

Outdoor burning on farms

Outdoor burning can be a nuisance for neighbours, even in the country. It can also be a health hazard for those carrying out the burning, and burning of prohibited materials or burning in inappropriate ways can pollute the environment.

Prevention of waste (if possible), recycling and taking waste to a refuse station to be disposed of in a controlled way, are all better for you and the environment even if burning is permitted.

Air Plan

The Air Plan (Proposed Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan, Chapter 3: Air Quality) and its Variations have set some rules on where and when outdoor burning is permitted.

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.

Outdoor burning on rural properties

(for the Christchurch, Rangiora, Kaiapoi and Ashburton Clean Air Zones 1 and 2 see "Outdoor burning in Canterbury" factsheet, for properties near sensitive activities, see below)

Outdoor burning on most properties zoned rural (including rural residential) is permitted without a resource consent from Environment Canterbury. However, not all materials are allowed to be burnt.

What and how to burn

On rural properties away from sensitive activities outdoor burning is permitted, when taking note of the following:

- Only the following materials are allowed to be burnt: vegetation, paper, cardboard and untreated wood.
- Stubble burning is permitted. However, smoke should not cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties. Environment Canterbury encourages other methods of dealing with stubble such as direct drilling.
- Rubber tyres, painted wood, wood treated with preservatives, batteries, foam, chipboard and some other materials are not allowed to be burnt.
- Burning of the permitted materials on properties as listed above is permitted only as long as the fire does 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.

Recycling of containers and wrap

Currently agrichemical containers cannot be burnt. The burning of agricultural wrap will be banned in the not too distant future. Before burning wrap please contact Environment Canterbury for more information on conditions. Recycling options for these two products are available.

Please turn over

When buying agrichemical containers make sure you get a brand that is part of the Agrecovery recycling system and you will be able to drop off your triple-rinsed containers at their collection points for free. If you have another container you can still get it recycled at a cost. Check www.agrecovery.co.nz to find out more and to find out about collection points.

Agricultural wrap can be recycled through Agpac. Mostly clean and appropriately folded wrap will be picked up at the farm. Check out www.agpac.co.nz for more information about collection.

Outdoor burning close to sensitive activities

(outside the Christchurch, Rangiora, Kaiapoi and Ashburton Clean Air Zones 1 and 2, see “Outdoor burning in Canterbury” factsheet for these areas)

Outdoor burning is not permitted on properties where the fire is less than 100 meters upwind or 50 meters in any other direction of a 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.

Pollution hotline

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

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.

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.