



VACAVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Proper Yard Trimming Burning Guidelines



Why Proper Burning Matters:

Burning yard trimmings can be a convenient way to manage yard waste. However, improper burning can lead to air pollution, fire hazards, and health risks. Follow these guidelines to ensure safe and responsible burning practices.

1. Check Local Regulations:

Information regarding residential yard trimming burn can be found at:

<https://www.vfpd.net/burn-permits-available>

Basic residential yard trimming burn regulations:

- You must call Solano Dispatch at the number listed on the burn permit before you initiate a burn.
- Burning may occur only between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Do not start a new burn after 3 p.m., or place additional material to an existing fire.
- All green waste materials must be dry (extra precautions must be taken to account for moisture from recent rains) & free of trash or dirt.
- Green waste must originate on the property where burning occurs.
- Burns may not cause a nuisance with smoke and ash to neighbors.
- Have a 30' cleared firebreak around burn pile to prevent escaping, clear of all structures and overhanging trees.
- Control burn must be always attended by at least one adult.
- Have a water source, shovel, and hoe nearby just in case.
- Burning is the responsibility of the permittee -- violations and escapes may result in citations and suppression costs.
- Burning household garbage, trash, lumber, & construction material is illegal. Other means of disposal must be made.

2. Choose the Right Location:

Select an open area away from buildings, trees, and power lines. Ensure there's enough space to contain the fire safely. Avoid burning on windy days to prevent the spread of embers.

3. Prepare the Site:

Clear the area of dry leaves, grass, and other flammable materials. Create a 30' fire break by mowing or wetting down the surrounding vegetation. Have a water source, such as a hose or buckets of water, nearby for emergencies.

4. Use a Burn Barrel or Pit:

Consider using a burn barrel or pit to contain the fire. These devices help control the burn and reduce the risk of spreading flames. Make sure the barrel or pit is sturdy and placed on a non-flammable surface.

5. Start Small:

Begin with a small pile of yard trimmings and gradually add more as the fire burns down. Avoid overloading the fire, which can lead to excessive smoke and difficulty controlling the burn. Do not add additional material after 3 pm.

6. Monitor the Fire:

Never leave a burning fire unattended. At least 1 adult must always attend the fire. Stay vigilant and always keep an eye on the flames. If the fire starts to spread beyond your control, call emergency services immediately.

7. Keep it Clean:

Burn only natural yard trimmings such as branches, leaves, and brush. All trimmings must originate from the property on which it is burned. Avoid burning treated wood, plastics, or other materials that release harmful chemicals when burned. Dispose of non-burnable materials properly.

8. Extinguish Thoroughly:

Once you're finished burning, thoroughly extinguish the fire. Use water to douse the flames completely and stir the ashes to ensure everything is cool to the touch. Never leave hot embers smoldering.

9. Be Considerate:

Respect your neighbors and the environment. Avoid burning during times when smoke may affect nearby homes or individuals with respiratory conditions. Consider alternative methods of yard waste disposal when possible.

Recommended size of yard trimmings

1. Diameter:

- For branches and logs, it's generally recommended to keep them to a diameter of 4 inches or less. Smaller pieces burn more efficiently and reduce the risk of the fire becoming too large or difficult to control.

2. Length:

- Cut branches and logs into manageable lengths, ideally no longer than 3 to 4 feet. Shorter pieces are easier to handle and burn more evenly.

3. Splitting:

- Consider splitting larger logs into smaller pieces to promote better airflow and faster burning. This can help prevent the fire from smoldering or producing excessive smoke.

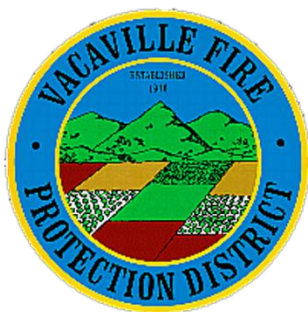
4. Gradual Addition:

- When adding branches or logs to the fire, start with smaller pieces and gradually add larger ones as the fire builds and matures. Avoid adding too much wood at once, which can overwhelm the fire and lead to inefficient burning.

By following these guidelines, you can maintain a safe and controlled yard trimming fire while effectively disposing of larger branches and logs. Remember to always monitor the fire closely and follow local regulations and safety precautions.

Remember: Responsible burning helps protect the environment, prevent wildfires, and ensure the safety of your community. Follow these guidelines to enjoy the benefits of burning yard trimmings while minimizing the risks.

For more information on safe burning practices, contact Vacaville Fire Protection District at (707) 447-2252 or visit www.vfpd.net



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