

TOXIC SMOKE

ODORS

**Top Five Reasons to Not Burn
Trash in Burn Barrels**

5. They produce smoke and emissions that CAUSE ODORS and RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS.
4. They produce smoke and emissions that can IMPACT YOUR FOOD QUALITY.
3. They produce smoke and emissions that can DISTURB YOUR NEIGHBORS.
2. They produce smoke and emissions that can HARM YOUR CHILDREN.
1. They Produce Smoke And Toxic Emissions That Are Dangerous To Your Health.

BREATHING PROBLEMS

Let's Stop Burning Trash...

Burn barrels are often used by people to burn unwanted household wastes.

Family members, neighbors, and animals may be exposed to the pollutants emitted from the burn barrels by breathing toxic vapors and particles.

Although the waste may not contain hazardous material, burning the waste can produce hazardous air pollutants such as dioxins, benzene, formaldehyde, chromium, cadmium, mercury, arsenic and hydrogen cyanide.

Children are at greater risk than adults because they eat, drink, breathe and absorb more toxins in proportion to their weight.

The general public may be exposed by eating foods from vegetable gardens and milk from dairy farms where these emissions have settled, often far from the burn barrels.

Children and adults who breathe air with burn barrel pollution may experience adverse health effects as well as increasing the risk of cancer.



ADDITIONAL READING MATERIAL

United States Environmental Protection Agency and New York State Department of Health, "Evaluation of Emissions from the Open Burning of Household Waste in Barrels." November 1997.

USEPA, "Exposure and Health Assessment for 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) and Related Compounds." Draft, July 1, 2000.

USEPA, "PCDD (Dioxins) and PCDF (Furans): Reduction Options." Prepared by Batelle for the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Draft, September 27, 2000.

Lemieux, Paul et al., "Emissions of Polychlorinated Dibenzo-p-dioxins and Polychlorinated Dibenzofurans from the Open Burning of Household Waste in Barrels." Environmental Science and Technology. January 2000.

Lester, Stephen, "Dioxin Update: Children are the Most Vulnerable." Everyone's Backyard. Volume 17, Number 4, Winter 1999-2000.

State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air Quality, "Backyard Trash Burning Study." 1997.

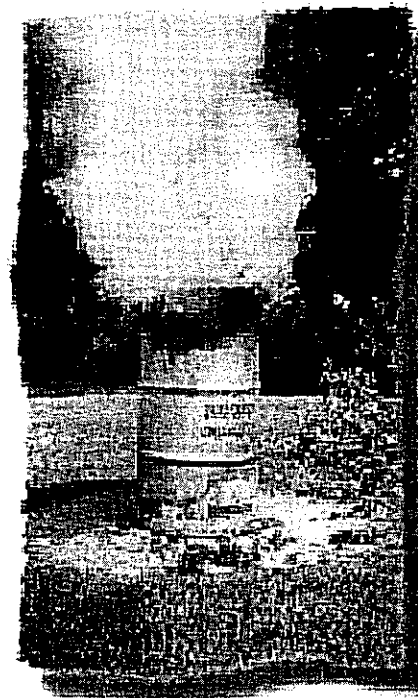
Websites on Dioxins and Burn Barrels:
<http://www.epa.gov/ncea/dioxin.htm>
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/catc/dir1/barlbrn1.pdf>

Relevant New York State Regulations:
6 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations § 215.2
6 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations § 211.2

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STOP



**BACKYARD
BURNING**



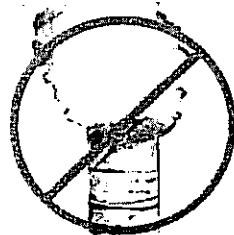
AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION.

STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Backyard Burning is Much More Hazardous Than You May Think

- A generation ago, trash consisted largely of paper, wood, natural fiber cloth, and food or yard waste. Today, trash often contains plastics, synthetic cloth, and chemicals. Trash burned today creates harmful pollution unheard of years ago.
- One of the toxic compounds produced during backyard barrel burning is called dioxin.
- Studies have linked dioxin to developmental delays in children, harm to the immune system, and increased risks of cancer.
- Backyard burning is a major uncontrolled source of dioxin in the United States: per pound of household trash burned, barrels emit hundreds of times more dioxin than a garbage incinerator.

- In a burn barrel, household waste is burned without air pollution controls at relatively low combustion temperatures, producing harmful smoke and particulates, which can cause breathing difficulties when inhaled, and trigger asthma attacks.
- Daily dioxin emissions from household burn barrels used by 2 to 40 families equal the air pollution from a garbage incinerator that serves thousands of families.
- Dairy cows that graze on pastures where burn barrel pollution has fallen may produce milk with higher concentrations of these contaminants.



Did you know that State regulations prohibit open trash burning in some areas of New York State?

Household rubbish may not be burned in any city or village, or in any town with a population of greater than 20,000 people. And state regulations also prohibit emissions of air contaminants that are injurious to people, property, plants and animal life.

Did you know that smoke from burn barrels contains many chemicals that are harmful when inhaled?

Smoke inhalation can cause immediate health effects such as nose and throat irritation, respiratory distress and breathing difficulties.

Smoke inhalation can also increase risk of long-term health problems such as asthma, immune system changes, and cancer.

Did you know that the chemicals in the smoke could travel far from the source and settle on pasture grass and vegetable gardens?

Not only can the smoke disturb nearby residents, but the particles and chemicals in the smoke can travel hundreds of miles and affect remote farms and gardens.

Did you know that children might be at higher risk than adults?

Children are not just "little adults." Children may be at higher risk because they are exposed to more chemicals via breathing and eating than adults. They are also at higher risk because their susceptibility to the effects of toxic exposure is greater due to their stage of development.

REDUCE your household's waste. In particular, throw out less, and avoid purchasing groceries and other products packaged in plastic. Plastic contains both carbon and chlorine, which form more dioxin when burned.

REUSE as much material as possible, such as food containers. Compost organic kitchen waste and yard waste.

RECYCLE newsprint, plastic, and glass and metal containers. Many localities also recycle mixed paper, cardboard, paperboard, and other materials.

AVOID burning plastic items, such as most packaging, carpet, toys and polystyrene. Dispose of plastic by recycling, whenever possible.

EDUCATE your neighbors to let them know when the smoke from their burn barrels is affecting you or your family.

LEGISLATION is pending in the New York State Legislature that would prohibit open burning in all communities, including those with less than 20,000 people.



You Can Help By Educating Yourself and Your Neighbors