

Before You Burn...

Contact your local fire department about **local by-laws and restrictions** on open air burning.

Open air burning can include **bonfires, firepits** and **outdoor fireplaces**.

ontario.ca/firemarshal



Know the Rules Before You Burn

A permit is required for any open air burning in Wilmot Township. There are two types of permits available, one for small backyard fires and one for larger fires on farming properties. Permit holders are responsible for understanding the requirements of the permit and following the open burn by-law. Non-compliance may result in fines and/or cost recovery charges for fire department responses to calls where guidelines are not being followed.

Here are some important facts to know about burning in Wilmot Township:

- **BURNING GARBAGE IS PROHIBITED** – The burning of rubbish like plastics, tires, and cardboard is not permitted. These materials can release toxic substances.
- **FIREWOOD ONLY** - Burning of wood that contains paints, stains, glues or chemicals of any kind is not permitted. Only “clean” firewood can be burned.
- **NO EXCESSIVE SMOKE** – The burning of yard waste (for example, leaves and grass) can create smoke that can be offensive or alarming to neighbouring residents and is not permitted in a backyard fire.

According to Environment Canada, burning of painted or processed wood, or even seemingly harmless materials like paper, cardboard, yard waste, or construction debris, releases a hazardous mixture of cancer-causing compounds and other toxic substances. The Region of Waterloo has a waste management program that provides for the disposal of such materials.

For additional information on:

Garbage and recycling, go to [Garbage and Recycling - Region of Waterloo](#)

Health effects when burning garbage, go to [Open burning of garbage: health and environmental risks - Canada.ca](#)