

Plumstead Township Open Burn Policy

Pennsylvania law requires the recycling of all yard waste in Plumstead Township. Yard waste is defined as leaves, garden residues, shrubbery and tree trimmings and similar materials, but not grass clippings. Therefore, Open burning is not permitted, except in special circumstances and with the issuance of a burn permit by the Township.

Agriculture burning, campfires and ceremonial fires that are approved by the Township require a permit, and they are exempt from the permit fee.

The following is a list of exceptions to the no-burn policy. All of the following conditions must be met to secure a burning permit from the Township:

1. The applicant's property must be three acres or larger.
2. The applicant must have made, to the satisfaction of the Township, every reasonable effort to recycle (through composting, small-limb curb pickup, and on-site chipping) his or her yard waste, and burning of the remaining yard waste is determined by the Township to be the only reasonable option for removal. Factors supporting such a determination are A) the presence of extensive invasive species deemed unsuitable for composting and chipping, and B) the inaccessibility of the waste pile to chipping equipment.
3. No more than 2 burns per calendar year, per property will be permitted.
4. The Township Fire Marshal will inspect the site before burning starts.
5. \$50.00 permit fee per burn.

Once a burn permit has been issued; the following regulations must be followed:

1. No trash, lumber, leaves, plastic or other materials may be burned.
2. Open burning is only permitted for the burning of trees/ tree limbs and agriculture items that, if taken to the curbside, could create a hazard or is physically impossible.
3. The location for burning shall be at least 50 feet from any building on the applicant's property, at least 100 feet from the applicant's property line, and at least 200 feet from any neighboring habitable building.
4. Weather conditions must be acceptable for burning, according to the Township's Fire Marshal.
5. All burning must be extinguished at least one hour before dusk.
6. Applicant must call fire dispatch at 215-345-1411 at least one hour before the burn begins, and immediately after the burn is extinguished.
7. The fire may not be left unattended.
8. The applicant or his or her agent must be able to control/ extinguish the fire at all times.
9. The Fire Marshal shall order the extinguishment of any open burning that creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

Open burning is dangerous. While the Fire Marshal will be conducting an inspection, you are burning at your own risk and it is your responsibility to make sure you open burn safely.

Plumstead Township
5186 Stump Road ~ P.O. Box 387
Plumsteadville, PA 18947
(215) 766-8914 ~ (215) 766-9831 fax

BURN PERMIT

APPLICANTS NAME:	PHONE:
ADDRESS:	
ADDRESS & LOCATION OF FIRE:	INTENDED DATE OF FIRE:
METHOD OF EXTINGUISHING FIRE MUST BE READILY AVAILABLE ON SITE. PLEASE SPECIFY METHOD:	
<p style="text-align: center;">FIRE EXTINGUISHER GARDEN HOSE BUCKET SHOVEL OTHER – specify:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Do not use flammable liquids to start fire. ❖ Burning must NOT be offensive or objectionable to nearby residents. ❖ Fire must be attended at all times. ❖ All fires must be extinguished by dusk. ❖ If, in the opinion of the fire department, the fire is a hazard, it must be extinguished. ❖ Should the weather conditions change and burning becomes a hazard, this permit shall become invalid and the fire must be extinguished. ❖ Applicant MUST notify the fire dispatcher center at 215-345-1411 prior to starting the fire and again when the fire is extinguished. 	
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE:	DATE:
FIRE MARSHAL'S APPROVAL:	DATE:
PERMIT NUMBER:	FEE:

PERMIT EXPIRES 14 DAYS AFTER APPROVAL

*****FIRE DISPATCH CENTER MUST BE NOTIFIED AT
215-345-1411
PRIOR TO STARTING THE FIRE AND AGAIN WHEN THE FIRE IS EXTINGUISHED*****