

How can I get a fire permit?

If you want to light a fire in open air at your rural property, you need to find out what the current fire season is for your area, and whether you need a fire permit. Fire permits are issued by Fire and Emergency New Zealand and you can find out this information at their website www.checkitsalright.nz

No matter what the fire season is, you still need to comply with any Council bylaws and Regional Council requirements relating to smoke nuisance and the burning of prohibited materials, even if you are issued with a fire permit from Fire and Emergency.

Looking for other ways to get rid of your waste?



Visit the Waste and Recycling Directory at www.boprc.govt.nz



**For more information contact
Bay of Plenty Regional Council**

Phone
Pollution Hotline
Website

0800 884 880
0800 884 883
www.boprc.govt.nz



The rules on backyard burning



Landowners may feel that they're doing the right thing by burning their waste to keep it out of local landfills, but they're often doing quite the opposite.

Smoke from backyard fires, whether from a rural or urban property, is bad for the environment and can have far reaching health consequences for those on and around the property. **To keep smoke and the effects to a minimum there are different burning rules for urban and rural properties:**

Urban properties

Smokey fires generate the majority of calls to our Pollution Hotline; from people burning wet wood to treated timber to plastic. Because of the scope of the issue the rules around backyard burning in the Bay of Plenty have been updated.

You can no longer have an open fire on an urban property.

An urban property is defined as less than two hectares (20,000m) and connected to reticulated sewage. Exceptions to this rule include braziers, BBQ, pizza ovens, smokers and hangi (only if for recreational or cultural purposes). Incinerators are **not** an exception.

The nature of household trash has changed over the past fifty years. Today, bleached paper, plastic packaging or plastic products, and printed materials with glues, make up a large portion of society's waste. When burned, harmful particles are released with the smoke.

Rural properties

If you live in the country fire can be a handy way to get rid of green waste like tree trimmings and garden waste. The problem is most people who burn their waste do in an unsafe way, not realising how harmful this practice can be to their health and to the environment.

What can I burn?

The general rule is the drier the material, the less smoke it will create and the faster it will burn.

- ✓ Green waste that has been properly dried (usually 2 – 3 months).
- ✓ Paper, cardboard and non-treated timber (although if possible this is better recycled).

Smoke can be reduced by burning the fuel more completely. This can be achieved by:

- Creating smaller fires
- Ensuring the fuel is dry and loosely stacked
- Ensuring the fire does not smoulder
- Ensuring the wind is less than 20km per hour and predicted to be away from built up areas for the duration of the fire (postponing if required)
- Avoiding burning in the late afternoon/evening
- Always being prepared to put the fire out if conditions change or you discover that you are causing a nuisance.

What can't I burn?

Do not attempt to burn:

- ✗ Household rubbish
- ✗ Plastics of any kind
- ✗ Treated or painted timber (especially poisonous lead-based paint)
- ✗ Rubber, e.g. tyres
- ✗ Chemicals and pesticides
- ✗ Metals, including heavy metals, copper wiring, zinc
- ✗ Paints, varnishes etc
- ✗ Waste oil including containers containing residues
- ✗ Agrichemicals including containers containing residues

Outdoor burning of these materials is prohibited by the Regional Plan because burning increases their capacity to produce harmful contaminants that may cause serious health effects in people and animals, such as cancers, respiratory disease and birth defects.

Don't risk the \$300 fine. Serious offending could result in prosecution. Read more at boprc.govt.nz/airpollution