Safe BURNING

PREVENTING PREPARING PLANNING

Burn responsibly...or don't burn at all!

Debris burning is the number one cause of wildfires in Wisconsin. Using fire as a method to dispose of vegetative yard waste isn't the only option. While debris burning is legal in most places, let's face it...**it's unsafe, unhealthy and a nuisance.** If you choose to burn, follow these simple guidelines to ensure you are burning SAFELY:

BEFORE BURNING

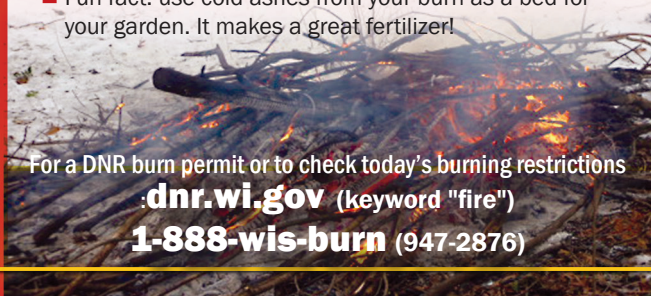
- Find alternatives to burning debris *before* deciding to burn
- Obtain proper burn permits and follow any restrictions
- Comply with local ordinances that may be more restrictive than state law
- Make certain you are only burning legal materials *(turn over for a complete list)*
- Keep an eye on the weather and avoid burning under windy conditions
- Make certain the area adjacent to the fire is free of all flammables

DURING BURNING

- Have a water source and firefighting tools handy
- Keep the size of the fire small and manageable
- Maintain a mineral soil firebreak around the burn area
- Never leave your fire unattended
- If weather conditions change for the worst, put the fire out
- If your fire escapes, dial 911 immediately!

AFTER BURNING

- Make sure the burn is completely out before leaving
- Use lots of water, drown, stir and repeat until cold
- Go back and check again later for any remaining smoke or embers
- Fun fact: use cold ashes from your burn as a bed for your garden. It makes a great fertilizer!



For a DNR burn permit or to check today's burning restrictions

dnr.wi.gov (keyword "fire")

1-888-wis-burn (947-2876)

Responsible BURNING

WHAT CAN I BURN WITH MY DNR BURN PERMIT?

Allowed

- Brush
- Leaves
- Pine needles
- Grass
- Clean wood
- Unrecyclable paper*
- Unrecyclable cardboard*

**Recycling of clean paper and cardboard is required by law!*

NOT Allowed

- Garbage
- Plastics
- Shingles
- Foam
- Structures
- Furniture
- Wire
- Metal
- Electronics
- Vinyl products
- Rubber products
- Oil-based products
- Painted, stained or treated wood

ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING

REUSE - Find someone else who can use it, have a yard sale or donate. Bring reusable shopping bags to the grocery store. Leave grass clippings on the lawn; they contain nutrients.

RECYCLE - Separate newspaper, magazines, cardboard, paper, glass, plastic and aluminum, steel or tin cans.

DISPOSE - Discard non-recyclable waste materials at a licensed landfill.

COMPOST - Mulch or collect leaves and plant clippings for composting or move brush piles in the woods for wildlife habitat.

CHIP - Collect brush and clean wood to make mulch or decorative chips, or use as heating fuel in fireplaces.

WAIT - Avoid burning in the spring. The safest time to burn is when the ground is completely snow-covered. Throw a tarp over legal materials and wait until it snows.

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