



Fact Sheet

Debris Burn Permits

Disposing of yard debris, slash waste and demolition waste by burning in Oregon may require an open burn letter permit from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Rules and regulations change depending on the type of materials being burned. All open burning must be conducted consistent with the requirements and prohibitions of local jurisdictions and the State Fire Marshal. Always check with your local fire department before burning.

Yard debris

Yard debris includes wood, needle or leaf materials from trees, shrubs or plants from private residences with four or fewer family living units. Yard debris is included in the definition of domestic waste. It is important to note that yard debris must be burned on the property of origin to be considered domestic waste. Burning yard debris is allowed in most areas in the State of Oregon, although some limitations do apply. Burning yard debris does require a DEQ letter permit in the Tri-County area of Washington County, Multnomah County, and a portion of Clackamas County. Moreover, there are seasonal prohibitions in some areas of the state. It is important to note that counties and cities may have additional regulations limiting the burning of yard debris. It's always a good idea to check with your local authorities before burning

Slash waste

“Slash” refers to forest debris or woody vegetation, to be burned for the management of forest land used for growing and harvesting timber. Slash burning is limited to burning for forest management, it does not include the clearing of forestland for any other purpose. Slash waste is regulated by DEQ's open burning regulations. However, the Oregon Department of Forestry also regulates prescribed burning of slash materials. Types of burning include pile burns, underburning, and broadcast burning. Before burning slash, you will need to determine if a permit from ODF or DEQ is required. The type of permit will depend on the location of the material to be burned.

Demolition waste

Demolition waste is defined by DEQ as any material from the complete or partial destruction or tearing down of any man-made structure, or the clearing of any site for land improvement or cleanup, excluding yard debris and agricultural waste. Land clearing and cleanup includes the removal of trees, brush, logs, stumps, or debris for the purpose of site clean-up or site preparation. Unlike slash waste, demolition waste can apply to any land type. Most Open Burn Control Areas have regulations against the burning of demolition wastes and will require a DEQ letter permit. Check DEQ's [interactive map tool](#), available on DEQ's Burning 101 page, to see if your property is in one of these areas.

Translation or other formats

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Please be advised that the open burning of any prohibited material is not allowed in the state of Oregon. Prohibited materials include garbage, plastic, tires, rubber products, petroleum products, asphaltic materials, painted or treated wood, wire insulation, automobile parts, animal remains, and food waste, or any material which emits dense smoke or noxious odors. Demolition waste often contains prohibited materials, such as treated wood. "Treated wood" includes pressure treated lumber, plywood, particleboard, oriented strand board (OSB) and wood that has been painted, laminated, coated or stained.

Alternatives to burning

When possible, it is preferred to use an alternative to burning. Alternatives could include transporting material to a biomass facility for processing, or on-site processing including chipping, crushing, piling or spreading the debris to make room for new trees to be planted. Most woody debris can be chipped to create mulch or compost. Air curtain incinerators can be used to both dispose of the materials and to create biochar which can be used as a soil amendment.

Do I need a permit on my property?

Check DEQ's [interactive map tool](#), available on DEQ's Burning 101 page, to see the regulations for your area.

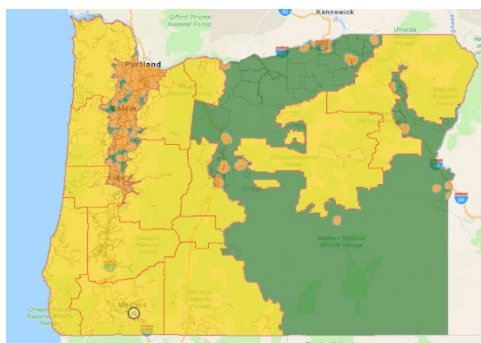


Figure 1: Slash Waste

The areas marked in yellow require a ODF burn permit. The areas marked in orange require a DEQ letter permit. And the areas marked in green require no permit to burn slash waste.

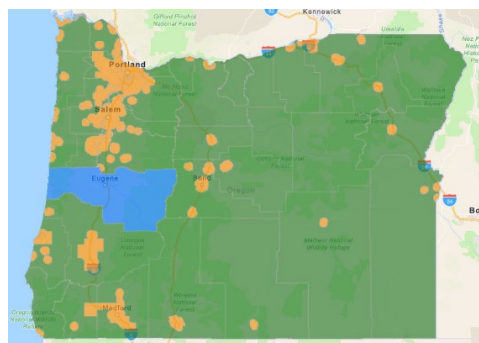


Figure 2: Demolition Waste

The areas marked in orange require a DEQ letter permit. Lane County, marked in blue, falls under LRAPA's discretionary authority. And the areas marked in green require no permit to burn demolition waste.

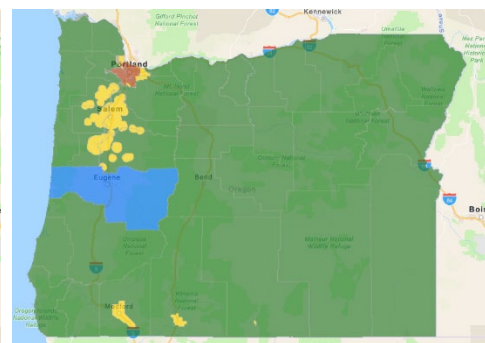


Figure 3: Yard Debris

The areas marked in red always require a DEQ letter permit. The areas marked in yellow have seasonal prohibitions. Lane County, marked in blue, falls under LRAPA's discretionary authority. And the areas marked in green require no permit to burn yard debris.

DEQ letter permits

A DEQ letter permit provides the restrictions, prohibitions, expiration, type and amount of burning allowed, and specific language approved in each burn request. A letter permit may be required for the open burning of slash, demolition waste, or yard debris depending on your area. In situations where a letter permit is required from DEQ, check out [DEQ's Burning 101 page](#) for more information on how to apply.

ODF burn permits

ODF has created Forest Protection Districts, in which a permit from ODF is required for all slash and prescribed burns on all forestlands. Burn permits are required on all ODF-protected lands during fire season. Many areas prohibit all burning when fire danger increases. Check with your [local ODF district](#), [forest protective associations](#), or [local fire department](#) before burning. Check out [ODF's Burning and Smoke Management website](#) for more information.

Contact us

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