

STATE OF COLORADO

Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor
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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

BUILDING RENOVATION AND DEMOLITION WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

Are you Remodeling, Renovating or Demolishing?

You may be subject to State and Federal Regulations requiring inspection for asbestos. Avoid penalties and delays: If you are impacting greater than trigger levels of suspect asbestos-containing materials ("ACM") – you must have your project inspected for ACM by a Colorado-certified asbestos building inspector before commencing work.

It is illegal to improperly disturb asbestos containing materials!

Asbestos can be found in these and other common building materials: Ceiling textures, vinyl floor coverings and mastic, boiler and pipe insulation, heating and cooling duct insulation, ceiling tile, roofing products, clapboard shingles, etc. These materials may be regulated - a certified asbestos building inspector can determine which materials contain asbestos and which are regulated.

For ALL Renovation Projects:

- Buildings of *any* age may contain ACM; even those newly built may have ACM.
- **Inspection:** If the structures/components to be disturbed exceed trigger levels, they **must be inspected for asbestos** by a state-certified asbestos building inspector, unless a building was built after October, 1988, **AND** the architect or engineer who built it signs and submits a statement that no ACM was specified or used in the construction of the building – then no inspection is needed. Contact CDPHE or go to our web site for a current list of Asbestos Inspectors www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/asbestos, or Asbestos Building Inspector Consulting firms can be found in the yellow pages of most telephone books, under the heading "Asbestos Consulting and Testing".
- If the amount of ACM to be disturbed exceeds the following trigger levels, then an abatement contractor must remove the material:
 - **Single-Family Residential Dwellings ("SFRD")-** the trigger levels are: 50 linear feet on pipes; 32 square feet on other surfaces; or the volume equivalent of a 55-gallon drum.
 - **Public and Commercial Buildings** other than SFRD's, the trigger levels are: 260 linear feet on pipes; 160 square feet on other surfaces; or the volume equivalent of a 55-gallon drum.
- Under many circumstances, a certified asbestos removal contractor (General Abatement Contractor) must remove ACM that are regulated or may become regulated before they are disturbed by renovation or demolition activities. Contact CDPHE or go to our web site for a current list of General Abatement Contractors ("GAC's"). GAC's can also be found in the yellow pages of most telephone books, under the heading, "Asbestos Abatement".
- **Notification:** A written application to CDPHE for a notification/permit may be required, along with payment of a fee and a **ten (10) working-day waiting period (emergencies may be excluded)** before the removal (abatement) of regulated asbestos containing materials. **ALL** ACM waste must be disposed of at an approved asbestos waste disposal site – regardless of the quantity or the necessity for a notice/permit.

Demolitions, Destructive Salvage, House Moving

If you demolish, perform destructive salvage, perform de-construction, burn, destroy, dismantle, dynamite, implode, knock down, level, pull down, pulverize, raze, tear down, wreck all of a structure or structural components, or you move a house, you may be subject to State and Federal Regulations **even when there is NO asbestos in the facility**. **Demolition means:** the wrecking or taking out of any load-supporting structural member or a facility together with any related handling operations or the intentional burning of any facility.

For ALL Demolition Projects:

- **Inspection:** the building or area of the building to be demolished ***must be inspected for asbestos*** by a state-certified asbestos inspector. Contact CDPHE or go to our web site for a current list of Asbestos Inspectors or Asbestos Building Inspector Consulting firms can be found in the yellow page of most telephone books, under the heading, "Asbestos Consulting and Testing".
- **Asbestos Removal** (if necessary) may have to be performed by a Colorado-certified GAC. **Any ACM** that is friable or will be made friable during demolition activities must be removed prior to demolition. Removal, in accordance with Regulation No. 8, is required if the amount of asbestos-containing material that is friable or will become friable during demolition exceeds the trigger levels.
- **A Demolition Notification Application Form** must be submitted to the CDPHE, **even if no asbestos was found during the inspection**, along with payment of a notification fee and a **ten (10) working-day waiting period** that is required before the demolition can proceed.

During Demolition:

- Recycling of materials, such as concrete or wood, that are bonded or contaminated with asbestos-containing material (ACM), such as floor tile or mastic, is NOT permitted.
- Demolition of a building that has non-friable asbestos containing VAT or tar-impregnated roofing materials remaining must be completed without causing the asbestos-containing materials to become friable. Concrete floors covered with floor tile shall be removed in large sections if possible. Operations such as crushing, pneumatic jacking, etc. of materials containing asbestos are not permitted.
- When imploding or burning a structure, ALL asbestos-containing material, regardless of type or quantity, **MUST** be removed prior to demolition.

For More Information, please contact:

Asbestos Compliance Assistance Group
Asbestos and Demolition Permit Coordinator
Phone: (303) 692-3100
Fax: (303) 782-0278
Toll Free: (800) 886-7689 X-3100
Web page: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/asbestos>
Email address: asbestos@state.co.us

All asbestos abatement and demolition permit application forms are available from our web site, via an email request or by calling the asbestos program.

