

Burn Bans

What you need to know about
air quality burn bans



PUGET SOUND

Clean Air Agency

AIR QUALITY BURN BANS

When stagnant weather patterns cause air pollution to build up, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency issues bans on indoor and outdoor burning. The Agency typically issues these temporary bans in colder fall and winter months, when smoke from wood stoves and fireplaces is anticipated to build to unhealthy levels.

Agency inspectors enforce burn bans by looking for smoke coming from your chimney or stack. If they see thick smoke, you may get a Notice of Violation.

HEALTH RISKS OF BREATHING SMOKE

- Asthma attacks
- Cancer
- Chronic lung disease
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Headaches
- Irritated eyes, lung, throat, sinuses
- Premature death
- Risk of heart attacks and strokes
- Trouble breathing

Source: US EPA, Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter, 2019

www.epa.gov/isa/integrated-science-assessment-isa-particulate-matter

THERE ARE TWO STAGES OF AIR QUALITY BURN BANS

STAGE 1

NO



Fireplaces



Uncertified wood stoves*



Visible smoke from any device



Outdoor fires

YES



EPA-certified wood stoves



Pellet stoves



Natural gas or propane stoves
or inserts

STAGE 2

NO



Fireplaces



Wood stoves (all)*



Pellet stoves



Visible smoke from any device



Outdoor fires

YES



Natural gas or propane stoves
or inserts

* Unless your household has a pre-approved No Other Adequate Source of Heat exemption, visit pscleanair.gov/NOASH. To learn more about EPA-certified wood stoves or to find out if a wood stove is certified, visit pscleanair.gov/EPACertified.

VIOLATING BURN BANS CAN RESULT IN FINES

Know when burn bans are in effect:

CHECK THE STATUS

pscleanair.gov/burnban

EMAIL

pscleanair.gov/signup

SOCIAL MEDIA

 facebook.com/pscleanair

 x.com/pscleanair

BURN BAN HOTLINE

800-595-4341

Whether during a burn ban or any day, consider switching to a cleaner source of heat:

Visit pscleanair.gov/CleanHeating or scan the QR code:



1. Open your camera app
2. Point the camera at the QR code
3. Tap the notification that appears to open the link
4. Your phone's web browser will automatically launch and go to the webpage.

TO REPORT AN AIR QUALITY PROBLEM

ONLINE

pscleanair.gov/complaints

CALL

800-552-3565

MAIL

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
Attn: Inspection
1904 Third Avenue
Suite 105
Seattle, WA 98101

NOTE

Your complaint will become a public record.

Fire safety burn bans are different than air quality burn bans:

Fire safety bans are issued and enforced by the fire marshal when dry weather conditions heighten the risk of wildfires. Fire safety burn bans are generally called during the summer and can last for several months.

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is NOT responsible for issuing or enforcing fire safety burn bans.

For more on fire safety bans, contact your **county fire marshal**.



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WEBSITE
pscleanair.gov

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