

General Guide to Burning

Tasman Resource Management Plan Summary Guide No. 13

Current: July 2012

A growing population means more people creating more rubbish. Burning used to be a way of getting rid of waste, but burning releases pollutants that are hazardous to our health and a nuisance for neighbours.

The Tasman District Council is managing the adverse effects of burning through rules in the Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP).

Why do we need burning rules?

Burning causes chemicals and particles to be released into the air and create pollution. The material being burnt, the temperature of the fire, the available oxygen to it and the weather all influence the amount of pollution of the air. Some areas of the Tasman District experience low wind speeds and temperature inversions (cold air becoming trapped under warm air) which prevents pollutants from dispersing.

The pollution from burning waste is harmful to our community. Some of the effects may include:

- **The release of dioxins and other toxins into the air.**
 - Dioxins accumulate in the environment, wildlife and peoples bodies and are linked to serious health problems such as birth defects and cancer.
 - Burning damp or green vegetation and rubbish produces highly toxic gases (such as carbon monoxide, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen cyanide) and irritants (such as acrolein) which cause red eyes and coughing.



- **The production of small particles less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10).**
 - Breathing in these small particles can cause coughs, asthma symptoms, bronchitis and respiratory illness.
 - Children's developing organs and tissues make them particularly susceptible. Their narrow airways, ventilation rates, and the smaller surface area of their lungs increases the irritation and inflammation that air pollution causes in the respiratory system.
- **Nuisances and hazards for neighbours.**
 - Reduced visibility is a traffic hazard if smoke is blown towards roads.
 - Smoke and odour make the air unpleasant and unhealthy to breathe.
 - Other nuisances include particles landing on cars, washing, vegetation or on roofs that collect rainwater.

How does burning cause chemicals to get into your body?

- Breathing the smoke.
- Eating food contaminated by smoke and ash (if smoke and ash settles on fruit and vegetables or if ash is mixed with garden soil, chemicals can be taken up by plants).
- Playing in areas of contaminated soil or dust.
- Drinking roof rain water contaminated or tainted by particulates.

Who makes the burning rules?

► The Tasman District Council

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Health Act 1956 the Council is responsible for maintaining and enhancing the quality of the air by managing the discharge of contaminants. The Tasman Resource Management Plan (TRMP) sets out objectives, policies and rules that the Council uses to control the effects of discharges on the air quality. The TRMP determines whether an activity is permitted or will require a resource consent.

► The Waimea Rural Fire Committee

The Waimea Rural Fire Committee administers the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 to control 'open fires' for the purpose of fire safety.



A permit to burn is required for all fires in the open at all times. An

exception to this is if you are using a gas barbecue. In summer when it is very dry, all fires may be prohibited in some areas. See back page for contact details.

Outdoor Burning Rules

Fire Ban Areas

Outdoor burning is not allowed in the Fire Ban Areas of Richmond and Motueka or on the beach. This includes:

- burning in an incinerator
- burning of household and garden waste
- burning of industrial waste.

There are some exceptions to the ban:

- Small cooking fires, BBQs and braziers
- If your property is a minimum of 5000m² you may apply for a resource consent for a fire, or fires on an ongoing basis.

You can check on the planning maps (268 and 270) to see where the outdoor Fire Ban Area boundaries are. If your house is within the orange area, you are not allowed to burn outdoors.

Fire Sensitive Areas

If you live near Motueka or Richmond or any of the urban settlements or townships, check the planning maps (256 to 276) to see whether you live in a Fire Sensitive Area (coloured buff). **You can burn outdoors from September to May as long as you comply with the conditions in the TRMP and your fire permit. Please minimise your burning in these areas.**

Other Areas

You can burn outdoors in other areas as long as you comply with conditions in the TRMP (which are described below in the checklist) and your fire permit.

Before you burn, please use the following CHECKLIST to make sure your fire is legal:

- ☑ **If your fire is in the 'open air' you must have a fire permit** from the Waimea Fire Authority.
- ☑ **Beyond your boundary your fire must NOT cause:**
 - deposits of ash or other matter on land, structures or crops
 - odour that is harmful or unpleasant
 - smoke that is harmful or unpleasant
 - smoke that reduces visibility in public areas and roads.
- ☑ **You can ONLY burn vegetation, paper, cardboard or untreated wood sourced from three adjoining properties where that material has been derived or used.**
- ☑ **Vegetation must be dried and seasoned** before it is burnt.
- ☑ **You must NOT burn:**
 - municipal (community), domestic, industrial or trade waste
 - plastic
 - materials associated with the recovery of metals from insulated electrical cables
 - radioactive materials
 - metals and materials that are components of motor vehicles, mechanical or electrical equipment
 - rubber products including tyres, bitumen-containing materials, batteries, waste oils, asbestos, treated timber or fibre board.
- ☑ **Follow the Good Practice Guide to Outdoor Burning, available at Council offices.**

Indoor Household Burners

Existing Burners

You must NOT burn any plastic, treated timber, rubber or oil in your domestic burner. Do NOT use your burner to burn rubbish in.

New Burners

If you are installing a new burner and you live in urban areas or on a site less than 2 hectares in area, you will be required to install a clean burning appliance to reduce air pollution.

Information about clean burning appliances is available from Council. New open fire places are not permitted in urban areas.



The Council has a Good Practice Guide for the operation of wood burners to help woodburner users to reduce the adverse effects of smoke.

Richmond

Council has specific rules that apply to solid fuel burners in Richmond. Solid fuel and wood burners are causing significant air pollution in the Richmond airshed during winter. Rules prevent installation of woodburners unless it is the replacement of an existing burner with a new clean burning model. Wood burners may require upgrading to clean burning models when a house changes ownership.

Compliance

Compliance officers follow the "Protocol for Assessing Offensive or Objectionable Dispersal or Deposition of Smoke Particles".

Making a complaint

If a fire is causing a nuisance, the complainant should first talk to the person responsible and seek co-operation in reaching an acceptable solution. If there is no relief, the complainant can contact the Council's compliance team. Council staff may visit the property and assess whether the burning complies with the rules.

Penalties

- Contravening rules in TRMP: instant infringement fine \$300
- If served with abatement notice and continue activity: infringement fine \$750

REMEMBER: If the Good Practice Guide to Outdoor Burning or the Good Practice Guide for Operating Wood Burners is followed, infringing the rules is less likely.

Alternatives to Burning Rubbish

Reduce

Avoid waste. Buy fewer items and select products with the least packaging.

Recycle

Make use of:

- Kerbside recycling – over 80% of properties are serviced by Tasman District Council's collection service.
- Recycling centres – at Tasman District Council's Resource Recovery Centres.
- Agrecovery operates an agricultural plastic recycling programme for silage wrap and agrichemical containers. (See www.agrecovery.co.nz)



Recover - Plant/Garden Waste

Compost

- Green waste can be a significant proportion of an average household's rubbish, therefore rubbish costs can be saved by composting.
- Council has an information brochure about composting and worm farming (available at Council offices or online at www.tasman.govt.nz).
- Council provides a compost coupon which enables \$15 discount on purchase of compost bins and worm farms from listed retailers. Coupons are available from Tasman District Council offices, selected retailers or online at www.tasman.govt.nz

Large Trees

- Wood can be dried, split and used for fire wood.
- Small branches and leaves can be left in a pile to dry. In two months the pile will have reduced by 50% (and if in an area where outdoor burning is permitted, it will create less smoke when burnt).

Thin branches can be shredded and used as mulch (check the Yellow Pages for commercial shredding and chipping services).

Disposal

Council offers disposal options for greenwaste at all transfer stations at significantly discounted rates if separated from general household rubbish.

Kerbside Collection

“Reduce Rubbish” bags are available from supermarkets and Council offices. Council’s contractor: Smart Environmental 03 543 9000

Where to go for more information

- **Tasman District Council offices**

- **Rural Fire Network Ltd**

On behalf of the Waimea Rural Fire Committee
(03) 544 2441

PO Box 3578, 66 Oxford Street, Richmond or
0800 100 991 if you live in Golden Bay

This guide is a summary of Plan provisions only. Please see the Plan for full details or seek advice from Council staff at one of the offices listed below.

Summary of Outdoor Burning Rules

Where	What is permitted	What needs a resource consent?	What is not allowed?
Fire Ban Areas in: • Motueka • Richmond • the foreshore/beach	• Fireworks, fires for cooking (including barbeques, hangis, small campfires), candles, lamps, braziers.	• Large bonfires on the beach. • Fires on properties larger than 1/2 ha.	• Any other outdoor burning.
Fire Sensitive Areas: • Around Motueka, and Richmond • Other Urban Settlements	• Outdoor burning from September to May. You will need a fire permit for open fires.	• Fires for burning horticultural waste during June - August.	• Other burning in winter (except where managing disease in crops).
All other areas	• Outdoor burning without a resource consent but you must get a fire permit for open fires.		• See checklist.

Tasman District Council Email info@tasman.govt.nz Website www.tasman.govt.nz 24 hour assistance

Richmond 189 Queen Street, Private Bag 4, Richmond, Nelson 7050, New Zealand **Phone** 03 543 8400 **Fax** 03 543 9524

Murchison 92 Fairfax Street, Murchison 7007, New Zealand **Phone** 03 523 1013 **Fax** 03 523 1012

Motueka 7 Hickmott Place, PO Box 123, Motueka 7143, New Zealand **Phone** 03 528 2022 **Fax** 03 528 9751

Golden Bay 78 Commercial Street, PO Box 74, Takaka 7142, New Zealand **Phone** 03 525 0020 **Fax** 03 525 9972