

The burning of trash is now prohibited statewide.

What **is** permitted?

- ✓ Ceremonial or celebratory bonfires
- ✓ Invasive plants
- ✓ Wood containing invasive insects
- ✓ Charcoal or untreated wood
- ✓ Brush, branches and downed limbs - with attached leaves or needles - less than 6" in diameter or 8" long
- ✓ Agricultural wastes
- ✓ Prescribed burns (check with your regional DEC office)
- ✓ Barbecue grills, maple sugar processing or similar cooking devices
- ✓ Small campfires - less than 3' high and 4' in length, width or diameter

What is **not** permitted?

- ✗ Leaf piles
- ✗ All plastics (including bags)
- ✗ Tires, synthetic materials
- ✗ Chemically - treated wood
- ✗ Wood that has been coated, stained, painted, glued
- ✗ Petroleum based products
- ✗ Plywood, fiberboard, particle board, oriented strand board
- ✗ No outdoor burning of any kind between March 15th and May 15th

You could be charged with a misdemeanor!

Minimum fine: \$375 is possible!

To report violations call 1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7333)

New Rule – prohibits open burning with some exceptions

Brush exception:

- Towns < 20,000 population (All Towns in Oswego <20,000)
- Burning must occur outside any incorporated Village or City
- Brush must be generated on-site
- Individual pieces less than 6" diameter, 8 foot length
- All burning prohibited March 15th – May 15th each year
- Attached leaves/needles ok - but leaf piles **not** allowed to be burned

Agricultural exemption:

- Valid active agricultural operation
- Larger than 5 acres devoted to agricultural or horticultural use
- Agricultural wastes generated on site
- Naturally grown products
- Fully organic waste generated on premise
- Paper feed bags, wood shavings, baling twine other non-plastic or synthetic materials
- Ag waste doesn't include plastic storage bags, tires, plastic feed bags or other plastic or synthetic materials
- Applies year round (takes precedence over the 2 month brush prohibition)
- Material must be fully burned in a 24 hour period
- Liquid petroleum fueled smudge pots for preventing frost damage to crops

Information provided by Oswego County Environmental Management Council with assistance of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County

Bernie the Burn Barrel used with permission from the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District



Backyard burning is preventable pollution!

What can you do?

Don't burn garbage!

Not even at the cabin or in the campfire!

Using recycling facilities and garbage services.

Encourage your neighbors to do the same.



Educate your family and neighbors about the hazards of burning.
Remember Bernie!

Alternatives to Burning:

- Reduce waste
- Compost
- Use garbage services!
- Recycle
- Shred paper

Burning may seem to reduce garbage volume, but it really just moves the toxins from the garbage into your body through the air or in food. Even ashes can be toxic. It's better not to burn!

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Are burn barrels banned under the rule?

A: Technically no, but the burning of most material burned in burn barrels now illegal

Q: Are permits required to burn brush?

A: No, at least not in DEC Region 7. Part 191 still requires permits in Fire Towns

Q: What options are there for disposing of a waste that I used to burn?

A: Contact your County and Town Solid Waste offices to find out what options they have available –

ex. Brush pickup, mulching and/or composting locations
Contact DEC Solid Waste office to find out more information about disposal options

Additional Resources:

Oswego County Environmental Management Council
Oswego County Building
46 Bridge Street
Oswego, NY 13128
Phone: 315-349-8292
e-mail: dwise@oswegocounty.com

Department of Environmental Conservation
Contact Information
NYSDEC Website: www.dec.ny.gov
DEC Region 7 Air Quality Office
315-426-7552
DEC Region 7 Solid Waste Office
315-426-7419

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Oswego County
3268 Main Street
Mexico, NY 13114
Phone: 315-963-7286
e-mail: oswego@cornell.edu
<http://www.thatscooperativeextension.org>

New York State Open Burning Laws

