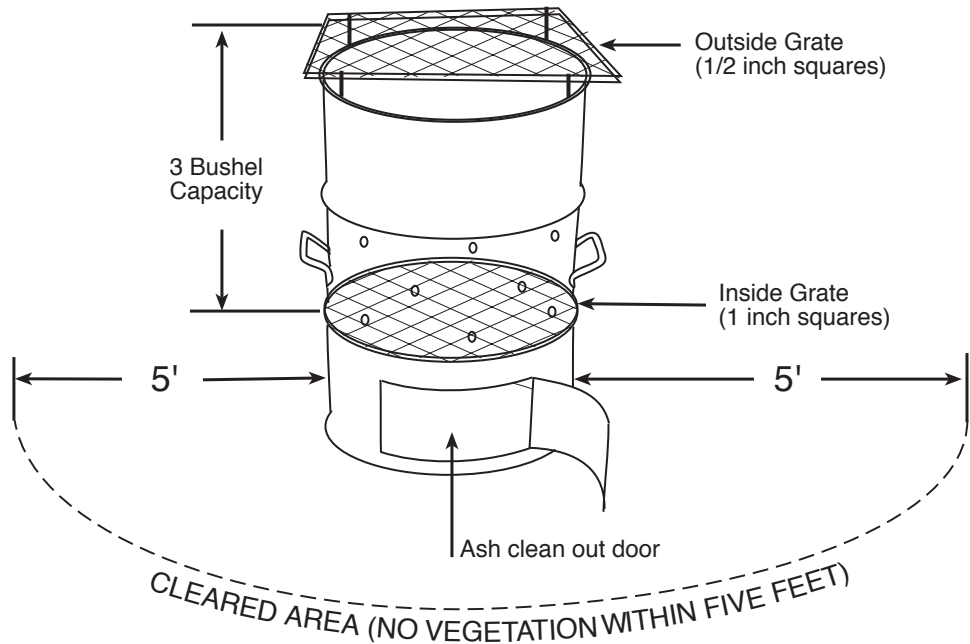


# Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Approved Burner Plan



Example: 55 Gallon Barrel

## An Approved Burner:

- Shall be used to burn dried vegetative materials or other materials allowed under MN Statutes.
- Shall be constructed of a non-combustible material.
- Shall have no combustible material within five feet of the base of the burner.
- Shall have a capacity of at least three bushels and be maintained with a minimum burning capacity of at least two bushels.
- Shall have a cover which is closed when in use.
- Shall have no openings in the sides or cover of burner larger than one inch.
- Shall only be used where open burning is allowed.\*

**NOTE:** A burner may be used between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. without a burning permit.

A permit is required for:

- Burner use between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Burning at any hour in an unapproved burner.
- Burning at any hour outside of a burner.

Obtain permits from Fire Wardens or DNR Forestry offices.

Burn only when it is safe. During evening hours, winds are usually low and the humidity is high, which reduces the possibility of a fire escaping. Watch your fire at all times.

**BE ADVISED** that there are alternatives to burning that are environmentally safe and free of health risk. Please see other side.

\*To identify where open burning is allowed, check with your local DNR Forestry Officer or Fire Warden.

## Fact:

Every year, Department of Natural Resources Forest Officers and local fire departments respond to some 7,500 wildfires. About 40 percent of these are caused by careless debris burning. Burning of household waste has been illegal in Minnesota since 1969. Only farm households that have **NO** garbage pickup service available to them, as determined by their county board, are permitted to bury or burn some household waste items and only if specific environmental guidelines are followed.

## What Can Be Burned?

Under certain circumstances, the burning of vegetative materials may be allowed. These situations include the burning of diseased shade trees or brush, elimination of a fire hazard, managing forest or wildlife habitat, or disposal of burnable building debris. Materials that can be burned are leaves, dry grass clippings, untreated/unpainted wood that contains no glues or resins, and other vegetative materials. A burning permit is required, unless the ground is snow covered, from the Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Division, or a designated fire warden.

## What Materials Cannot Be Burned?

State law does not permit the open burning of oils, rubber, plastics, chemically treated materials or other materials that produce excessive or noxious smoke. This includes, but is not limited to, items such as tires, railroad ties, treated lumber, shingles, tar paper, insulation, composition or particle board, sheet rock, wiring, paint or paint filters.

## Why is Home Burning of Waste Illegal?

Home burning of household waste can cause severe health problems and pollute air, soils and water. Studies have shown that due to low burn temperatures and lack of pollution control equipment, the smoke from burning household garbage in the backyard burners produces levels of dangerous toxins many times higher than a municipal

incinerator. Smoke created from burning household waste releases many toxic materials such as acidic gases, heavy metals, and dioxins. Inhalation of, and contact with, these materials may cause severe health problems including eye and throat irritations, respiratory problems, and an increased risk of cancer.

## Are Approved Burners Intended for the Burning of Waste?

No. Certain burners are approved by the Department of Natural Resources for the safe burning of brush and other vegetative material to help prevent uncontrolled fires. These burners are not intended for burning household waste. Regardless of the design, burners, fireplaces, or outdoor furnaces are not an approved disposal method for any type of household waste. In addition, burners can only be used for vegetative materials during the legal burning hours from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. without a permit except as provided under M.S. 17.135 and 88.17.

## Tips for Waste Reduction

### Reduce: Be a careful shopper

- Avoid excessive packaging.
- Buy fresh fruits and vegetables, without packaging.
- Avoid one-time-use items.
- Limit magazine and newspaper subscriptions; share with others.
- Compost yard waste.

## Reuse: Reuse saves money as well as waste

- Shop at garage sales and secondhand shops.
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- Use both sides of paper.
- Take along your own cup.
- Reuse paper grocery bags when you shop or use as trash can liners.
- Use washable cloth towels instead of paper towels.

## Recycle:

Recycling is available through curbside redemption recycle centers. While items that are accepted may vary slightly depending on the recycler, the items most commonly recycled are clean glass, food containers, tin food cans, aluminum cans, newspapers, corrugated cardboard, and some plastics. Contact the Solid Waste Commission in your county for information about recycling, household hazardous waste, waste reduction, waste facilities, and garbage pickup services.

**For more information, contact your local DNR Forestry office.**

**To report a wildfire, call 911 or your local DNR Forestry Office**