

Alternatives to burning waste

- **Reuse:** Unwanted clothing, furniture, and toys can be donated to a local charity and given to friends. Lumber and other construction supplies can be saved for future projects or dropped off at our local habitat reuse center.
- **Recycle** newspaper, office paper, cardboard, corrugated cardboard, magazines, aluminum, metal and acceptable plastics.
- **Compost** leaves and plant clippings.
- **Chip brush** and clean wood to make mulch or decorative chips, or use it as heating fuel in wood stove or boilers. The Township has an annual brush drop off where we chip your brush.
- **Dispose** of allowable waste materials at our licensed landfill. Please contact the Township about the landfill specifications.
- **Take** hazardous materials, including oil-based paints, solvents, garden chemicals and car fluids to a hazardous waste collection site. Burning these materials is dangerous.

Situations Where Open Burning is Allowed

- Recreational fires and ceremonial fires where a fire is appropriate and is not used for disposal purposes.
- The operation of barbecue equipment.
- Fires set or permitted by a public agency for official duties associated with weed abatement, prevention or elimination of a fire hazard, a hazard to public health or safety or the instruction of employees in the methods of fire fighting.



Questions or Assistance

For more information regarding the regulations of open burning in Chocolay Township, please contact us at 906-249-1448 or planner@chocolay.org.

For information regarding the regulation of open burning in Michigan, please contact the DEQ Environmental Assistance Center (EAC) at 1-800-662-9278.

In the event of a Pollution Emergency call:

1-800-292-4706



Chocolay Township Open Burning Regulations

What is Open Burning?

Open burning is the burning of unwanted materials such as paper, trees, brush, leaves, grass, and other debris where smoke and other emissions are released. During this process, the smoke does not pass through a chimney or stack and the waste is not controlled.



Chocolay Township's Regulations (Summarized)



Burning of Grass Clippings and Leaves

Open burning of leaves, weeds, brush, stumps, clean wood and other vegetative debris is permitted, but the burn shall comply with the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Burning of Building Material

Air quality and solid waste regulations prohibit open burning of construction and demolition waste. Chemically treated lumber as well as synthetic and painted building materials contain high concentrations of hazardous compounds that produce toxic emissions when burned.



Burning household waste causes odor problems

Smoke released from burning waste in a burn barrel is released close to the ground and may drift onto a neighbor's property. Smoke from burning household waste is unhealthy to breathe.*



Household burn barrels or similar homemade devices produce low temperature fires. They receive little oxygen and produce a lot of smoke. Under these conditions a great many toxic substances are produced. Virtually all of the pollutants are released into the air close to ground level where they are easily inhaled.*

1. Open burning of refuse (means any waste material except trees, logs, brush, stumps, leaves, grass clippings and other vegetative matter) from single or multiple family dwellings **is allowed if all of the following conditions are met:**

- A. The burning does not create a nuisance.
- B. The burning is conducted in a container constructed of metal or masonry that has a metal covering device that does not have an opening larger than 3/4 inch.
- C. Burn barrel shall be at least 150 feet from a neighbor's building.
- D. Open burning shall be constantly attended
- E. The material being burned is not prohibited under Subsection #2.

2. **Open burning of the following materials is prohibited.**

- A. Non-wood construction waste
- B. Hazardous substances
- C. Tires
- D. Any plastic materials
- E. Treated or painted wood



* 12-2006 [DNR burning information revised 5-2009]