



**Sacramento Metropolitan
Air Quality Management District**

CHECK
BEFORE YOU
BURN

November – February

*Rule 421 – Mandatory
Episodic Curtailment of Wood
and Other Solid Fuel Burning
is in effect in Sacramento
County and the cities of Citrus
Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom,
Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova
and Sacramento*

Check Before You Burn November - February

Residents and businesses are prohibited from using indoor or outdoor fireplaces, wood stoves, firepits and chimineas that burn wood, pellets, manufactured logs or any other solid fuel when fine particle pollution is forecast to be elevated. The AQMD will also ask you to voluntarily not burn when air pollution is on the rise. It is your responsibility to **Check Before You Burn**.

Exemptions

These rule exemptions apply to both Stage 1 – No Burn *and* Stage 2 – All Burning Prohibited categories:

- Homes where wood burning is the sole source of heat
- Financial hardship waiver approved by the Air Pollution Control Officer – *must be renewed each burn season*
- Devices that operate exclusively with natural gas or propane
- Cooking devices
- Ceremonial fires related to specific religious activities

Check Before You Burn Categories

Stage 2 – All Burning Prohibited*

All burning is prohibited in **any device** when fine particle pollution is forecast to exceed 35 micrograms per cubic meter. It is illegal to burn any solid fuel, including wood, manufactured logs and pellets.



Stage 1 – No Burn – Unless Exempt*

It is illegal to burn when fine particle pollution is forecast to be 32-35 micrograms per cubic meter unless EPA certified fireplace inserts or stoves, or pellet stoves are used.



Burning Discouraged – Voluntary

Burning is discouraged when fine particle pollution is forecast to be 26-31 micrograms per cubic meter. The AQMD asks you to voluntarily choose not to burn.



Legal to Burn

When the forecast is 25 micrograms per cubic meter or lower then it is legal to burn and the use of manufactured firelogs is acceptable at this level. If you choose to burn please follow cleaner burning tips in order to burn as cleanly as possible.



**First time violations will result in a \$50 fine or a requirement to complete and pass a wood smoke awareness course. Fines for subsequent violations are higher.*

Six Ways to Check Before You Burn



1. 1-877-NO-BURN-5 (1-877-662-8765)



2. Visit AirQuality.org



3. Sign-up to receive Air Alert emails at SpareTheAir.com and check the Daily Air Quality Forecast box



4. Read the Sacramento Bee's weather page located on the back of the Our Region section



5. Listen to television and radio weather forecasts



6. Go to [Twitter.com/aqmd](https://twitter.com/aqmd)

Cleaner Burning Tips

- Burn dry, seasoned hardwood such as oak or cherry
- Make sure your fire has a generous air supply to reduce smoke
- Don't burn wet or moist wood – cover your stored wood to protect it from rain and don't store it on the ground
- Don't burn garbage, glossy paper, painted or chemically treated wood – it is illegal to burn these products
- Don't build large smoldering fires
- Have your chimney inspected once a year
- Watch your chimney top – if you see smoke then the wood is not burning efficiently
- Burn manufactured firelogs when it is legal to burn – they are illegal to burn during a Stage 1 or Stage 2 day
- Purchase a cleaner burning low-emission hearth product such as one that uses natural gas or propane

Winter Air Pollution

Wood burning accounts for almost 50 percent of wintertime particles as opposed to vehicle emissions that cause summer pollution in Sacramento County.

The purpose of **Check Before**

You Burn is to reduce the harmful emissions that come from wood burning to protect public health. Everyone breathes unhealthy air when weather conditions trap pollution close to the ground. The AQMD provides the daily burn status, which tells residents when burning is restricted or prohibited November through February.



Health Effects

Fine particulate matter is a complex mixture that may contain soot, smoke, metals, nitrates, sulfates and dust. Studies have linked long-term exposure to particle pollution with serious health problems including decreased lung function, aggravated asthma, development of chronic respiratory disease in children (asthma), irregular heartbeat, nonfatal heart attacks, premature death in people with heart or lung disease and increased susceptibility to heart and vascular disease for post-menopausal women.

Health studies have also shown that breathing wood smoke reduces the blood's ability to clot, and specifically for children it decreases memory and lowers IQ. Children are more likely to suffer effects because their respiratory systems are developing and they breathe more air per pound of body weight.

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN



AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

777 12th Street, 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Check Before You Burn toll-free recording:

1-877-NO-BURN-5 (877-662-8765)

To report a complaint or suspected violation,
call the AQMD toll-free:

800-880-9025

www.AirQuality.org ■ www.SpareTheAir.com



AQMD



Sparetheair Scooter

Wood Stove & Fireplace Change Out Incentive Program

The AQMD has funding to help Sacramento County residents replace polluting wood stoves and traditional fireplaces with cleaner-burning units.

Call 916-440-WOOD (9663) or send an email to woodstove@airquality.org to find out if you qualify.

