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**Residential trash burning releases toxic air pollutants that put you, your children, and your neighbors at risk.**

**Think Before You Burn!**

**Protect Your Health  
Protect Our Future  
Be a Good Neighbor**



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**Before you burn,** call your **town office** to find out more about recycling opportunities, proper trash disposal, and obtaining a fire permit.

For information on trash burning and state air pollution regulations, proper solid waste management or household hazardous waste disposal, go online at

**[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)**



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## **Residential Trash Burning Is A Public Health Risk**



**State Law Prohibits It**

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**Before you burn, learn the facts.**

## What are the Dangers of Residential Trash Burning?

Today's trash contains **inks, dyes, chlorine, plastics, toxic metals** and a variety of synthetic materials that can produce **toxins** when burned, especially at low temperatures and low oxygen levels typically present in burn barrels.

**Dioxin** and other highly toxic chemicals are released into the air when trash is burned outdoors.

Smoke and toxic emissions from burning residential trash stay close to the ground, creating a possible **health risk** for your family and neighbors, especially children.

Burning trash at home can create a **fire hazard** and a health risk.

***Burning a week's worth of trash from a single home in an open barrel can put as much of some toxic chemicals, such as dioxin and furans, in the air as a well-controlled municipal incinerator burning the trash from thousands of homes!***

Source: USEPA Report on Barrel Burning, January 2000

**State law, RSA 125-N, prohibits residential trash burning.**

### What materials CANNOT be burned outside?

- Household trash
- Packaging materials
- Coated or laminated papers
- Wood, e.g., painted, treated, plywood
- Coated or treated cardboard
- Animal, vegetable, and kitchen waste
- Plastics or metals
- Rubber, including tires
- Oily rags

### What materials CAN be burned outside – with a permit from my local fire warden?

- Clean untreated wood
- Leaves and brush less than 5 inches in diameter
- Campfire wood or charcoal
- On-premises burning for frost prevention, agricultural, forestry or wildlife habitat improvement

## How Should I Dispose of My Household Trash?

New Hampshire communities are required to provide access to solid waste management facilities for their residents. Here are some ways to reduce your trash before you dispose of it.

**Reduce** your household's waste. In particular, throw out less, and avoid purchasing groceries and other products packaged in plastic. Plastic contains both carbon and chlorine, which form dioxin when burned.

**Reuse** as many items as possible, such as food containers.

**Recycle** glass, plastic, newsprint, aluminum, used motor oil, and other recyclable materials whenever possible.

**Compost** leaves, grass clippings and vegetable scraps. Compost makes excellent mulch and natural fertilizer for gardens.

**Take** your household hazardous wastes such as cleaners and oil paints to a local HHW collection site.

**Never** burn household trash in a woodstove or fireplace.