



District of Metchosin

Smoke Control & Burning Guidelines

Please follow these guidelines to help reduce the danger of fire and the discomfort from smoke in the community

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Backyard Open Burning is permitted from **October 1st to May 31st only** (unless otherwise posted)

Backyard Open Burning is permitted from **6am to 6pm only**. Fires must be completely extinguished by 6pm – no smoke/no flame

**ONLY DRY LEAVES, TREE TRIMMINGS & RESIDENTIAL YARD DEBRIS ARE ACCEPTABLE BURNING MATERIALS**

The burning of any construction waste, demolition debris, garbage, food or household waste, plastic, rubber, asphalt shingles, or other similar material is prohibited as stipulated in the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulations.

Please ensure:

- A responsible person is in constant supervision of the fire
- A hose or water source is available at all times
- The fire is hot and only dry material is burned in order to avoid excessive smoke
- Fires are not ignited in high wind conditions
- Petroleum products are not used to accelerate or sustain the fire
- Debris must originate from the property where burning is taking place

**We are in a High Sensitivity Smoke Zone**

**Prior to Burning – Please Ensure the Venting Index is ‘Good’**

**Ph: 1-888-281-2992 or Online at:**

**<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/venting/>**



Metchosin Fire Department  
Office Hours: 250-478-1307  
24/7 Fire Duty Officer: 250-478-7770  
(ask for the Metchosin Duty Officer)

**IF AN EMERGENCY – CALL 9-1-1**

## Residential Backyard Open Burning (Debris >10cm)

- Piles to be no larger than 3 meters in diameter
- No permit required
- May only burn dry leaves and yard waste
- Must have a hose or tools to control the fire
- Must be 20 meters from any structure
- Must be 10 meters from trees, fence or shrubs
- Must be fully extinguished by 6pm
- Limited to three consecutive days

## Use of Incinerators & Burn Barrels Is Prohibited

Please do not burn yard waste inside any kind of container.

## Campfires

- No larger than 0.6 meter in diameter
- Campfires must be in a designated fire pit or approved commercial appliance
- No permit required
- May only burn clean dry wood
- Must be 6 meters away from any structure, timber, vegetative matter or flammable materials
- Must have a bucket or hose for water
- Must be fully extinguished by midnight

**BEACH FIRES ARE PROHIBITED WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN**  
Propane Fire Pits Are Allowed

**ALL FIREWORKS ARE BANNED WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN**  
Except on Oct 31 & Dec 31  
(permit required)

NEW REGULATION 2019

## Burning of Large Diameter Debris <10cm:

- Must adhere with the *2019 BC Environment Management Act and Open Burning Smoke Control Regulations*
- Written permit required from the Metchosin Fire Department, must have copy on site
- **Venting Index** must be ‘good’ the day of and ‘fair’ the second allowable burn day
- Maximum 2 consecutive days
- Must be 500m from residences/1000m from schools – unless notification distributed
- Debris must be ‘seasoned’ as defined by the Regulation
- No burning of stumps allowed
- Permits issued at the discretion of the Fire Chief or designate – and can be recalled at any time.

**Please consider alternate solutions for debris removal, such as composting, chipping or leaving debris on the ground to develop natural habitats for animals.**