**HAVE YOUR PROJECT INSPECTED BY A COLORADO-CERTIFIED ASBESTOS
BUILDING INSPECTOR BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

Violation of asbestos regulations can result in monetary penalties and project delays.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is open burning?

Who regulates open burning?

Why does the State require permits for open burning?

What are the health concerns associated with open burning?

Who needs a State permit to burn?

Who does NOT need a State permit to burn?

What is agricultural open burning?

What types of open burning are permissible with a permit?

What types of open burning are prohibited?

Who issues State open burning permits?

What factors does the State consider when issuing a burn permit?

What are some alternatives to open burning?

What can I do to promote efficient burning and reduce smoke emissions when I must burn?

What happens if I am caught illegally open burning?

How do I apply for a State open burning permit and what does it cost?

Other Questions?

What is open burning?

Open burning is the burning of any material or substance, including rubbish, wastepaper, wood, vegetative material or any other flammable material, in the ambient air on any open premises, or on any public street, alley, or other land adjacent to such premises, or in a receptacle where emissions are released directly into the air without passing through a chimney or stack. Generally, anytime you light a fire outdoors, you are open burning.

Who regulates open burning?

In Colorado, open burning may be regulated at both the State and local levels. The Colorado Air Pollution Prevention and Control Act (C.R.S. 25-7-1) grants the State Air Pollution Control Division (Division) authority to issue open burning permits and enforce State open burning regulations. C.R.S. 25-7-128(5) also states that the application, operation, and enforcement of valid local air pollution laws shall be completely independent of the application, operation, and enforcement of State air quality control regulations.

This website focuses on state regulations, however, it is important to remember that local ordinances may apply. Contact your local health department, fire control office, municipality office, or other appropriate agency to determine what local ordinances apply to you.

Why does the State require permits for open burning?

The State of Colorado regulates open burning to help protect public health and the environment in Colorado. Open burning pollutes the air and poses a fire hazard. The air pollution created can cause serious health problems, obscure visibility, soil nearby surfaces, and create annoying odors.

Burning wood and vegetative products produces an array of harmful chemicals. Carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, formaldehyde, dioxin and hundreds of additional chemicals are released when wood and other products are burned. Burning plastics, tires, chemically treated wood products and other man-made materials also produces this type of air pollution and releases other toxic chemicals into the air. Tiny pieces of material, commonly called particulate matter, are created in the burning process and can be inhaled into our lungs.

What are the health concerns associated with open burning?

The air pollutants produced by burning wood and vegetative material can irritate the eyes, nose and lungs and pose a threat to those who suffer from asthma and other respiratory conditions. These pollutants have been linked to several other health problems including nervous system damage, kidney and liver damage, and reproductive and developmental disorders.

Who needs a State permit to burn?

Colorado Regulation No. 9 (Open Burning, Prescribed Fire, and Permitting) requires that no person shall conduct any open burning activity not exempted from state regulations without first obtaining a permit from the Division, or from a local agency authorized by the Division to issue burning permits.

Any business or resident wishing to conduct an open burn must comply with State open burning regulations, in addition to any local ordinances or regulations.

Who does NOT need a State permit to burn?

Unless you meet one of the following exemptions, you must obtain a burn permit from the Division or authorized local agency:

- Non-commercial burning of private household trash in particulate matter attainment areas (unless local ordinances prohibit such burning).

Currently, all areas of Colorado are particulate matter attainment areas.

Please note that private household trash is paper, cardboard, and untreated wood products. It is NOT food wastes, plastics, coated or treated wood products, rubber, tree limbs, shrub and garden trimmings, or other vegetation.

- Fires used for noncommercial cooking of food.
- Fires used for instructional, training, or recreational purposes.
- Safety flares used to signal danger.
- Agricultural open burning.
- Non-commercial burning of trash in unincorporated areas of counties of less than 25,000 population.

Although exempted burns are not required to obtain a State permit, it is recommended that the appropriate local fire authority and/or health department be notified so that the local agency can be informed of the burn activity and issue a permit if local regulations apply.

What is agricultural open burning?

The burning of cover vegetation for the purpose of preparing the soil for crop production, weed control, maintenance of water conveyance structures related to agricultural operations, and other agricultural cultivation purposes.

Open burning of animal parts or carcasses is NOT agricultural burning (unless the State Agricultural Commission declares a public health emergency that requires the burning of diseased animal carcasses).

Open burning of household trash, wood, and yard debris on agricultural land is NOT agricultural burning and is NOT exempt from State permitting requirements.

What types of open burning are permissible with a permit?

- Burning of yard waste that does NOT include salvageable wood or tree stumps.
- Burning of slash piles.

