

Before you burn... ...obey the law!



What kind of open burning is allowed?

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) maintains 326 IAC 4-1. This rule covers open burning. The rule says: "Open burning is prohibited except as allowed in this rule."

Elkhart County citizens can burn:

- Clean wood products from your yard (i.e., leaves, twigs, brush).
- Recreational fires (though these cannot be used for disposal purposes).
- Vegetation from a farm, orchard, nursery, or drainage ditch.

But you must follow these conditions:

- Fires must be in a non-combustible container that is sufficiently vented, has enclosed sides and a bottom.
- Fires must be attended at all times.
- Fires must be during daylight hours. (Recreational fires are allowed after sunset, but cannot be used for disposal purposes.)
- Fires must not be during high winds or temperature inversions.
- Fires must be put out if it creates a fire hazard, nuisance or public health threat.
- Private residential homes only. No apartments, condominiums, or businesses.

Use common sense!
When in doubt, *don't burn!* Be considerate of your neighbors. If you aren't 100% sure that all conditions are being met, then *don't burn.*

It is illegal to burn:

- Wood products coated with stain, paint, glue, or other coatings
- Household waste, plastic, batteries, rubber, disposable diapers

For more information

- IDEM Open Burning Web page: <http://www.in.gov/idem/airquality/2411.htm>.
- Elkhart County Leaf Management Web page: www.elkhartcountyswmd.com/leaf-management.
- To report inappropriate outdoor burning, please contact the Indiana Department of Environmental Management at (800)451-6027 x3 or at <https://www.in.gov/idem/5274.htm>.