



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BURNING:

Q. We have a Chimney or fire pit on our patio. Do we need a permit to use it?

A. No These devices do not constitute the type of burning intended to be regulated by the Statewide Fire Prevention Code. However, as with any other type of heat producing device, patio fireplaces should be used with caution, paying close attention to proximity to combustible materials and buildings or structures and constant attendance during times of use. Stoves, incinerators or other controlled burning devices, which would include patio fireplaces; do not fall under the open-burning regulations. *Henrico Fire recommends using these devices in accordance to manufacturer recommendations.*

Q If I receive a complaint from a neighbor will I have to extinguish my fire?

A If smoke is causing an objectionable odor or creating a hazard, the fire department will have you extinguish the fire and/or extinguish it for you. Please be aware of conditions of poor air quality or high fire danger that initiate local burn bans. Contact VDEQ for recreational fire burn ban information at 1-800-592-5482 or visit their website at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/info/openburning.html>.

Q. My Church or school has an outside ceremonial fire once a year. Do we need a permit?

A. If the fire is smaller than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height and the date of the fire does not fall during a period of impaired air quality as defined by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality no permit is required. **RECREATIONAL FIRES** are defined as an outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is **NOT** contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and are permitted in accordance with the Statewide Fire Prevention Code and rules as developed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. These fires must not be larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height. Recreational fires are not allowed during periods of impaired air quality as defined by VDEQ or other governmental agency. You may contact VDEQ at 1-800-592-5482 or visit their web site at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/info/openburning.html>, for burn ban information. This kind of fire includes ordinary campfires and other small fires used for the activities listed.

Q. Where can I have my recreational fire located?

A. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or in combustible material conditions that could cause a fire to spread. All unsafe combustible material and vegetation conditions within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to recreational fire ignition.

Q. Must I be in attendance at all times with fire extinguishing equipment?

A. Yes. Recreational fires shall be constantly attended and supervised by a person knowledgeable in the use of extinguishing tools like shovels, garden hoses, or a fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating on site, and available for immediate use.

Q. What about open flame cooking devices or grills?

A. Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices (Gas Grills) shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings.
 2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
- Henrico Fire recommends using these devices in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.*

Q. What type of burning requires a permit?

A. OPEN BURNING REQUIRES A PERMIT

OPEN BURNING is the burning of a bonfire, rubbish or other fire in an outdoor location in an unenclosed space where fuel being burned is **not** contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit. Examples include burning of leaves or grass clippings, burning construction debris and fires built on the ground for warmth in cold weather.

Leaf Burning is permitted in areas not served by Henrico County Leaf Collection Services. Open burning of anything other than leaves requires a Burn Permit from the Henrico county Fire Marshal's Office. Click [here](#) to print an application to fill out for a burn permit or call 804-501-4900 to request one to be sent.

Q. What kind of stuff CANNOT be burned?

A. Burning of the following is **PROHIBITED**:

- . Toxic or hazardous materials or containers for such materials.
- . Rubber tires, asphalt material, crankcase oil, impregnated wood (salt treated), or similar materials.
- . Paper, used lumber or trade waste.
- . Building and/or demolition material.
- . Household/commercial trash or refuse.

Q. If I can't burn, what can I do with my yard waste?

A. It may be taken to county public use areas. Contact Henrico County Public Utilities at 804-501-4517 or visit their site at <http://www.co.henrico.va.us/utility/solidwaste/publicuseareas.html> for more information.

If you have any questions or are still unsure of how to have a legal open burn or if you can have a burn in your area, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 501-4900.

Subject matter reference source is from the Statewide Fire Prevention Code section 307.3.2. For additional clarification or information please contact the Fire Marshal's Office of the Henrico County Division of Fire at 804-501-4900. The Statewide Fire Prevention Code may be referenced online at https://www2.iccsafe.org/states/Virginia/Fire_Prevention/fire_Frameset.html

Q. Can I burn my leaves this fall?

A. Burning is prohibited in the shaded areas. For more detail in areas 1, 2, or 3 visit the links listed below.



Leaf Burning

Residents in unshaded areas (white areas) may burn leaves.

(NO burning allowed on hard surface roadways.)

- Burning is permitted in the white areas from October 15 until February 14 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- From February 15 to April 30, leaf burning is allowed in the white areas from 4:00

8:00 pm to There is no burning allowed without a permit between October 1 and April 30. All open burning within Henrico County during this time will require a permit issued by the Fire Marshal. There will be no burning permits for June, July and August. Cooking fires could be the exception to the rule. Henrico Fire recommends recycling of leaves in lieu of burning them. We strongly encourage residents burning leaves to be mindful of environmental and weather conditions and request you notify Henrico Communications of your burn prior to lighting the fire by calling 501-5000.

In accordance with Henrico County Code 11-17, leaf burning is prohibited in areas serviced by county leaf collection. For information on leaf collection in Henrico County visit [Leaf Collection Schedule for Henrico County](#)