

## Did You Know?

**Generally,** Arkansans may burn yard waste that is collected from the property it is grown on. Residential open burning of yard waste is strongly discouraged but permissible in some areas of Arkansas under specified conditions Ark. Code Ann § 8-6-1703. Both state and local authorities may limit the practice of the open burning of yard waste. By law, open burning yard waste can be prohibited in a particular area of the state or throughout the entire state when:

- *It becomes a local nuisance.*
- *It creates a fire or safety hazard.*
- *It pollutes the air and DEQ believes*

it will create a situation whereby the National Ambient Air Quality Standards could be exceeded in a given area.



# ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING YARD WASTE:



## LAWN MULCHING

Leave grass clippings on your lawn to add nutrients back into the soil and improve lawn health.



## CHIPPING

Add chipped brush or pruning, to increase nutrients. Chippers are often available for rent.

## CURBSIDE PICKUP

Collect and separate yard waste, organic material, and recyclables and set them out for curbside collection. Check with your local government or waste management company for local services.



## COMPOSTING

Compost yard waste to recycle organic material and add nutrients back into the soil. Generally, compost consists of not only yard waste but also kitchen waste such as eggshells, coffee grounds, and vegetable peelings.

## CONTACTS:

- 🔥 Report pollution problems from open burning to: DEQ Office of Air Quality, 501-682-0773
- 🔥 Report nuisance, fire, or safety complaints about open burning to: Your local fire station, police or sheriff's office
- 🔥 Waste management options: <https://www.adeg.state.ar.us/sw/programs/rswmd.aspx>



# DON'T BURN IT!

**Household waste** contains more toxins now than it did a generation ago. Our typical trash includes plastics and other items that contain toxic chemicals. When burned, these items release more than irritating ash into the air; they create harmful emissions that can increase the risk of heart disease, aggravate respiratory ailments such as asthma and emphysema, and cause rashes, nausea, or headaches.

**Dioxins**, extremely toxic chemicals, are often emitted when some materials that don't contain dioxins in their original state undergo a chemical change when burned.

**If a complaint is received**, state and/or local officials can take steps to ensure the fire is extinguished and possibly issue a ticket or a fine if the fire is one of the following:

- *Persistent offense to neighbors*
- *Fire hazard to surrounding property*
- *Safety hazard*

## RULES REGARDING OPEN BURNING:

### RULE 18.602 GENERAL PROHIBITION

No person shall cause or permit the open burning of refuse, garbage, trade waste, or other waste material, or shall conduct a salvage operation by open burning.

### RULE 18.605 OPEN BURNING PERMIT

Upon application, the Department shall issue permits for open burning, provided that the applicant affirmatively demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Department, that there are no practicable, safe, and lawful alternative methods of disposal and that open burning is absolutely necessary and in the public interest and provided.

## FACT:

 Arkansas law prohibits the burning of household wastes to protect residents and visitors from hazardous emissions.