

Outdoor burning in Canterbury

Outdoor burning is often a nuisance for neighbours and can be a health hazard. It can also contribute to air pollution. That's why the Air Plan (Proposed Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan, Chapter 3: Air Quality) and its Variations have restricted outdoor burning in some areas and/or at some times of the year.

Nowadays the vast majority of people in residential areas use the many available alternatives for disposing of household and garden waste.

Rules for outdoor burning

The rules on outdoor burning as outlined below apply to date. Please be aware that fire authorities and district councils may have fire bans in place any time of the year for fire risk reasons. Also check the conditions for outdoor burning (when and where permitted) at the back of this factsheet.

If you do have an outdoor fire without a resource consent¹ when one is required, the consequences could include infringement notices (\$300 for a domestic offence), abatement notices and enforcement orders. If the offending is persistent, it could lead to prosecution.

Outdoor burning on residential properties throughout Canterbury

Outdoor burning on properties zoned residential throughout Canterbury is not permitted at any time of the year without a resource consent¹ from Environment Canterbury.

Outdoor burning on rural properties

(outside the Christchurch, Rangiora, Kaiapoi and Ashburton Clean Air Zones 1 and 2 and away from sensitive activities, see below)

Outdoor burning on most properties zoned rural (including rural residential) is permitted without a resource consent from Environment Canterbury. Stubble burning is also permitted.

Outdoor burning on rural properties close to sensitive activities

(outside the Christchurch, Rangiora, Kaiapoi and Ashburton Clean Air Zones 1 and 2, see below)

Outdoor burning is not permitted on these properties, 100 metres upwind or 50 metres in any other direction of the sensitive activity without a resource consent¹ from Environment Canterbury.

Sensitive activities include schools, hospitals, parks, residential areas and any public amenity area or place of public assembly.

Outdoor burning on rural properties in Christchurch Clean Air Zones 1 and 2

Outdoor burning on Christchurch's rural properties is not permitted without a resource consent¹ from Environment

Please turn over

Canterbury during the Christchurch winter fire ban which runs from 1 May to 31 August. Outside this period, outdoor burning is permitted however there are restrictions for properties close to sensitive activities (refer to 'Outdoor burning on rural properties close to sensitive activities').

Outdoor burning on rural properties in Rangiora, Kaiapoi and Ashburton Clean Air Zones 1 and 2

Outdoor burning on Ashburton, Rangiora and Kaiapoi rural properties is not permitted without a resource consent¹ from Environment Canterbury during the Rangiora, Kaiapoi and Ashburton winter fire ban which runs from 1 May to 30 September.

Outside this period, outdoor burning is permitted however there are restrictions for properties close to sensitive activities (refer to 'Outdoor burning on rural properties close to sensitive activities').

Conditions of outdoor burning

Where and when outdoor burning is permitted, it is subject to the following conditions:

- Only the following materials are allowed to be burnt: Vegetation (including stubble and crop residue), paper, cardboard and untreated wood.
- Rubber tyres, painted wood, wood treated with preservatives, batteries, foam, chipboard and some other materials are not allowed to be burnt.
- Any fire should not cause an offensive or objectionable effect beyond the boundary of the property where the fire is located. Whether an effect is offensive or objectionable is at the discretion of the Environment Canterbury enforcement officer.

Pollution hotline

For complaints about outdoor burning please contact the 24-hour pollution hotline on 0800 76 55 88.

More information

For more information on the rules for outdoor burning and alternatives to burning, please contact Environment Canterbury on 03 353 9007 or 0800 324 636 or visit our website on www.ecan.govt.nz/air.

¹ Deposit for a resource consent is \$1,125 and there is no guarantee it will be granted. If you have obtained a resource consent for outdoor burning from Environment Canterbury, you will still have to comply with the safety requirements of your local district or city council. . In addition to a resource consent from Environment Canterbury further fire permits may be required from the Department of Conservation or the relevant Rural Fire Authority.

