

Wood Smoke Ordinance



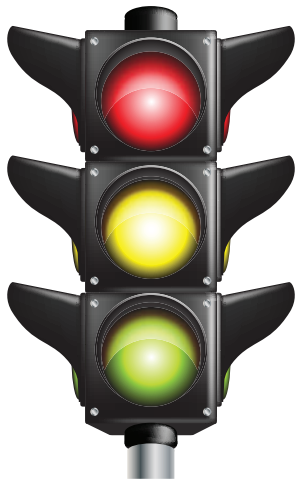
Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Washington County is working to improve the air quality in our community. Of specific concern is an increase in fine particulate matter called PM2.5, which can pose serious health concerns. On October 6, 2015, the Board of Commissioners passed an ordinance that addresses indoor use of fireplaces, wood stoves and wood stove inserts, and outdoor burning of yard debris. The ordinance takes effect on November 6, 2015.

Fireplaces, Wood Stoves and Wood Stove Inserts

The ordinance allows Washington County to issue air quality advisories between November 1 and March 1.

The ordinance applies to anyone who lives in unincorporated Washington County.



RED: Air quality is unhealthy. No fireplace or wood stove use, unless exempted.*

YELLOW: Air quality is unhealthy for sensitive groups. Voluntary limitations on fireplace and wood stove use.

GREEN: Air quality is healthy. No restrictions.

*Exemptions apply:

- ↪ To households that rely on wood burning as their only source of heat.
- ↪ To households that qualify as low-income.
- ↪ When there is an interruption in utility service (electricity or natural gas).
- ↪ When a household's primary heating system is temporarily not working (no more than 120 days).

The ordinance *does not restrict* the use of pellet stoves.

The ordinance *does not restrict* burning between March 2 and October 31.

Outdoor Burning of Yard Debris

The ordinance applies to anyone who lives in unincorporated Washington County *and* receives yard debris pick-up from their hauler. Not sure if this is you? Check out the map on our website at www.co.washington.or.us/air.

The ordinance prohibits the burning of yard debris on these residential properties at all times, year round.

The ordinance creates a "hardship permit" process for circumstances where burning may be the only possible option for disposing of yard debris. There is no fee for this permit.

The ordinance *does not restrict* recreational fires such as backyard fire pits, chimineas or barbecues.

The ordinance *does not restrict* burning associated with agricultural operations.



Sign up at www.publicalerts.org to receive important air quality advisories by text, email or phone call.

For more information, call 503-846-8722 or visit www.co.washington.or.us/air.