

A SMOKESTACK IN EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD (ONLY WORSE)



Many Vermont communities have rejected municipal incinerators. Some modern materials in our trash continue to pose problems for thoroughly safe incineration. Municipal incinerators use high technology to more completely destroy dangerous toxins. Smokestacks get the remaining emissions high into the atmosphere where they are diluted with huge volumes of air.

Home trash burning is much worse than municipal incinerator burning. Burn barrels, woodstoves, and backyard incinerators make low temperature fires with incomplete combustion. They produce heavy concentrations of smoke at ground level.

This type of burning produces far more toxins per pound of trash and spreads these poisons right where we live and breathe.



Be a good neighbor  **Protect our health**

SOME FACTS ON BURNING TRASH

* Household burning of today's trash produces far more pollution per pound of trash than high-tech municipal incineration.

STATE OF THE ART MUNICIPAL WASTE INCINERATORS ARE DESIGNED TO REMOVE A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE POLLUTANTS IN TODAY'S TRASH.

HOUSEHOLD BURN BARRELS, WOODSTOVES, AND ON-SITE INCINERATORS PRODUCE LOW TEMPERATURE FIRES. THEY RECEIVE VERY LITTLE OXYGEN AND PRODUCE A LOT OF SMOKE. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS A GREAT MANY TOXIC SUBSTANCES ARE PRODUCED. VIRTUALLY ALL OF THEM ARE RELEASED DIRECTLY INTO THE AIR, CLOSE TO GROUND LEVEL.

* Smoke from household burning of trash has little opportunity to be diluted. The smoke contains high levels of toxins and concentrates over a small area, creating pockets of dangerously polluted air.

MUNICIPAL WASTE INCINERATORS HAVE HIGH CHIMNEY STACKS. THE POLLUTANTS WHICH COME OUT OF THESE STACKS ARE MIXED WITH HUGE VOLUMES OF AIR AND SPREAD OVER A RADIUS OF SEVERAL MILES.

WOODSTOVES AND BURN BARRELS HAVE LOW TO NONEXISTENT CHIMNEY STACKS. VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE POLLUTION FROM BURNING IN THEM IS SPREAD AROUND AN AREA OF ONLY A FEW HUNDRED YARD RADIUS AT GROUND LEVEL.

*One-half of the health risks associated with burning trash come from inhalation of the pollutants released into the air.

THE OTHER HALF OF THE RISKS COME FROM INGESTION OF TOXIC PARTICLES THAT HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED ON WATER, SOIL, CROPS AND GARDENS.

Today's trash contains a number of materials which, when burned, give off toxic by-products. Those presenting the greatest challenge for safe combustion include materials containing chlorine, such as PVC plastics, vinyls, clear food wrap, and bleached papers. Also dangerous are materials containing heavy metals such as colored plastics and papers and cardboards having slick color reproductions from synthetic inks.

The combustion of anything, even natural materials, gives off potentially toxic chemical by-products. Under no condition is household burning of trash acceptable. All other legal burning should be done with great care.

NOTE: The above information stems from the "Municipal Waste Combustion Study: Assessment of Health Risks Associated with Municipal Waste Combustion Emissions," EPA, 1989.

**PLEASE
DON'T
BURN
TRASH**

Be a good neighbor



Protect our health

Today's trash is different from yesterday's! Burning synthetic materials is a toxic threat to our health.