



Alternatives to Burning

A MESSAGE FROM THE SPOKANE REGIONAL CLEAN AIR AGENCY

BACKGROUND

Burning yard and garden debris is no longer allowed in Spokane County.* This publication provides information on some options available for handling natural vegetation.

What is yard and garden debris? Yard and garden debris consists of garden trimmings, tree branches, grass clippings, leaves, needles, etc., that originates on the maintained, improved area of property (i.e. lands immediately adjacent to a residence).

Why was burning yard/garden debris phased out?

Burning natural vegetation emits harmful smoke particles and chemicals that can damage the lungs. As rural areas become more populated, more people are impacted by smoke from burning. Alternatives to burning debris are more available and accepted. Spokane Clean Air's Board of Directors determined that administering a yard and garden debris burning program is not in line with the agency's clean air mission. Spokane Clean Air administered its final yard and garden burn season in April 2009.

May I burn natural vegetation from my acreage, beyond my improved yard?

Trees, limbs and needles located on acreage beyond your improved yard area may be considered silvicultural material. Depending on where you live, you may be eligible to burn this type of debris. Please call Spokane Clean Air to check burning boundary maps. For permitting details call WA State Department of Natural Resources at (509) 685-6900.

What about recreational/cooking fires?

Recreational fires such as barbecues, chimneas and patio/deck warmers are allowed, if using approved fuels (seasoned wood, charcoal, propane, etc.) unless other rules prohibit them, such as a homeowner's association, rental agreement, etc. Refer to the Recreational Fires fact sheet at SpokaneCleanAir.org.

How can I handle my yard and garden material?

There are many options for handling yard and garden debris.

Grasscycling

Grass clippings are a natural fertilizer. Your lawn retains its health because each time you mow, you return valuable nutrients and moisture to the soil. Any lawn mower can recycle grass clippings. Just remove the grass bag/catcher. Mowers specifically designed for mulching are available and they produce finer clippings for grasscycling.

Chipping & Mulching

Mulch inhibits weeds, retains moisture and releases nutrients as it decomposes. Lay mulch in your yard with natural materials: dried grass, chipped woody material, or pine needles. Spread these materials around trees, shrubs and throughout garden beds.

Composting

Composting takes ordinary yard and kitchen waste and transforms it into a superior soil amendment. Your plants will be healthier and more able to deal with insects and disease. Compost also aids in water absorption and minimizes the need for chemical fertilizers.

LEARN MORE! If you like to learn more about grasscycling, mulching or composting, visit www.spokanecountysolidwaste.org, or call the recycling information line, 509-477-6800.

** If you reside in Fire District # 2, 5, 11 or 12, call your fire district for details on their delegated residential outdoor burning program.*

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Curbside Pick-Up

Garbage haulers may offer an optional curbside subscription service for collecting residential yard or “clean green” debris pick-up. Haulers transport the material to a certified compost facility. Call your garbage hauler for details:

Empire Disposal: (509) 397-3200

Towns of Fairfield, Latah, Rockford, Spangle, Waverly and most of the unincorporated areas southeast Spokane County.

Solid Waste Management: (509) 625-7878

www.spokanecitysolidwaste.com

City of Spokane residents.

Solid Waste Services: (509) 498-9293

www.cityofcheney.org

City of Cheney residents.

Sunshine Disposal & Recycling: (509) 924-5678

www.sunshinedisposal.com

Fairchild Air Force Base, cities of Medical Lake, Ne man Lake and most of the unincorporated areas in west/southwest and north Spokane County.

Waste Management: (509) 924-9400

www.wmnorthwest.com

Cities of Airway Heights, Deer Park, Liberty Lake, Millwood, Spokane Valley and most of the unincorporated areas in eastern Spokane County.

Hauling

Rake up your excess material and haul it to your nearest Transfer Station, see maps to the right. A special “clean green” rate is available.

Some small cities and towns provide a drop box or special area for residents to drop off yard and garden debris. Contact your town/city for more information.

Recycling and Transfer Stations

There are four transfer stations in Spokane County. Most sites are open daily (closed on major holidays). For more information, contact your city or county solid-waste department.

Spokane County - North Facility

22123 Elk-Chattaroy Road

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(509) 477-3604

www.spokanecountysolidwaste.org

Spokane County -Valley Facility

3941 N. Sullivan Road

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

(509) 477-3604

www.spokanecountysolidwaste.org

City of Spokane - Waste to Energy Facility

2900 South Geiger Blvd

7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(509) 625-7878

www.spokanecitysolidwaste.com

Sunshine Disposal Facility

2405 N. University Road

7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

(509) 924-5678

www.sunshinedisposal.com