
Cleveland Division of Air Quality

Who We Are

Cleveland Division of Air Quality (CDAQ) is responsible for enforcement of the City of Cleveland Air Pollution Control Code and is the Ohio EPA Delegated Agent for air pollution control for all of Cuyahoga County. CDAQ ensures that regulated air pollutants are in compliance with local, state, and federal air regulations, and monitors levels of specific air pollutants throughout Cleveland and Cuyahoga County.

Enforcement, Permitting, and Monitoring are the three sections of CDAQ that work together to improve the quality of life in the City of Cleveland, allowing Cleveland to be a desirable place to live and work.



Cleveland—The City of Choice

Visit us Online

All you need to know about Cleveland's air quality is at your fingertips.

GO TO:

www.clevelandhealth.org

**Report air quality complaints
24-Hour Central Hotline
(216) 664-7442**



Cleveland Department of Public Health

Air Quality

Cleveland Department of Public Health
Division of Air Quality
75 Erieview Plaza, 2nd Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114
Phone: (216) 664-2297
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Before You Light It...

**Know the Open Burning
Regulations for the
City of Cleveland**



*Cleveland Division of Air Quality
Cleveland's Local Air Agency*

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Revised— May 2018

Smoke from open burning harms your health, your family's health and the health of your neighbors. It also harms our environment and can be a serious nuisance. Protect yourself, your family, your neighbors, and your wallet by knowing and following Cleveland's open burning rules.

What is open burning?

You are open burning any time you light an outdoor fire. This includes bonfires, campfires, chimineas, fire pits, and outdoor fireplaces or other similar devices. Under the Cleveland Air Pollution Control Code, all of these practices are prohibited within the City of Cleveland.



Why does Cleveland prohibit open burning?

Open fires cause toxic fumes and smoke. Many people have difficulty breathing because of the concentration of smoke and chemicals from open burning, or from the millions of spores sent aloft when leaves and plant materials are burned. Open burning also makes it more difficult to meet health-based air quality standards, especially in urban areas such as Cleveland. The smoke and gases released by open burning can also damage neighboring buildings and vehicles, corrode metal, and damage paint. The smoke and chemicals from open burning harm your health, hurt the environment, and damage property.

What material can never be open burned?

Some material may not be open burned anywhere at any time. These are:

- Leaves and other yard waste
- Materials containing rubber, grease, fiberglass, paint, or asphalt, or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars and auto parts, plastics, resins, or plastic-coated wire
- Pressure treated or painted lumber
- Garbage — any wastes created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking, or consumption of food
- Dead animals

Where is burning illegal?

With very few exceptions, open burning is prohibited within the City of Cleveland without first obtaining a permit from CDAQ.

What types of open burning are allowed?

A few types of open burning are allowed without a permit. These fires must be kept to a **minimum size and duration for their intended purpose**, must be in contained devices designed for the intended purpose, and shall not be used for waste disposal purposes. Allowed burning includes:

- Cooking for human consumption.
- Heating tar, welding and acetylene torches, and highway flares.
- Heating for warmth of outdoor workers by use of clean and non-contaminated smokeless fuels, with the size of the fire to be contained within a 55-gallon drum.
- Fires for which a permit has been obtained from CDAQ.

What open burning requires a permit?

Ceremonial fires can be set for limited periods of time by first obtaining an open burning permit from CDAQ. These fires must be limited in size to 5 feet by 5 feet by 5 feet and may not burn for more than three hours.

Fires for the prevention or control of disease or pests, fires set to train firefighters, or fires for emergency or other extraordinary circumstances may be allowed by first obtaining a permit from CDAQ.

The permit may take two weeks to obtain. For additional information or to obtain a permit, please contact CDAQ at (216) 664-2297. Permit application forms are also available from our web site at:

www.clevelandhealth.org

What will happen to me if I am caught illegally open burning?

CDAQ has the legal authority to enforce the open burning laws in the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. Violations of the Cleveland Air Pollution Control Code can result in substantial penalties. If you have any questions, or need to report a suspected open burning incident, contact us on our air pollution hotline:

(216) 664-7442

Violations of the open burning ordinance Chapter 277.09, or nuisance ordinance Chapter 277.08 of the Cleveland Air Pollution Control Code are enforceable under Chapter 287.03 of the Code, and Chapter 630 of the Criminal Activity Nuisance code.
