

Find the facilities nearest you by calling your County waste management or public works office. Learn what to do with various materials, by clicking on "Reuse & Recycling Centers" at the EARTH 911 website: <http://www.earth911.com/about-us/>. You can also find out about recycling, transfer, and disposal facilities at California Recycle's website: <http://calrecycle.ca.gov/swfacilities/>

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING?

Composting: Organic material such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, leaves, and grass clippings can be composted into mulch and natural fertilizer for gardens. You can learn more about composting at the U.S. EPA website:

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home>

Paper Shredding: Inexpensive paper shredders can be purchased to destroy personal papers at home, before recycling or disposal. Shredded newspaper can also be composted.

HOW CAN WE REDUCE VEGETATION BURNING AT RESIDENCES?

Residents can compost their vegetation waste or "green waste" in their yards. Mulching lawnmowers eliminate clean-up time and cost. Chipped twigs and branches make excellent landscaping material and can also be composted. Many communities without regular green waste collection do have composting areas at the local landfill.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- If you observe illegal residential burning, or if you would like to report someone who is a continual problem burner, contact the Imperial County APCD.
- Contact the local fire department **ONLY** when there is an immediate emergency.

For More Information Contact:

IMPERIAL COUNTY APCD
150 SOUTH 9TH ST.
EL CENTRO, CA 92243
PHONE: (442) 265-1800 or
(888) 547-2876

<https://apcd.imperialcounty.org/>

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**Burning
Residential
Green Waste
Only**



LEARN BEFORE YOU BURN !

**Know the Law
Know What to Do
Know Who to Contact**

ICAPCD
IMPERIAL COUNTY
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT