

If you're burning garbage, you're making poison.



Backyard garbage burning releases toxic chemicals into our air. These chemicals settle on our soil, water, and plants—and eventually get into the food we eat. Breathing these pollutants can lead to serious lung and heart issues and eating contaminated food can cause serious health problems like cancer.

What's the problem?

Garbage has changed in the last 50 years. Burning anything, even seemingly harmless items like paper, releases pollution. That's because today's garbage contains plastics, dyes, and other chemicals that release hazardous toxins when burned. In fact, backyard garbage burning is now the largest source of dangerous dioxins in the United States.



An example of how dioxin in the smoke from burning garbage can end up in our food. When livestock eat feed that has been contaminated with dioxin, they concentrate the chemical in their milk and meat.

Burning your garbage is harmful to our health and the environment.



Pollutes our air, water, and food.



Contributes to nearly half of all wildfires in Minnesota.



Is illegal. È

What can you do to help?



Don't burn garbage—at home, on the farm, at the cabin or in the campfire.



Use recycling and garbage services or drop-sites; encourage your neighbors to do the same.



Reduce waste—compost or chip yard waste; buy items with less packaging.

Educate your family and neighbors about the hazards of burning.



To find out more about local recycling and disposal options in your area, call your county solid waste or environmental office or visit the website below for contact information for all 87 counties in Minnesota.



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

www.pca.state.mn.us/burnbarrel

For more information about backyard garbage burning and burn barrel education and reduction efforts going on throughout Minnesota, visit the website or call us at 651-296-6300 in the metro or 800-657-3864 in greater Minnesota.

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