

Frequently Asked Questions Open Burning

Can I burn within the Newton City Limits? Yes, there are rules and restrictions. There are Open Burning pamphlets available at City Hall or the Fire Department.

Is leaf burning permitted? NO

What is prohibited to burn?

- **Leaves**
- **Garbage** that is a result of food preparation or consumption.
- **Tires** or any other material that produces “black” smoke.
- **Trade waste** such as:
 - a. building materials
 - b. scrap lumber
 - c. shingles
 - d. packaging
 - e. materials from commercial operations

What can I burn?

- **Yard waste** such as:
 - a. trees
 - b. tree/shrub trimmings
 - c. weeds
 - d. branches
 - e. stumps

- **Residential trash** that is burned in an incinerator with a mesh cover.

Can I open burn yard waste without an incinerator? Yes, but there are rules to open burning such as:

- a. Must be attended and kept under control.
- b. A garden hose or other suitable extinguishing equipment should be kept readily available.
- c. 25 feet minimum distance from combustibles for piles 2 feet or less, 50 feet minimum distance 2 feet or more.

Can I have a recreational fire? Yes, you are allowed to have a recreational fire or open burning for the purpose of cooking, ceremonies, or other recreation. The same restrictions apply to these fires as those that apply to the burning of yard waste.

If I am experiencing breathing discomfort due to my neighbor burning are they allowed to burn? No. If there are any neighbors experiencing breathing difficulty or physical discomfort due to smoke generated on your property, you will be required to extinguish the fire.

What are the alternatives other than open burning?

- a. Newton Landfill
- b. Yard waste bags
- c. Recycling
- d. Composting

Where can I buy the City of Newton yard waste bags? Many of the local merchants stock the bags such as Hy-Vee & Hy-Vee Drug Store, Fareway, True Value, Wal-Mart and the Newton Landfill.

What can I put in the City of Newton yard waste bags? Bags may contain leaves, small twigs less than a ¼ inch in diameter, garden waste, weeds and hedge trimmings.

Can I be fined for violating the open burning regulations? Yes, violators are subject to a fine.

- 1st offense-\$50.00 plus court cost
- 2nd offense-\$150.00 plus court cost
- 3rd or more-\$500.00 plus court cost

What department responds to open burning complaints? The Newton Fire Department responds to all burning complaints. They can be reached at 792-3347.