

Burning Construction & Demolition Debris is Risky Business

Smoke contains chemicals that can aggravate asthma, cause cancer and other health problems. Ash and runoff can pollute your drinking water and pose a risk to the health of your family and neighbors.

When CDD is burned, the **landowner is liable** for any contamination of ground and surface water and for the cost of cleanup.

Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) may be buried only on the site where it was generated, provided the area of disposal is less than one acre and there are no additional disposal areas on the property. Otherwise, all CDD should be removed by a licensed solid waste transporter.

Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) is wood and non-wood wastes from the demolition or construction of buildings. CDD also includes road pavement (asphalt), fish nets, mattresses, and furniture.

For information on open burning permits, contact Maine Forest Service

Southern Region Headquarters

Bolton Hill, Augusta

(207) 624-3700

Central Region Headquarters

Old Town

(207) 827-1800

Northern Region Headquarters

Ashland

(207) 435-7963

It is legal to burn only the wood portion of Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD). It is illegal to burn treated wood, shingles, siding, wiring, insulation, and all other non-wood materials.

For information on disposal of CDD

Contact Maine DEP

Central Maine Regional Office

Augusta

800-452-1942

Eastern Maine Regional Office

Bangor

888-769-1137

Northern Maine Reg. Office

Presque Isle

888-759-1053

Southern Maine Reg. Office

Portland

888-769-1036

www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/solidwaste

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT BURNING CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DEBRIS?



Protect Yourself and Others
Follow the Law



Never Burn

These materials produce especially dangerous smoke and ash:

treated wood

plastics

styrofoam

wire insulation

vinyl siding

asbestos-containing materials

rubber

metals

food wastes

chemicals

trash

asphalt shingles

paper

cardboard

mattresses

furniture

tires

tar

paints

solvents

sludge

insulation

other solid and liquid wastes

Call a licensed solid waste transporter to safely dispose of CDD at a licensed solid waste disposal facility.

Contact the DEP for a list of licensed transporters:

1-800-452-1942

Ask these questions

before you burn wood from CDD:

Will you burn the debris on the site where it was generated?

Wood from construction and demolition debris (CDD) may be disposed or burned only on the site where it is generated, provided the area of disposal is less than one acre and there are no additional disposal areas on the property.

It is illegal to collect and stockpile or burn wood from CDD

generated offsite. Wood Construction and Demolition Debris means wood wastes from the demolition or construction of buildings.

Have you separated all non-wood waste from the pile?

Only wood wastes and wood from CDD generated onsite may be burned.

“Wood waste” means: brush, stumps, lumber, bark, wood chips, shavings, slabs, edgings, slash, sawdust and wood from production rejects that are not mixed with other solid or liquid waste. “Lumber” must be made entirely of wood and be free from metal, plastics, coatings and chemical treatments.

Is the wood painted or stained?

Assume anything built prior to 1978 contains lead paint. Airborne lead from burning lead-based paint can pose a health hazard. Ash resulting from burning wood coated in lead paint may contain harmful levels of lead. We recommend disposing of ash at a licensed solid waste facility (landfill).

Is there a protected resource (i.e. stream, lake, ocean) nearby?

Steps must be taken to prevent runoff from the burn pile from contaminating nearby waterbodies, such as installing a silt fence or other erosion barrier between the protected resource and the burn pile.

Have you obtained an open burning permit?

Burning on-site for disposal of wood wastes from CDD requires a permit from the Town Forest Fire Warden, Forest Ranger, or local fire prevention official. It is a Class E crime to burn without a permit.