



Henrico County Office of the Fire Marshal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BURNING:

Q We have a Chiminea or fire pit on our patio. Do we need a permit to use it?

A No

As with any other type of heat producing device, patio fireplaces should be used with caution, paying close attention to proximity to combustible materials and buildings or structures and constant attendance during times of use. Stoves, incinerators or other controlled burning devices, which would include patio fireplaces, do not fall under the open-burning regulations.

Henrico Fire recommends using these devices in accordance to manufacturer recommendations.

Q My Church or school has an outside ceremonial fire once a year. Do we need a permit?

A If the fire is smaller than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height and the date of the fire does not fall during a period (May 1 – October 15) of impaired air quality as defined by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, no permit is required.

RECREATIONAL FIRES are defined as an outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is **NOT** contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit and are permitted in accordance with the Statewide Fire Prevention Code and rules as developed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. These fires must not be larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height. Recreational fires are not allowed during periods of impaired air quality from May 1 through October 15 as defined by VDEQ. You may contact VDEQ at 1-800-592-5482 or visit their website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Air/AirQualityPlans/OpenBurning.aspx>, for burn ban information. This kind of fire includes ordinary campfires and other small fires used for the activities listed.

Q Where can I have my recreational fire located?

A Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

Q Must I be in attendance at all times with fire extinguishing equipment?

A Yes. Recreational fires shall be constantly attended and supervised by a person knowledgeable in the use of extinguishing tools like shovels, garden hoses, or a fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating on site, and available for immediate use.

Q What about open flame cooking devices or grills?

A OPEN FLAME COOKING DEVICES

Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices, (Gas Grills) shall not be operated on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings.
 2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.
- Henrico Fire recommends using these devices in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.***

Q What type of burning requires a permit?

A OPEN BURNING REQUIRES A PERMIT

OPEN BURNING is the burning of a bonfire, rubbish or other fire in an outdoor location where fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit. Leaf burning is permitted in areas not served by Henrico County Leaf Collection Services. Open burning of anything other than leaves requires a Burn Permit from the Henrico county Fire Marshal's Office. Burn permit applications may be found on our website at www.henricofire.org or by calling 804-501-4900. Open burning is any burning that takes place in an unenclosed space. Examples include burning of leaves or grass clippings, burning construction debris and fires built on the ground for warmth in cold weather.

Q What kind of stuff CANNOT be burned?

A Burning of the following is PROHIBITED:

- a. Toxic or hazardous materials or containers for such materials.
- b. Rubber tires, asphaltic material, crankcase oil, impregnated wood, (salt treated), or similar materials.
- c. Paper, used lumber, or trade waste.
- d. Building and/or demolition material.
- e. Household/commercial trash or refuse.

Q If I can't burn, what can I do with my yard waste?

A It may be taken to county public use areas.

Contact Henrico County Public Utilities at 804-501-4517 or visit their site at <https://henrico.us/utility/solid-waste/> for more information.

If you have any questions or are still unsure of how to have a legal open burn or if you can have a burn in your area, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 501-4900.

Subject reference source is from the Statewide Fire Prevention Code section 307.3.2. For additional clarification or information please contact the Fire Marshal's Office of the Henrico County Division of Fire at 804-501-4900. The Statewide Fire Prevention Code may be referenced online at

https://www2.iccsafe.org/states/Virginia/Fire_Prevention/fire_Frameset.html

Q Can I burn my leaves this fall?

A In accordance with Henrico County Code 11-17, leaf burning is prohibited in areas serviced by county leaf collection. Please check the link below for leaf collection in your area. You can also call (804) 727-8770 with any questions regarding leaf pickup.
<https://henrico.us/services/bagged-leaf-collection>

Leaf Burning

In areas not covered by leaf collection services, burning is allowed with the following requirements:

- No burning allowed on hard surface roadways
- Burning is permitted from October 15 until February 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Burning is permitted from February 15 to April 30 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

There is no burning allowed without a permit between October 1 and April 30. All open burning within Henrico County during this time will require a permit issued by the Fire Marshal. There will be no burning permits approved for June, July, and August. Cooking fires could be the exception to the rule.

Henrico Fire recommends recycling of leaves in lieu of burning them. We strongly encourage residents burning leaves to be mindful of environmental and weather conditions. It is requested that you notify Henrico Communications of your burn prior to lighting the fire by calling 804-501-5000.