

## **Top 5 Reasons to Not Burn Trash in Burn Barrels**

5. They produce smoke and emissions that **CAUSE ODOURS** and **RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS**
4. They produce smoke and emissions that can **IMPACT YOUR FOOD QUALITY.**
3. They produce smoke and emissions that can **DISTURB YOUR NEIGHBOURS**
2. They produce smoke and emissions that can **HARM YOUR CHILDREN**
1. They produce smoke and toxic emissions that are **DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH.**

For more information please  
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## **Backyard Burning**



**The Hidden Hazards  
of Backyard  
Burning**

# Backyard Burning is much more hazardous than you may think...

## Up In Smoke ?

Burning Waste in burn barrels, wood stoves and fire pits such as:

- Packaging
- Tires
- Plastic
- Styrofoam
- Treated Wood
- Newspaper
- Junk Mail

Releases chemicals such as:

- DIOXINS
- FURANS
- ARSENIC
- MERCURY
- PCBs
- BENZENE
- CARBON MONOXIDE

Dioxin exposure has been linked to:

- Liver Problems
- Impairment of the immune system, the endocrine system and reproductive functions
- Cancer
- Effects on children's developing nervous systems and other developmental events

## What can you do?

**REDUCE** your household's waste. In particular, throw out less and avoid purchasing groceries and other products packaged in plastic. Plastic contains both carbon and chlorine, which form more dioxin when burned.

**REUSE** as much material as possible, such as food containers. Compost organic kitchen waste and yard waste.

**RECYCLE** newsprint, plastic, glass, metal containers, mixed paper, cardboard

**AVOID** burning plastic items, such as most packaging, carpet, toys and polystyrene. Dispose of plastic by recycling, whenever possible

**EDUCATE** your neighbours to let them know when the smoke from their burn barrels is affecting you or your family.



## Did you know.....?

**Smoke from burn barrels contains many chemicals that are harmful when inhaled!**

Smoke inhalation can cause immediate health effects such as nose and throat irritation, respiratory distress and breathing difficulties. Smoke inhalation can also increase risk of long term health problems such as asthma, immune system changes and cancer.

**Chemicals in smoke can travel far from the source and settle on pasture grass and vegetable gardens, bays, rivers and lakes!**

Not only can the smoke disturb nearby residents, but the particles and chemicals in the smoke can travel hundreds of miles and affect remote farms and gardens.

**Children are at higher risk than adults!**

Children are not just "little adults" Children may be at higher risk because they are exposed to more chemicals via breathing and eating than adults. They are also at higher risk because their susceptibility to the effects of toxic exposure are greater due to their stage of development.

You can help by educating yourself and your neighbours