

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO BURNING

The problem with outdoor burning

Many people continue to burn their trash. It's a quick, inexpensive, and easy way to get rid of household garbage. But trash often contains plastics, metal, rubber, synthetic cloth and chemicals. Even the slick, colored paper of magazines and the clear see-through portions of envelopes, when burned, send toxic fumes into the air. These chemicals then enter the air, soil, groundwater and food supply. Dioxins are toxic chemicals that are created when certain types of waste are burned and when chemicals containing chlorine are manufactured. They are dangerous even at extremely low levels. *All of this pollution may be released in your backyard through backyard burning.*



Why is toxic air pollution so serious?

One of the problems with toxic air pollutants such as dioxins is that they get into the food chain. Children playing in dirt can even swallow contaminated ash.

In addition, smoke particles can travel into houses due to their extremely small size. The resulting indoor pollution can reach up to 70 percent of the outdoor pollution level. The particles can be inhaled deep into the lungs, causing harmful chemical and structural changes to lung tissue.

Alternatives to outdoor burning

Reduce Reuse Recycle Compost Disposal

The Tribal Air Quality Department encourages you to reduce waste and reuse products whenever possible. Buy durable products rather than disposable ones, look for recycled products, and choose products with less packaging. Recycle paper, plastic, glass, aluminum and metal. Consider chipping large branches, and mulching or composting your food and garden waste.

Questions about Air Quality or Burning? Call Air Quality Department at 478-3853

