

Get a Burning Permit.

Eligibility to apply for a permit through local fire department (eligibility may vary, and fees may apply):

- Property is greater than one hectare (2.47 acres) and either/or:
- Farmers: Land clearing, pruning, documented pest emergency or disease.
- Residents: Interface with forest area, reduce ground fuels or to minimize wildfire hazards.

Open Burning Season

October 1 to April 30, unless further restrictions are in place due to fire hazards or other local conditions.

Where to Apply

Kelowna	Kelowna Fire Department	250-469-8801
Peachland	Peachland Fire Rescue Service	250-767-2841
Lake Country	Lake Country Fire Department	250-766-2327
West Kelowna	West Kelowna Fire Rescue	778-797-3200
Westbank First Nation		
Ellison, Joe Rich, Wilson's Landing, North Westside	Regional District of Central Okanagan	250-469-6223

Know the Requirements.

Air Quality Conditions

- Venting Index = 65 or higher
- Particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) concentration = less than 15 µg/m³

Time of Day

- **Start time:** one hour after sunrise. For better smoke dispersion, it's recommended to start after 10am.
- **Extinguish** burning by 4pm or two hours before sunset, whichever is later, on the same day burning starts. Stop adding debris to the pile if weather or venting conditions change.

Air Curtain Burning

- A special permit from the fire department may be required.
- Burn only clean, dry wood and follow daily PM_{2.5} and venting requirements.
- Don't pile material above air curtain.
- Operate fans continuously.
- Pile must be smokeless after 30 minutes.
- Manage ash according to local or provincial requirements.
- Don't allow ash to build up higher than one-third the depth of pit or to impede combustion.
- Apply water to ash prior to its removal to prevent ash from becoming airborne.

To confirm conditions, call 1-855-262-2876
or visit rdco.com/airquality

Open Burning Best Practices

Pile & Air Curtain Burning

Take advantage of a **FREE CHIPPING** or **REBATE** program when you chip or mow wood waste and help keep Okanagan air clean and smoke free.



Reduce Air Pollution.

Burning permits are granted after every reasonable alternative has been pursued.

If air curtain or pile burning is your last option, follow these steps to limit smoke-related health risks.

Burning Material



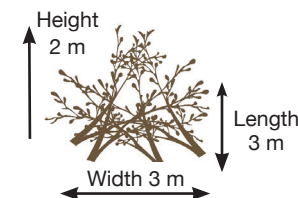
Burn only **clean, dry wood**.



It's **illegal** to burn garbage, treated/painted wood, fertilized bags, cartons, chemical pails, irrigation tubing, or material that releases chemicals into the air.

Preparing Wood Piles

- Cure fresh debris to required dryness.
- Avoid piling in wet weather.
- Piles should be tall and cone-shaped
- Remove as much soil and rock to reduce smoke.



Recommended size for small wood volume & quick-burn hot fires.

Burn Only Dry Wood.

Wood must be either dried for two years or have a moisture content less than 30 per cent.

Properly dried wood is lighter, has cracks in the grain on the end, and sounds hollow when knocked against other wood.

Measure Moisture Content

It's the owner's responsibility to ensure wood is properly dried.

Moisture content of wood can be tracked by following these steps:

1. First site visit: choose at least 10 pieces from each pile (surface, middle and bottom)
2. Number piles and mark each sample with spray paint or colour string
3. Insert moisture meter and record date and moisture content of each sample
4. Subsequent visits (every two months): insert meter 2.5 cm from previous mark and within 12-15 cm from first mark.

More information:
rdco.com/airquality



Comply With Setbacks.

Property owners should comply with provincial, regional and local requirements, which vary depending on the diameter of each branch or piece of wood. Refer to the provincial [Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation Fact Sheet](#) (OBSCR).

Setbacks

Open burning that falls under provincial regulations must meet **minimum setback** distances. Other local setbacks may apply.

Property type	General setback	Reduced setback
Residence or business buildings	500 m	100 m
Nearest property line of schools, hospitals and community care facilities	1,000 m	500 m

To report non-compliance with provincial legislation, call the provincial RAPP Line at 1-877-952-7277.

Burning without a permit or not complying with **provincial**, regional or local requirements could result in a fine by the applicable authority.

