

ADDITIONAL RULE REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESSES

Manufacturers, sellers, resellers and installers of wood-burning devices must:

Sell or install only EPA-certified wood-burning and pellet-fueled devices for use within the Air District's jurisdiction.

Note: There is no requirement for owners to replace existing fireplaces or woodstoves when a house or property is sold or transferred.

Builders of homes or commercial buildings must:

Install only gas fireplaces, inserts or EPA-certified wood-burning or pellet-fueled devices in any new building construction or remodels.

Manufacturers of solid fuels such as firelogs or pellet fuels must:

Label the product package with information about the Wood Burning Rule, reminding the purchaser that they must check the **Winter Spare the Air Alert** status before burning.

Firewood suppliers must indicate, by labeling their package or providing information upon delivery:

Whether the wood is dry and "seasoned" (moisture content less than 20 percent), or if it is green and "unseasoned" (moisture content greater than 20 percent).

How to properly dry the wood before burning, if it is unseasoned wood.

That wood burning is restricted and that the purchaser must check the **Winter Spare the Air Alert** status before burning.

CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN

Wood burning is illegal in the Bay Area during a Winter Spare the Air Alert.



Call 1-877-4NO-BURN
(1-877-466-2876)

Sign up for phone alerts
by calling 1-800-430-1515



Visit sparetheair.org
or baaqmd.gov

Connect with us:



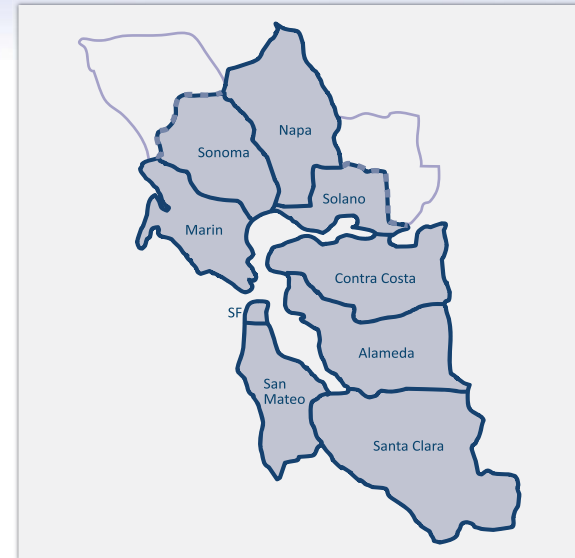
Sign up for automatic
email alerts by visiting
sparetheair.org

TO REGISTER A WOOD BURNING COMPLAINT:

- Go to www.baaqmd.gov/complaints
- Call 1-877-4NO-BURN

About the Air District

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the regional agency responsible for protecting air quality in the nine-county Bay Area, including Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, southwestern Solano and southern Sonoma counties.



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

www.baaqmd.gov

Wood Burning in the Bay Area



An Overview of the Wood Burning Rule

WHY IS WOOD SMOKE SO HARMFUL?

Wood smoke contains a complex mix of chemicals including tiny particles and gases, some of which are toxic. These microscopic particles, called Particulate Matter 2.5 or PM2.5, are so small that several thousand could fit on the period at the end of this sentence.

Since they are so tiny, these particles can easily penetrate the lungs and small passageways of the respiratory system and enter the bloodstream. Health studies have linked long-term exposure to PM2.5 to loss of lung function, bronchitis, lung disease, onset of heart attacks and increased death rates.

Cold and still winter weather conditions can cause wood smoke pollution to become trapped close to the ground and build up to unhealthy levels. When these conditions are present, the Air District will issue a **Winter Spare the Air Alert** in order to protect public health.

The hazards of second-hand cigarette smoke are well-known, but many fail to realize that wood smoke contains a similar group of unhealthy compounds. The 1.4 million fireplaces and woodstoves across our nine-county region are the largest single source of wintertime soot – the tiny particles that contribute to an alarming array of health concerns, from asthma to heart attacks, and in severe cases, death. Wood smoke is especially harmful for children, the elderly and those with respiratory conditions.



1 in 7 Bay Area residents has a respiratory condition

WOOD BURNING RULE

In order to protect residents from the public health impacts of wood smoke, the Bay Area Air District passed a Wood Burning Rule making it illegal to burn wood, manufactured firelogs, pellets or any other solid fuels in fireplaces, woodstoves or outdoor fire pits when the agency issues a **Winter Spare the Air Alert**, from November 1 through the end of February.

Each day by 2 p.m., the Air District will issue an air quality forecast for the next day. If air quality is forecast to be unhealthy, a **Winter Spare the Air Alert** will be called, and burning will be banned the entire next day, for a full 24 hours.

Residents who fail to comply with the Wood Burning Rule may be subject to penalties. First-time violators can take a wood smoke awareness course in lieu of penalty payment.

The rule also prohibits excess smoke and the burning of garbage or other inappropriate materials year-round.

Find more information about the Wood Burning Rule at www.sparetheair.org/winter.

During a Winter Spare the Air Alert it is illegal to burn:



WOOD



MANUFACTURED FIRELOGS



PELLETS



ANY SOLID FUEL

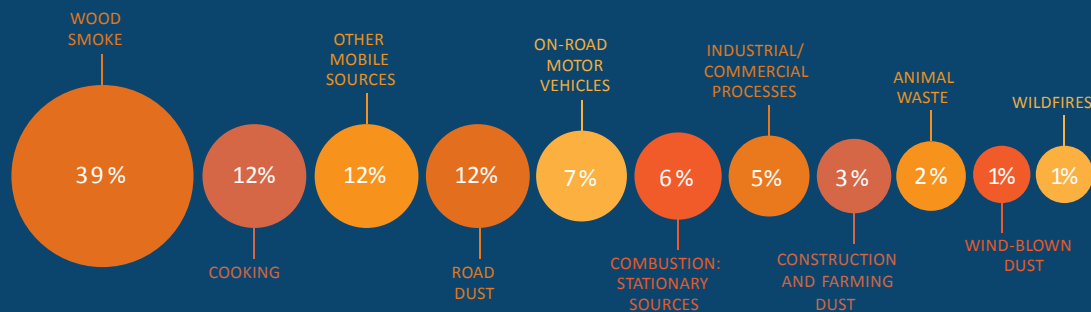


GARBAGE

BURNING GARBAGE IS ALWAYS PROHIBITED.

CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN

Winter Sources of Bay Area Fine Particulates (PM2.5)



Consider switching or converting to a natural gas stove or fireplace. Natural gas inserts are significantly cleaner, and provide the same warmth and cozy ambiance without the harmful particles in wood smoke.