

## 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](http://www.clevelandhealth.org)

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



## Air Quality

Cleveland Department of Public Health  
Division of Air Quality  
75 Erieview Plaza, 2nd Floor  
Cleveland, OH 44114  
Phone: (216) 664-2297  
Fax: (216) 420-8047



## Before You Light It...

Know the Open Burning  
Regulations for  
Cuyahoga County

The City of Cleveland and several other communities have open burning laws that are **more restrictive** than Ohio's regulations. **Refer to these local laws before open burning in these communities.**

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

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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 Ohio's open burning rules.

## What is open burning?

You are open burning any time you light an outdoor fire. This includes bonfires, chimineas, fire pits, and outdoor fireplaces as well as the burning of trash or leaves.



## Why do Ohio's laws 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 burned?

Some material may not be burned anywhere in the state at any time. These are:

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

## Where is burning illegal?

With a few exceptions, open burning is not allowed in Cuyahoga County.

## What types of open burning are allowed?

A few types of open burning are allowed everywhere. 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 food and campfires.
- Heating tar, welding and acetylene torches, and highway flares
- Heating for warmth of outdoor workers by use of clean seasoned wood or smokeless fuels.
- Fire extinguisher training

## What open burning requires a permit?

**With advance written notification to CDAQ**, ceremonial fires can be set for limited periods of time. Fires must be limited in size to 5 feet by 5 feet by 5 feet and may not burn for more than three hours.

**WITH PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM OHIO EPA**, fires set to train firefighters, to dispose of certain ignitable or explosive materials, or to dispose of poisons such as pesticides and their containers may be allowed. Recognized horticultural, silvicultural, range, or wildlife management practices, involving burning, also are allowed with prior written permission. This permission may take two weeks to obtain. Please contact CDAQ with additional questions or to obtain a permit by calling 216-664-2297. Permit application forms are also available from our web site at:

[www.clevelandhealth.org](http://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. Violations can result in substantial penalties. If you have any questions or need to report a suspected open burning incident contact us on our 24-hour complaint hotline

**(216) 664-7442**