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A Summary of Open Burning/Recycling/Landfilling Requirements in Wisconsin

OPEN BURNING IS PROHIBITED unless noted below.¹ Local ordinances may be more restrictive than state laws or regulations; consult your municipality for additional information.

Type of Waste	Requirements For:	
	A Residence	A Business/Industry/ Municipality ²
Containers		
Aluminum, steel or bi-metal (steel & aluminum) containers (such as beverage cans)	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance.	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance.
Glass containers	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance.	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance.
Plastic containers (type #1 or #2 recyclable)	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance.	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance.
Plastic containers (type #3 through #7 recyclable)	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose in landfill.	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose in landfill.
Foam polystyrene packaging	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose in landfill.	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose in landfill.
Paper		
Corrugated cardboard, newspaper/newsprint, magazines/materials printed on similar paper	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance. ³	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance.

Mixed paper (such as envelopes, unwanted mail) or container board (such as cereal boxes, beverage packaging)	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose at landfill. Open burning of SMALL amounts may be allowed. ³	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose at landfill.
Office paper (paper generated by a business/industry/municipality)	NOT APPLICABLE.	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance.
Woody Materials		
Yard waste: dry leaves, brush, grass clippings, and other woody vegetation ³	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Composting is preferred. Open burning of SMALL amounts may be allowed. ³	Open burning and landfill disposal are prohibited. Composting is preferred. Burning may be permitted with energy recovery. ⁴
Non-yard waste brush, stumps, trees, etc. ^{3,5}	Chipping is preferred, or dispose at landfill. Open burning of SMALL amounts may be allowed. ³	Chipping is preferred, or dispose at landfill. Burning may be permitted. ^{3,5}
Dry, unpainted wood (such as pallets) ³	Chipping or recycling preferred, or dispose at landfill. Open burning of SMALL amounts may be allowed. ³	Chipping or recycling preferred, or dispose at landfill. Burning may be permitted. ^{3,5}
Treated wood (such as painted or pressure-treated lumber)	Dispose at landfill.	Dispose at landfill.
Other Recyclables		
Waste tires	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance.	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance. May be burned with energy recovery. ⁴
Waste oil	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance.	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance. May be burned with energy recovery. ⁴
Lead-acid batteries	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance.	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance.
Major appliances	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance. ⁶	Landfill disposal is prohibited. Recycling required by local ordinance. ⁶
Other Wastes		

Oil filters ⁷	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose at landfill after draining.	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose at landfill after draining.
Textiles (clothing, curtains, upholstery, towels, bedding, etc.)	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose at landfill.	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose at landfill.
Wet or contaminated paper	Dispose at landfill.	Dispose at landfill. ⁸
Food wastes	May compost vegetable food wastes, or dispose at landfill. ⁹	May compost vegetable food wastes, or dispose at landfill. ⁹
Disposable diapers	Dispose at landfill.	Dispose at landfill.
Asphalt (shingles/tar paper)	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose at landfill.	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose at landfill.
Oily or greasy rags	Dispose at landfill.	Dispose at landfill. ¹⁰
Other plastics, such as plastic bags Recycle if available in your area, or dispose at landfill.	Recycle if available in your area, or dispose at landfill.	

NOTES

1. Certain "grandfathered" incinerators may continue to burn combustible materials generated within their historic service area.
2. Business, industry and municipalities MUST recycle all materials for which the above chart indicates "Landfill disposal is prohibited."
3. While state law does not prohibit open burning of these particular materials for private residences (see other factsheets for information), the DNR strongly discourages open burning, due to the fire hazards and health risks it poses, and encourages recycling. Many municipalities, especially in southeastern Wisconsin, have ordinances that forbid open burning. Check with your local government before open burning any materials.
4. Burning with energy recovery is permitted only if the facility has received necessary permits from the DNR.
5. This material may be open burned only at a woodburning facility licensed by the DNR Waste Management Program.
6. Microwaves with removed capacitors may be landfilled.
7. Oil filters must be drained (and waste oil recycled) prior to landfilling.
8. Waiver allowing landfill disposal of wet or contaminated recyclables must be obtained from DNR.
9. Local ordinances or DNR rules may apply, including special provisions for composting.
10. DNR hazardous waste rules may apply.

This summary of regulations is designed as a service to our customers, and is not intended to be a complete description of all regulations concerning open burning, recycling, and landfilling solid wastes. For more detailed information, please refer to other DNR fact sheets available from [your local DNR office](#). For complete information, please refer to the applicable statutes, [administrative rules](#) and local ordinances.

If you have questions about open burning, recycling or landfilling, please call the appropriate program in your local DNR office, or call one of these numbers in our Madison office:

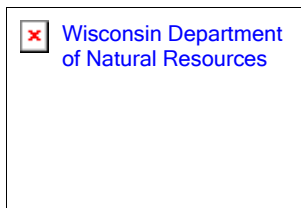
- Air Management -- 608-266-7718
- Forestry -- 608-267-7494
- Recycling -- 608-267-7566
- Waste Management -- 608-266-2111

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For more information, contact the [DNR Open Burning Team](#).

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