
Your Smoke – Your Responsibility

You are responsible for your smoke as you are your fire! Here are some tips from the Georgia Forestry Commission, to help you reduce the amount of smoke produced from the fire:

Burn smaller piles

- Smaller piles produce smaller amounts of smoke

Burn on clear days

- Cloudy overcast days tend to stagnate the air causing smoke to linger and settle around you and your neighbors

Burn with a little wind

- Wind is needed to move and disperse smoke

Avoid burning wet piles

- Moisture in your pile will produce more smoke. Dried out leaves, limbs, etc. burn clean and produce less smoke

Avoid dirt in your piles

- Dirt helps hold in moisture and will cause a smoke problem. When building your pile, keep dirt to a minimum

Avoid burning at night or early morning

- Try to burn from mid-morning until early afternoon. Early morning and nighttime has the same effect as cloudy days and smoke will linger

Inform your neighbors

- Let your neighbors know a day or two before you plan to burn. They may want to plan to be away that day

Be neighborly

- If your smoke becomes a problem, put your fire out and burn when conditions are more smoke-management friendly



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gwinnettcounty
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Debris Burning

Safe Burning Practices



Gwinnett County Outdoor Burning Ordinance – Restrictions

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) imposes a ban on outdoor burning in Gwinnett County from May 1 to September 30. During the months that burning is allowed the following safety practices will apply in accordance with the County's burn ordinance:

- No burning on Sunday
- No burning when winds exceed 15 miles per hour
- No burning during an air pollution episode
- No burning if it poses a health risk (verified by a physician) to people in the area
- Burn piles must contain only natural vegetation
- Residents are not allowed to burn household garbage or rubbish
- Burning is not allowed within 50 feet of any structure
- Keep your burn piles small
- You must have a water source available

**Remember there is a penalty
for illegal outdoor burning.**

What is Debris Burning?

Debris burning is burning or removal of limbs or brush piles.

Debris burning can be broken into three main categories:

Yard maintenance burns include small limb piles, leaf piles, grass clippings, and shrub trimmings. Yard maintenance burns are the number one cause of wildfires.

Agriculture burns are brush piles made up of debris from clearing for new fields or pastures, clearing fencerows, or orchard trimmings.

Construction piles are piles created after clearing land to build homes, business, or clearing for roads. These fires require a permit issued by Gwinnett County Fire Plan Review.

Lawn Burning

The *Gwinnett County Fire Ordinance* does not prohibit the burning of lawns, however the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) does prohibit the burning of lawns.

- Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Rules for Air Quality Control Chapter 391-3-1, Official Code of Georgia Title 12, Chapter 9—Air Quality
- Georgia EPD phone number: 404.656.4713

How to Burn Debris Safely

- Clear at least a 25-foot area around your burn pile of any flammable material
- Don't pile debris close to other materials that may catch fire
- Never use flammable liquids such as gasoline to start your fire
- Start fire downwind of your pile
- Never leave your fire unattended
- Always make sure your fire is completely out and that the burn area is cool to the touch

