

Open Burning Permits

WHO NEEDS A BURNING PERMIT?

Several types of open fires require a permit. Worcester County regulations define an “open fire” as *a fire where any material is burned in the open or in a receptacle other than a furnace, incinerator, or other equipment connected to a stack or chimney.* * While some open fires like leaf burns and campfires do not require official permits, they may not cause a public nuisance and leaf burns must be located at least 200 feet from the nearest inhabited structure. To find Maryland state regulations about what kind of fires require permits, see www.dsd.state.md.us/comar .

HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR A BURNING PERMIT?

Permit applications are available through the County Environmental Programs Department or by visiting the Department of Environmental Programs office. A permit fee is charged. The permit, if granted will be valid for 30 days. The Department of Environmental Programs also asks for a site plan along with the permit application in order to evaluate the conditions of the burn.

AIR QUALITY REGULATIONS FOR OPEN BURNS

BEFORE YOU BURN- IMPORTANT!

Any burn, whether it needs a permit or not, needs to be reported to the Department of Environmental Programs before it is started. Call 410-632-1220 so that 911 operators do not dispatch fire crews.

Additional Information

Please contact Robert Mitchell, Director, at (410) 632-1220 x 1601 if you are considering applying for burn permit.