Permits for other types of open burning are considered on a case-by-case basis.

*Note: Exempted types of open burning are permissible without a permit.

What types of open burning are prohibited?

- Burning of material that contains food wastes, plastic, coated or treated wood products, rubber, insulation, tires, car bodies, insulated wire, motor oil, aerosol cans, hazardous or toxic materials, or other materials that will produce substantial amounts of smoke and particulates.
- Burning of wood residue, which includes bark, sawdust, slabs, chips, shavings, mill trim, and other wood products derived from wood processing.
- Burning of construction debris (includes both clean and treated wood).
- Burning of buildings or structures for demolition purposes.
- Burning of material for which a practical alternative method of disposal exists.

Permits for some of these materials may be issued on a case-by-case basis.

Who issues State open burning permits?

The Division and authorized local agencies issue State open burning permits. The authorized local agencies in Colorado include:

- Boulder County
- Broomfield County
- Eagle County
- El Paso County

- Grand County
- Jefferson County
- Kiowa County
- Lake County
- Larimer County
- Las Animas-Huerfano County
- Mesa County
- Pueblo County
- Routt County
- Summit County
- Weld County

Many cities and counties have adopted local rules and ordinances related to open burning. Any person seeking a State permit for an open burn should also check with any appropriate fire control office, local agency, or other officials regarding specific local requirements for open burns, prior to applying for a State open burning permit.

See [County Contacts](#) for more information about open burning in your county.

What factors does the State consider when issuing a burn permit?

- Whether a practical alternative for the disposal of the material is available.
- The potential contribution of the proposed burn to air pollution.
- The potential impact from the smoke on the health and welfare of the public.
- Location and proximity of the proposed burn to other structures.
- Meteorological conditions on the day of the proposed burn.
- Compliance by the applicant with fire protection and safety requirements.
- Size of the burn. A prescribed fire permit (also issued by the Division) must be obtained for larger open burns. Burns meeting the following size requirements should apply for a State open burning permit; larger burns need a State prescribed fire permit. You can find more information about prescribed fire permits at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/smoke/>.

Broadcast burns: 10 acres or less of grass OR 5 acres or less of other vegetation

Pile Burn: no more than 50 total piles per project (all fires must be out cold prior to sunset).

What are some alternatives to open burning?

In many cases, open burning is not necessary. Please see the list below for some ideas on alternatives to open burning.

- Reduce
 - Look for items with less packaging.
 - Buy items with packaging that can be reused or recycled.
- Reuse

- Donate old clothing, books, appliances, electronics, furniture, toys and other items to charity.
- Use your own coffee mug instead of disposable cups.
- Bring your own reusable bags to the store or reuse plastic bags.
- Reuse old lumber whenever possible.
- Use chipped yard waste as landscaping mulch.
- Recycle
 - Many items, including paper products, many plastics, cardboard, aluminum, steel, glass, and electronics, can be recycled. You can find more information about recycling in Colorado, including a statewide recycling guide, at <http://www.colorado-recycles.org/main.html>.
- Compost
 - Yard debris and kitchen scraps can be composted into a nutrient rich substance that can be used as mulch or fertilizer. The following document is a useful guide on how to compost: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/artemis/ucsu20/UCSU2062272122004INTERNET.pdf>
 - You can find more information on composting at <http://www.epa.gov/compost/>.
- Disposal at a landfill
 - Items that cannot be reused or recycled should be taken to the landfill. For a list of active solid waste facilities in Colorado, see <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/flist.pdf>.
 - You can find information on the disposal of household hazardous waste at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/hhw/index.htm>.

What can I do to promote efficient burning and reduce smoke emissions when I must burn?

- Assure that all material is dried to greatest extent practicable.
- Loosely stack or windrow the material to eliminate dirt from the pile and to promote an adequate air supply to the burning pile.
- Build piles that are at least as tall as they are wide.
- Do not include wood larger than six inches in diameter or stumps in the pile. These materials are likely to smolder and produce large amounts of smoke.
- As a pile burns down, move unburned and smoldering material from the perimeter of the pile into the center of the fire.
- Burn on days with moderate winds or during heavy snowfall as this provides the good smoke dispersal.
- Do not ignite material when a thermal inversion is present. Inversions are unlikely to be present after 10:00 a.m.

What happens if I am caught illegally open burning?

The Division has the authority to enforce the State's open burning regulations. Violations can result in substantial penalties.

How do I apply for a State open burning permit and what does it cost?

Complete a State Open Burning Permit Application and submit it by email, fax, or mail. There is no charge to obtain a State open burning permit. The application can be found online at:

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/downpermitforms/ApplicationOpenBurning.doc>

Or by calling the Division at: **(303) 692-3268**

Completed applications can be emailed to:

cdpheAPOpenburning@cdphe.state.co.us

Other Questions?

Contact **Heather Showers** at the Air Pollution Control Division.

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