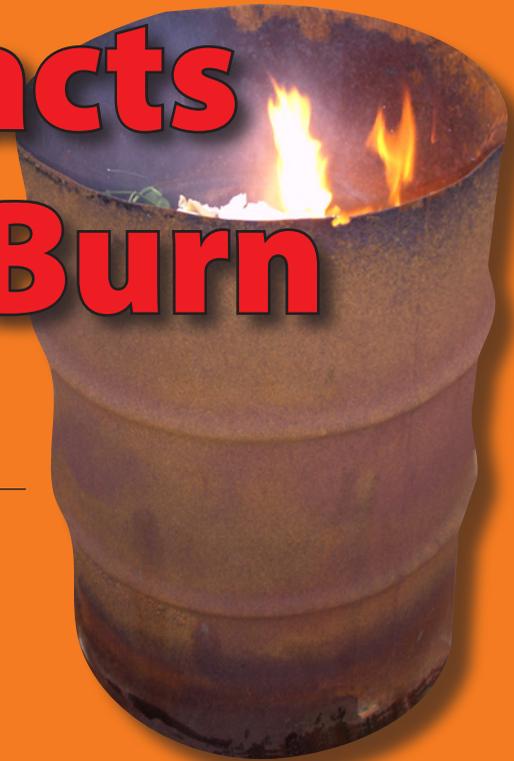


Know the Facts Before You Burn



*Amanda Abnee Gumbert, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service,
and Elizabeth Robb, Kentucky Division for Air Quality*

Many people burn their trash, but it can be bad for our health and the environment.

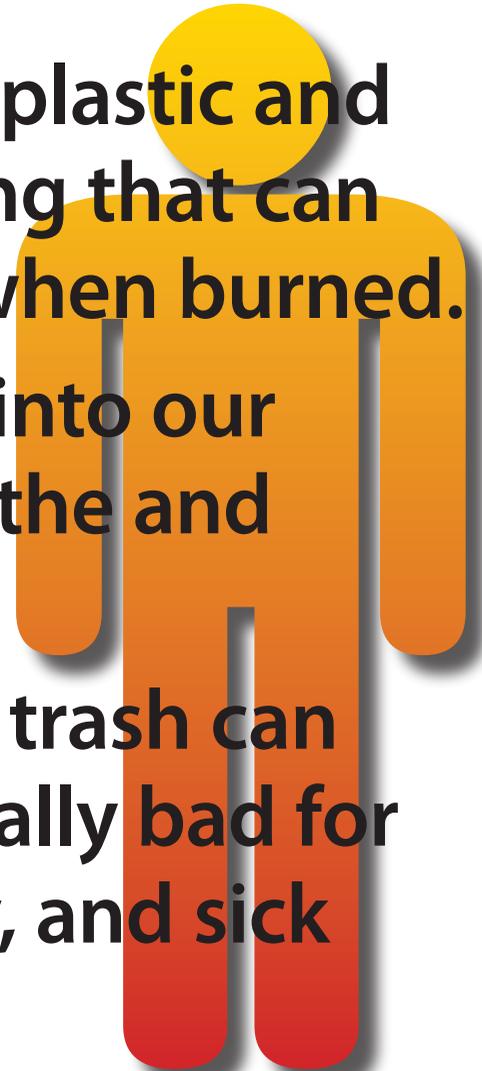


There are laws against burning piles of junk. If you break these laws, you can be fined up to \$25,000.

Our trash often contains plastic and colored paper packaging that can release harmful chemicals when burned.

These chemicals can get into our bodies from the air we breathe and the food we eat.

The smoke from burning trash can hurt everyone and is especially bad for babies, children, the elderly, and sick people.



Burning Don'ts

- Tires • Furniture • Gasoline • Styrofoam • Glass
- Plastics



Burning Do's

- Household paper products
- Small campfires*



*Burn only untreated wood.

Some counties and towns have additional burning restrictions.

Reduce the Need to Burn



- **Compost yard waste and fruit and vegetable scraps in a compost pile.**
- **Reuse as much as you can or give away usable items.**
- **Take leftover waste to an approved landfill.**
- **When you can, recycle trash items such as plastic bottles, newspapers, glass, and soda cans.**



If you have something you would like to burn, check with local and state officials about burning laws. The fire department cannot give you permission to burn illegal items.





Although this product was funded wholly or in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the National Environmental Education Act grants program, it may not necessarily reflect the views of the Agency and no official endorsement should be inferred.

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, M. Scott Smith, Director of Cooperative Extension Service, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Lexington, and Kentucky State University, Frankfort. Copyright © 2006 for materials developed by University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension. This publication may be reproduced in portions or its entirety for educational or nonprofit purposes only. Permitted users shall give credit to the author(s) and include this copyright notice. Publications are also available on the World Wide Web at www.ca.uky.edu.