

Burning Permits

A DNR burning permit is required for burning on the ground and in barrels when the ground is not completely snow-covered. These permits are no-cost permits and are good for the calendar year and are non-transferable. The DNR has a relatively new process for obtaining a permit. You must obtain an annual permit each year.

There are 3 ways to obtain a burning permit:

1. Over the internet. Go to: <http://new.dnr.wi.gov/environment/fire/burningpermits/>
Follow the instructions.
2. By calling 1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876) to have a permit mailed or instantly emailed.
3. Permits are also available at a local Ranger Station or DNR Service Center or from an Emergency Fire Warden.
 - DNR Service Center (MacKenzie Environmental Center), W7303 County Highway CS & Q, Phn 608-635-8110. Forest Rangers are James Bennett 608-635-8113 or Hans Rudolf 608-635-8121.
 - Local Fire Wardens (Dekorra): John Kelley, Mi Place Bait Shop, N3188 County Highway V, 608-635-4020; Dave & Kathy Hafner, Hooker's River Stop, W9378 Parkway Drive and Highway V, 608-635-4800; Lisa Bender, W10485 Tipperary Road, 920-992-6535; Terry Dorshorst, W9378 Earnie Road, 608-635-2950.

On the day of the burn, check on the internet dnr.wi.gov/wisburn, or over the phone at 1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876) after 11:00 a.m. for the daily fire restrictions. Enter Columbia County: (code 11) (Spell 2658). Follow the rules for the day, have tools and water, and make certain your fire is completely out before leaving.

It's your responsibility to have a permit available and ready to show to law enforcement personnel or firefighters if requested at any time while burning. Failure to obtain a permit or comply with the daily restrictions could be subject to a citation.

Furthermore, if your fire escapes and starts a wildfire, you may be held liable for all suppression costs. Any person, whose property is injured or destroyed by your fire, may also recover, in a civil action, the value of timber or damages suffered.

Outdoor burning is a very serious matter as the Town has many acres of woods, brush and grassland. Recently, an out of control outdoor burning resulted in the loss of a home. All open burning shall be performed in a safe pollution free manner, and must not occur when windy and dry weather adverse conditions occur.

Open burning of household solid wastes, whether or not in a burn barrel, is prohibited by law, with limited exceptions. This prohibition includes all plastic materials, kitchen wastes, dirty or wet paper wastes, treated or painted wood, furniture, and demolition material - or any other material that creates a nuisance. The exceptions (for households only - not businesses) include lawn and garden debris, small quantities of clean, untreated, unpainted wood and clean paper waste that is not recyclable.

Outdoor fires for cooking, or for "warming up" are okay and do not require any special approvals unless environmental conditions pose a great risk for forest fires.

Upon DNR inspection, special permits may be issued for all day burns, land clearing, and piles or broadcast burns exceeding the local maximum size limit. Contact your local DNR Service Center or Ranger Station for more information.