



Burn Barrel Use in Linn County

1. Who can use a burn barrel in Linn County?

Any citizen of Linn County can technically have a burn barrel on their property as long as they are outside of the city limits of Cedar Rapids, Marion, and Hiawatha. As of January 1st, 2009 properties in unincorporated Linn County that are located within ½ mile of the city limits of Cedar Rapids, Marion, or Hiawatha **and** that are zoned as Urban Service Residential will no longer be allowed to legally open burn. Additionally, citizens living in municipalities within Linn County need to verify with the governing entity as to what the local requirements are for burn barrels. Some communities have legally outlawed the use of burn barrels.

Linn County Public Health Air Quality Division recommends that burn barrels not be used to burn residential waste due to the health effects of breathing the pollution this activity creates. Please refer to our document *Alternatives to Burning Residential Waste in Linn County* for some ideas on how to manage your waste in a more healthy and environmentally-friendly way.

2. What can be legally burned in a burn barrel?

LCCO 10.10.A.3

The following types of open burning are exempt and may be conducted without an open burning permit.

10.10.A.3(c)

c. Fires for the disposal of **residential waste**, but not to include rubber, tires, asphalt compounds or **garbage** at dwellings of four family units or less, in which fires are maintained by the occupant of the dwelling and the burning is conducted in an approved container. An approved container shall be any container which has a capacity that does not exceed 55 gallons in volume and has a one inch spaced wire or other suitable spark arresting device for the control of wind blown materials.

No person shall allow, cause or permit fires for the disposal of **household rubbish** at dwellings of more than four family units.

LCCO 10.2 Definitions:

"**Garbage**" means all solid and semi-solid putrescible and nonputrescible animal and vegetable wastes resulting from the handling, preparing, cooking, storing, and serving of food, or of material intended for use as food, but excluding recognized industrial by-products.

"**Household rubbish**" means waste material and trash, not to include garbage, petroleum or asphalt-based products, normally accumulated by a family at a residence in the course of ordinary day-to-day living.

"Landscape waste" means any vegetable or plant wastes except garbage. The term includes trees, tree trimmings, branches, stumps, brush, weeds, leaves, grass, shrubbery and yard trimmings.

"Residential waste" means any refuse generated on the premises as a result of residential activities. The term includes landscape waste grown on the premises or deposited thereon by the elements, **but excludes garbage, tires, trade wastes, and any locally recyclable goods or plastics.**