



Guidelines for Open Burning Season

Open Burning Season starts January 15 and ends May 1

A Permit is Required from the Nantucket Fire Department

A permit for all open burns must be obtained from the Public Safety Facility at 4 Fairgrounds Rd. Permits cost \$25.00 and are valid for three days from the date of issue. Residents must obtain a permit to burn the day before or the day of the burn. Please do not request a permit too far in advance of the date you want to burn.

- Weather conditions can change rapidly, especially in the spring, and the Fire Department will determine on a daily basis when it is safe to conduct open burning. Open burning may be conducted during periods of good atmospheric ventilation and without causing a nuisance. If winds increase or other atmospheric conditions change making it unsafe to burn, permits can be cancelled.

Guidelines for Open Burning:

- The open burning site must be a minimum of **75 feet** from all structures and utilities. Materials cannot be piled higher than 3', longer than 25', or wider than 10'. Avoid burning close to tree or large shrub lines.
- Burning is allowed between the hours of **10 a.m. and 4 p.m.**, with all fires ignited by 12 p.m. (noon) and extinguished by 4 p.m.
- All fires must be attended to by a person 18 years of age or older, accompanied with a charged garden hose, or other acceptable means of extinguishment.
- **Burning, with a permit for the following materials is allowed:**
 - Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing operations.
 - Brush less than 4" in diameter.
 - Materials normally associated with the pursuit of agriculture such as, fruit tree prunings, dead raspberry stalks, blueberry patches for pruning purposes, and infected beehives for disease control.
 - Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing.
- **Burning, with a permit for the following materials is prohibited:**
 - Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations.
 - Grass, hay, leaves and stumps.
 - Construction material and debris, tires, paper or household trash.

Prior to Starting Your Burn:

- Call the Nantucket Fire Department at 508-228-2323 x 1 in order to activate the permit and ensure that burning is allowed on that particular day.

When Your Burn is Complete:

- Completely extinguish your burn—burn the fire down to the coals, drown them with water, spread them out, then drown them again.
- Call the Nantucket Fire Department at 508-228-2323 x 1 to make notification that your burn is extinguished for the day.

Fires Must be Attended Until Completely Extinguished

Do not leave your fire burning unattended. This is a reason to revoke your burning permit.

Additional Safety Tips and Considerations:

How to Safely Ignite the Fire

- An adult should always be present during open burning and children and pets should be kept at a safe distance away.
- Use paper and kindling to start a fire and add progressively larger pieces of wood. Parts of a leftover Christmas tree may also be used.
- Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid to start a fire! The risk of personal injury in these cases is very high.
- Burn one small pile at a time and slowly add to it. This will help keep the fire from getting out of control.

Fire Control Tools and Water Supply Must Be Present

The water supply can be a pressurized fire extinguisher, a pump can or garden hose, and be sure to test it out before igniting the fire to be sure it works properly. Also, if relying on a garden hose double-check that the water supply is turned on and that there are no cracks in the hose itself. You are required to have a water supply and fire control tools on hand.

Watch the Wind: Be Prepared to Extinguish All Open Burning

It is unsafe to burn during high winds. Use common sense and don't wait for the fire department to contact you that it has become unsafe to burn. Sudden wind change is how most open burning gets out of control.

Don't Delay a Call for Help

If for some reason, the fire should get out of control, call 9-1-1 immediately. Use the utmost caution to prevent injury to yourself or family members or any damage by fire to your home.

April is the Cruellest Month

April is usually the worst month for brush fires. Before new growth emerges, last year's dead grass, leaves and wood are dangerous tinder. Winds also tend to be stronger and more unpredictable during April.

Alternatives to Open Burning

Open burning releases large amounts of carbon dioxide, other gases and solid substances directly into the air which can contribute to respiratory problems. Disposal of natural materials is best for the environment when they are used again in a different form. Check with the Waste Options for disposal options.