



CAN I BURN?

Agricultural Burning

To burn commercially grown agricultural products you must have an agricultural burn permit. To qualify for this permit you must:

- 1) Have a working farm/business that is at least 5 acres in size,
- 2) Derive 51% or more of your annual income from the property.

If you do not meet these requirements you cannot obtain an Agricultural Burn Permit, however, you can burn during designated backyard burn days or apply for an open burn permit.

Backyard Burning

Those outside the Gresham City limits but within the jurisdiction of Gresham Fire & Emergency Services and outside the DEQ Burn Ban area may burn on Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) authorized burn days. All authorized burn days are announced on a daily burn line during the seasonal burn periods of March 1-June 15 and October 1-December 15.

CAN WE BURN TODAY?

Call the daily burning information line
503-618-3083

Note:

Backyard burning is only allowed within the city limits of Gresham (and outside the DEQ Burn Ban Area) 10 authorized days in spring and 10 authorized days in fall. These days will fall within the DEQ authorized seasons as conditions allow.

Backyard Burn permits are not required. Just call the above number and listen to the recorded message to see if burning is allowed on the day you wish to burn. The burn message is updated daily, so be sure to call before lighting any backyard fires.

Open Burning

Open burning is allowed by permit only. Permits are available to anyone within the jurisdiction including the City of Gresham having special demonstrated needs and unable to recycle because of the size (large) of property to be maintained or other specific conditions.

Ceremonial Burning

Permits required.

Recreational Burning

Is allowed without permits.

General Burning Restrictions

No person is allowed to conduct any burning that:

- Unreasonably interferes with enjoyment of life or property,
- Creates a public or private nuisance,
- Is a hazard to safety

The following non-inclusive materials cannot be burned any time, anywhere in the State of Oregon:

- Rubber products
- Tires
- Plastic
- Garbage
- Petroleum & petroleum-treated materials
- Asphalt or industrial waste
- Any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors
- Construction Materials
- Stumps

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality also has these guidelines that must be followed to allow safe burning.

How do I get a permit?

Permits may be obtained at the Life Safety Division of Gresham Fire and Emergency Services, 1333 NW Eastman Parkway between the hours of 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. -5:00 P.M. Monday –Friday (except holidays) or on line at www.ci.gresham.or.us/departments/fes/permits1.asp

Do I have to stay with the fire at all times?

Yes, all fires must be tended by a competent person at all times. You must have a charged hose line, fire extinguisher or other available means of controlling fire spread and a recommended cell phone in case of emergency at all times burning is occurring. All fires must be COMPLETELY extinguished as directed by the burn information line.

What size of pile of yard debris can I burn?

The pile shall be no larger than 10 feet in diameter by 6 feet high. If you plan to burn more that one pile, you will need an open burning permit. For open burning fire breaks should be created around piles to prevent fire from spreading.

All piles shall be more than 25 feet from a structure, combustibile fence or other combustibile materials.

Can I burn yard debris on commercial property?

No, backyard burning is only allowed on residential properties.

What is an alternative to burning?

You can compost your debris and recycle it into a useful garden supplement. For “How-To” information, call Metro’s Recycling Switchboard at 503-234-3000. There are also Oregon Tax credits available to those who purchase chippers to use as an alternative to burning

How can I file a complaint about backyard burning?

For illegal or unsafe burning complaints call the non-emergency line at 503-823-3333. For smoke and nuisance burning related complaints call the Life Safety Division of the Gresham Fire & Emergency Services. The telephone number is 503-618-2355.

Emergency

If a fire starts to spread to other combustibile materials or threatens structures, **call 911 immediately.**

Violation of safe burning regulations or air quality regulations may be subject to citation and/or fines from the City of Gresham and DEQ. Property owners may be held liable for costs relating to firefighting or damage to neighboring property or structures as a result of unsafe burning practices.