

Wood Smoke

**Your health, your wallet, and
the law.**



**PUGET SOUND
Clean Air Agency**

FINE PARTICLES

Smoke from burning wood contains fine particle pollution, which is one of the most serious air quality problems in the Puget Sound region.

WHAT IS FINE PARTICLE POLLUTION?

Fine particles are tiny, microscopic pieces of pollution that can enter your blood stream and cause breathing and heart problems. The health effects even from short-term exposure are serious, and include:

- Asthma attacks
- Heart attacks
- Strokes
- Premature death

Fine particle pollution is especially dangerous for children, the elderly and people with sensitive immune systems.

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

Fine particle pollution comes from burning fuels, such as gasoline, diesel, or wood. In our region, fine particle pollution levels are typically the worst during colder fall and winter months when many people burn wood for heat. Neighborhood air pollution can build up quickly when stagnant weather conditions trap smoke from these fires. To protect our air quality, this may prompt the Clean Air Agency to issue a temporary burn ban.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT WOOD SMOKE?

BURN CLEAN



Use only dry, seasoned firewood or manufactured logs. Burn small, hot fires; give them plenty of air. Never burn trash - it's illegal.

WATCH YOUR CHIMNEY



Except for the first 20 minutes of startup, your fire should produce little or no smoke. If your chimney is smoking, your fire needs more air or your wood may be too wet or green.

SPLIT, STACK, COVER, AND STORE FIREWOOD



Get the most heat from your firewood by seasoning it for at least a year.

CHANGE IT OUT



Consider removing your old wood stove and replacing it with something cleaner. Natural gas, propane, pellet fuel and electric heat are all efficient and less-polluting options.

OBSERVE BURN BANS



Burning during a ban can result in fines. Check burn ban status before you burn at pscleanair.gov.

KNOW THE LAWS ABOUT OUTDOOR FIRES



Check with your local fire department to find out what rules apply in your area or visit pscleanair.gov/outdoorfires.



If you heat your home with wood or enjoy the occasional outdoor fire, you have legal responsibilities under Washington State law. By being a responsible wood burner, you will help keep our air healthy and avoid the hefty fines that come with illegal burning practices.

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.





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WEBSITE
pscleanair.gov

MAILING
1904 3rd Ave #105
Seattle, WA 98101