

# Outdoor Burning

## What you need to know



The Canterbury Air Regional Plan restricts outdoor burning to reduce pollution, manage effects on air quality, and prevent smoke from affecting neighbours. Even if your burning is permitted, we encourage alternatives such as composting, mulching, using kerb-side collection services (e.g. wheelie bins or bags) or using waste transfer stations.

### My property is under 2 hectares – can I burn?

**X No.** Outdoor burning is not allowed unless you are cooking, regardless of whether your property is in a rural or urban area. There are a few special exceptions, such as burning for firefighting training, some NZ Defence Force functions, biosecurity reasons and community events. You'd need a resource consent to burn green waste outdoors.

### My property is over 2 hectares – can I burn?

**✓ Yes,** some outdoor burning of vegetation, paper, cardboard or untreated wood is allowed but only if the following conditions are met. Contact us if you are planning a burn and check with Fire and Emergency NZ if there are any restrictions in place or if you need a permit ([www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz)).

- ✓ Burning is 100+ metres upwind and 50+ metres in any other direction from neighbours
- ✓ The material being burnt is dry
- ✓ Smoke is not blown towards a township
- ✓ The material being burnt is from your property and/or only one of your neighbour's properties
- ✓ Smoke does not cause a nuisance beyond your property boundary
- ✓ A smoke management plan is completed if the burn will last 3+ days or for any crop residue burning (see template at: [ecan.govt.nz/smokeplan](http://ecan.govt.nz/smokeplan))
- ✓ Burning is between 1 September and 30 April (unless you're outside a clean air zone)
- ✓ Liquid fire accelerant used does not exceed 10 litres
- ✓ Burning is not within 100m of a national grid power line or substation (unless you have permission from the owner)

See the full rules at [ecan.govt.nz/air-plan](http://ecan.govt.nz/air-plan). For crop residue burning, see separate section below.

### Banned Materials

Even if outdoor burning is allowed on your property, make sure you aren't planning to burn:

- X Painted or treated wood
- X Rubber
- X Wire coated with any material
- X Material containing asbestos
- X Containers that have stored hazardous materials
- X Paint and other surface coating materials
- X Plastic
- X Used and waste oil
- X Chemicals
- X Tar and bitumen
- X Metals
- X Batteries

### Crop Residue Burning

Anyone inside designated buffer zones near Timaru or Ashburton needs a resource consent for crop residue burning (call 0800 329 276 to check if this applies to you). Elsewhere, crop residue burning is allowed but a smoke management plan needs to be filled out in advance and provided on request (see [ecan.govt.nz/smokeplan](http://ecan.govt.nz/smokeplan) for a template).