

## **INSTEAD OF BURNING...**

- **Reduce.** Buy only what you need and products that do not have excessive packaging. You can also reduce your waste by buying products that are durable and long lasting instead of single-use items.
- **Reuse.** Instead of throwing out your used or unwanted items donate, repair, or sell them. Also consider buying used items instead of new ones. Find your local thrift shops by checking the phone book. You can also swap goods with others by going on-line and using sites such as [freecycle.org](http://freecycle.org).
- **Recycle.** Take materials such as glass, paper, plastic, cardboard, steel, and newspaper to a recycling center. To find a list of recycling centers in Benton County go to <http://www.bcswd.com> and click on Recycling.
- **Compost.** Composting is a great way to eliminate yard waste and food scraps from your garbage, while creating a free natural fertilizer for your garden and plants. For information on disposing of limbs and brush, contact Bentonville's compost facility at 479-271-5954 or visit their website at [www.bentonvillear.com/wastewater\\_compost.html](http://www.bentonvillear.com/wastewater_compost.html)
- **Properly Dispose of Waste.** Dispose of your waste without littering or dumping illegally. You can schedule a trash hauler for pick ups or take your trash to a transfer station or local landfill. Contact Benton County Solid Waste District to find a trash hauler in your area at 479-795-0751 or visit their website: [http://www.bcswd.com/waste\\_haulers.htm](http://www.bcswd.com/waste_haulers.htm).

## **MORE INFORMATION FOR SILOAM SPRINGS:**

- For your recycling needs, come visit us at the Siloam Springs Transfer Station/ Recycling Drop-Off Center at 1108 E. Ashley Street.
- For a free recycle bin or any questions about recycling call us at 479-524-8512.
- For a list of trash hauler near you, visit [www.bcswd.com/disposal\\_options.htm](http://www.bcswd.com/disposal_options.htm) or call 524-8512.
- Don't dump it, donate it. Call the Manna Center at 524-9825.
- To schedule a pick-up or to drop off donations at a local Salvation Army store, call 524-6091.
- Remember to place your bagged yard waste at the curb every Wednesday and your limbs out monthly for pickup.
- To learn more about disposal alternatives and the hazards of burning, contact the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [www.epa.gov/msw/backyard](http://www.epa.gov/msw/backyard).
- For teaching resources and more information about burning, go to [www.burnbarrel.org](http://www.burnbarrel.org).

### **BENTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT AND RECYCLING**

5702 Brookside Rd.  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
479-795-0751  
[www.bcswd.com](http://www.bcswd.com)

# **Don't Burn Your Trash!**



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1108 East Ashley  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761  
(479)524-8512  
[www.siloamsprings.com](http://www.siloamsprings.com)

## WHY IS BURNING AN ISSUE?

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For years people have been burning their trash in steel drums or on the ground without knowing the harmful effects it has on public health and the environment.

When people burn household trash the materials mix together creating chemicals that not only pollute the air, but also cause serious health problems. With flying sparks, burning can also cause grass and house fires.

## PEOPLE HAVE BEEN BURNING FOR YEARS. WHY IS IT A PROBLEM NOW?

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The content of household trash has changed a lot over the last 20 years. Today we live in a world of convenience where many products are packaged in single-use containers, most of which are plastic.

Years ago most consumer products were made from glass, wood, and steel and could be repaired and reused.

Today when plastic items are broken or no longer needed, they are discarded in the trash instead of being repaired. Plastic products contain toxic chemicals that are released in the air when burned.

## HEALTH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH BURNING

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There are many different chemicals released during burning such as carbon monoxide, dioxin, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Below are just some of the long-term health problems these chemicals can cause:

- Asthma, emphysema, and other respiratory illnesses
- Nervous system, kidney, and liver damage
- Reproductive and developmental disorders

The United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that even though everyone is at risk, when it comes to absorbing chemicals from burning, children have the highest risk.

With bodies that are growing and developing, children absorb six times more burn debris than adults. Children are the perfect target for these dangerous chemicals.



## HOW DOES BURNING AFFECT THE FOOD CHAIN?

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Dioxin is a group of highly toxic chlorinated organic compounds. It is one of many toxic chemicals released into the air when trash is burned. Airborne dioxin settles on crops which are later eaten by dairy and meat livestock. Dioxin particles also settle on water and are eaten by fish.

The dioxin then accumulates in the fat of fish and livestock. When we consume dairy, meat, and fish products, we are also consuming the dioxin residue.

**Burning trash is the number one producer of dioxin in the United States.**



## BURNING IS ILLEGAL IN ARKANSAS

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Due to the serious threat to public health and the environment burning has been banned by many states, including Arkansas. Even though burning of household trash is illegal it still remains a problem in rural areas.

*A.C.A § 8-4-310 Burning of household and other solid waste, including asphalt shingles, insulation on wire, and abandoned, dilapidated or partially burned structures is prohibited.*