

Ohio: Most Burning Banned

Law

Under Ohio law, certain materials are not permitted to be burned. These include food waste (a.k.a. garbage), petroleum products including plastic, asphalt, rubber and grease, and dead animals.

Agricultural waste can be burned if it is more than 1000 feet from the nearest neighboring inhabited building, but within a city or town, the burner must first notify Ohio EPA.

Other plant matter such as yard waste can be burned outside of cities if it is more than 1000 feet from the nearest neighbor, and the same rule applies to paper waste.

Ohio EPA's answers to frequently asked questions on open burning can be found here:

www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/general/openburning.html

For the full text of the relevant law, see

www.epa.state.oh.us/dapc/regs/3745-19/3745_19.html

Enforcement

The open burning law is enforced by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. It relies mainly on citizen reports to district offices and the air pollution control agencies.

On average, two of the state's districts receive more than 100 complaints annually, while the other two districts receive approximately 20 to 60 complaints annually.

General compliance with the statewide rule has been established. However, complaints have gotten more common in recent years due to increased development.

Many newer areas have homes within 1000 feet of each other and are therefore subject to the state rule.

Complaints are usually handled through verbal consultations, and warning letters are distributed if needed. On average, fewer than 20 Findings and Orders related to trash burning are issued annually for the entire state.

Education

Ohio EPA's website summarizes the statewide burning rules and lists open burning contacts for each county.

For Further Information

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