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IEPA ▶ Topics ▶ Air Quality ▶ Burn Barrels

Illegal Burning

What You Can and Cannot Burn

If you live in any town:

It is **ILLEGAL** to burn anything except for landscape waste*. However, local ordinances may limit the burning of landscape waste.

If you live within a mile of a town with a population of 1,000 or more:

It is **ILLEGAL** to burn anything except for landscape waste*. However, local ordinances may limit the burning of landscape waste.

If you do not live in a town or within a mile of a town with a population of 1,000 people or more:

It is **LEGAL** to burn household waste that is generated on the property as a result of normal household activities, except for food, food scraps, and food packaging. Burning trash may be legal in these areas, but it is an unhealthy way to dispose of trash. Please take a safe and healthy approach to waste disposal.

What are some examples of waste that can never be burned?

- Commercial Waste
- Food
- Food Packaging
- Furniture
- Construction/demolition debris
- Tires

What about landscape waste?

Landscape waste is only allowed to be burned on the premises where it is generated so long as a local ordinance does not limit the burning of it.

What about commercial waste?

Open burning of commercial/trade waste in a burn barrel or otherwise by business, industry and government institutions is **ILLEGAL** in the State of Illinois except for landscape waste generated on the property or agricultural waste under limited circumstances. Local laws may limit open burning of landscape waste.