

Open Burning

Burning of any waste other than landscape waste (limbs, grasses and leaves) generated on your property is illegal in St. Clair County. Your local municipality may have more strict rules and regulations. Please contact the St. Clair County Health Department or your local authorities to find out the regulations for your area or use the link below for regulations listed by City or Village.

The St. Clair County Health Department encourages residents to use alternatives to leaf burning such as composting, mulching or bagging. Burning of illegal substances can have serious health effects on your neighbors and the environment. If you choose to burn (in unincorporated St. Clair County) please follow these guidelines:

Illinois Statutes allow for open burning of landscape waste/leaves, but only under the following conditions:

- On premises where such waste was generated. This **does not include roadways** or other public thoroughfares (i.e. Not on public streets/alleyways, curbs or sidewalk).
- When burning does not violate any local ordinances if you are within city limits or within 1000 feet of a municipality with a population over 2500 that has an ordinance banning or restricting open burning. Contact your City or Village Hall for specific information on when you can burn or call the Health Department for further information.
- When atmospheric conditions will readily dissipate contaminants. Smoke should not hang close to the ground or blow onto neighboring property.
- If such burning does not create a visibility hazard on roadways, railroad tracks or air fields.
- Only during daylight hours unless used for recreational purposes (i.e. bonfires).

If you must burn your landscape waste/leaves, local fire departments recommend that fires be kept small. Never leave a fire unattended and a garden hose should be handy to prevent accidental spreading. It is also recommended that the area around the fire be wet to prevent spreading. The burning of any waste other than landscape waste is illegal and may be the subject of enforcement action pursuant to the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, 415 ILCS 5/1 et seq.

Burn permits for large controlled burns can be obtained by contacting the Illinois EPA regional office located in Collinsville, IL at (618) 346-5120.

To file a complaint about open burning or if you have questions please contact the St. Clair County Environmental Protection Division at (618) 233-7769 or email the Environmental Protection Manager at Kristy.Mullins@co.st-clair.il.us.

Alternatives to Leaf/Landscape Waste Burning

- Mulching
- [Composting](#)
- Collection by Hauler
- Take to [St. Louis Composting](#) or Milam Landfill/Composting

Links & Resources

[IEPA Burn Barrel Brochure](#)

[Burning Regulations](#)

[USEPA Hidden Hazards of Backyard Burning Brochure](#)

[Burning FAQ](#)

Become a Fan on

facebook



*Follow Us
on Twitter*