

Burning waste – trade & industrial sites

Introduction

Burning waste products such as tyres, waste oil and plastic harm the environment by releasing toxic emissions into the atmosphere.

Particles in smoky fires can harm our health and aggravate existing conditions such as asthma. Smoke and particles can also be unpleasant for neighbours.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council has rules in place to limit these effects.

Alternatives to burning



Burning anything in the open or in a drum on industrial sites is not allowed.

There are several options available for waste disposal that make it unnecessary to burn waste.

Paper and cardboard can be recycled and general waste can be reused or sent to landfill. Sensitive documents can be shredded before recycling.

Waste that may be of use to someone

else can be registered on the waste exchange website: www.nothrow.co.nz.

The Regional Council can put you in touch with companies who use untreated waste timber, such as pallets, to generate energy.

When can you burn?

Burning is not recommended as a way of disposing of waste due to the potential harmful effects and the nuisance it can cause to close neighbours.

You will need to comply with the following rules if you intend to burn anything on industrial or trade premises:

- The burning must take place in proper fuel burning equipment, such as a purpose-built incinerator or boiler with a chimney and a way of controlling the temperature and oxygen.
- The waste being burnt must have been generated on your property – you can't burn someone else's rubbish.
- Smoke, ash, odours or other gases from the fire must not cause a problem beyond your boundary. For example, smoke blocking visibility on nearby roads, or smoke and ash drifting onto your neighbour's property.

Prohibited

Burning of the following items is prohibited (even in fuel burning equipment):

- Animal waste
- Tyres or other rubber
- Waste oil, or any waste containing hydrocarbons
- Wood treated with chemicals or painted
- Chipboard
- Plastic
- Metals
- Asbestos
- Medical or chemical waste
- Any combination of metals and combustible materials, including coated or covered cables.

You will also need to contact your District or City Council to make sure you comply with their bylaws, as fire permits may be required.

Also in this series: "Burning waste – domestic and rural sites."

For further information:

Please contact Regional Council Compliance Officers for information or advice on any air issues, or to obtain a copy of the Regional Resource Management Plan.

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