

## Burning Garbage is...

### *Unhealthy*

Burning garbage, even white paper and cardboard, can cause severe health problems and pollute air, soils and water.

Studies show that due to low burn temperatures and lack of pollution control equipment, smoke from burning household garbage produces levels of dangerous toxins many times higher than a municipal incinerator. Smoke from burning household waste contains acidic gases, heavy metals, and dioxins. **Inhalation of and contact with these materials may cause severe health problems including eye and throat irritation, respiratory problems, and an increased risk of cancer.** Garbage burning is now believed to be the largest source of cancer causing dioxins in the US.<sup>1</sup>

### *Unsafe*

Firefighters respond to over 7000 structure or wildfires each year, and many are started by outdoor debris burning. These fires have injured people, destroyed homes, and set fire to forests and communities.

### *Illegal*

Burning garbage and prohibited materials has been illegal in Minnesota since 1969<sup>2</sup>, and prohibited by Lake County ordinance since 1975. Burning garbage illegally is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to \$1000.



## What and When Can I Burn?

### *What can I burn?*

- Vegetative material, such as grass, leaves, brush and unpainted, untreated lumber.

### *When can I burn?*

- When having a campfire less than 3 ft. in diameter by 3 ft. high, and cleared of all combustibles 5 ft. from the base, except in Two Harbors, where a permit is required.
- When using a grill, camp stove, or other device designed for cooking or heating.
- When you have a burning permit from a DNR Forester, municipal fire chief, fire warden, or Online Burning Permit service.
- When there is continuous snow cover 3 inches deep or more surrounding the burn area, no burning permit is needed.
- When you burn at night in an approved burner, between 6:00 pm and 8:00 am. During the day, you will need a permit.

For a burning permit, approved burner designs, or current burning restrictions, contact or go to:

- Finland DNR Forestry Office: 218-353-7397
- Two Harbors DNR Forestry Office: 218-834-1420
- Tower DNR Forestry Office: 218-753-2580

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/questions.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/questions.html)

## What and When Can't I Burn?

### *What Materials Can't I Burn?*

- Garbage - discarded material from food handling and consumption
- Construction or demolition debris, including, but not limited to, composite board, tar paper, treated lumber, sheet rock, insulation, wiring, or paint.
- Any structure without appropriate permits. Additional permits are required.
- Plastics
- Oils
- Motor vehicles
- Any chemically-treated materials
- Industrial solid waste
- Other materials which produce excessive or noxious smoke, including, but not limited to, tires and railroad ties.
- Rubber
- Electronics
- Hazardous waste

### *When can't I burn?*

- When there is less than 3 inches of snow, and you don't have a burning permit. (Except campfires, grills & approved burners at night)
- During spring burning restrictions. Before spring green up, dead grass can dry and burn in a matter of hours. Campfires are allowed with restrictions, and variances may be given by DNR personnel.
- During a burning ban. Under extremely dry conditions a "burning ban" may be declared in specific areas of the state. Burning permits are canceled, new permits not issued, and burning in approved burners, campfires, and even smoking outdoors may be prohibited. This is **only** in very severe conditions and is stricter than a burning restriction.

<sup>1</sup> [www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FoodContaminantsAdulteration/ChemicalContaminants/DioxinsPCBs/](http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FoodContaminantsAdulteration/ChemicalContaminants/DioxinsPCBs/)

<sup>2</sup> Minnesota Statute 88.171.

## Better Ways to Dispose of ...

### **General Recycling**

- ✓ Paste Board (cereal boxes)
- ✓ Corrugated Cardboard (NO PIZZA BOXES)
- ✓ Plastic (food/beverage containers, #1-7)
- ✓ Glass (food/beverage containers – rinsed)
- ✓ Newspapers                      ✓ Office Paper
- ✓ Aluminum Cans                  ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Steel Cans (rinsed)          ✓ Empty Aerosols
- **Lake County Recycling Center 218-834-8373**  
**Recycle Center Drive, Two Harbors**
- **John's Sanitary 218-226-3418**  
**15 Golf Course Rd, Silver Bay**  
No plastics #3-7 or empty aerosols.
- **Waste Transfer Site, Fall Lake Township**  
Information: Mary Tome 218-365-3727  
or Fall Lake Town Hall 218-365-3835

### **Household Hazardous Waste**

- Facility next to Two Harbors Recycling Center  
Call for hours and materials 218-834-8304

### **Used Motor Oil & Filter Recycling**

- Hazardous Waste Building, Two Harbors
- Blazers Auto Repair, Silver Bay
- Waste Transfer Site, Fall Lake Township

### **Construction & Demolition Debris**

- Lake County Demolition Landfill  
Bunker Hill Road, Silver Creek Township  
Call for directions, hours, and prices 834-8304.

### **Appliances and Electronics**

- Appliances and Mattresses - Demolition Landfill
- Other electronics - Hazardous Waste

### **Vegetation Composting**

- Demolition Landfill

### **Other Garbage**

- Silver Bay: John's Sanitary
- Two Harbors: many; consult phone book
- Fall Lake: G-Men 218-365-5587



Emergency Management  
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[www.co.lake.mn.us](http://www.co.lake.mn.us)  
218-226-4444

# BURNING GARBAGE

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Emergency Management  
& Solid Waste Department

