



Backyard burning in Whangārei

Smoke from outdoor burning pollutes the air and can cause serious health problems. The smoke from burning leaves, grass, brush and tree needles can cause asthma, emphysema, bronchitis and lung cancer.

Rules within the Whangārei city airshed

The Whangārei airshed boundary includes most of: Te Kamo, Tikipunga, Morningside, Central Whangārei, Otangarei, Raumanga, Maunu and Onerahi areas.

- » Outdoor burning is only allowed on properties one hectare or bigger.
- » You are only allowed to burn untreated wood, paper, cardboard, or vegetation.
- » You must ensure that you do not cause a smoke or odour nuisance outside your boundary.
- » You must not burn during June, July or August when air quality can be a problem.

Outdoor burning is only allowed on properties one hectare or bigger.

Go to www.nrc.govt.nz/backyardburning for a map of the airshed, and the rules in detail. If you are on an industrial or trade premises – see the Burning on trade premises information.

Cooking fires, kilns and bonfires

Burning for cooking - including BBQ, hangi or umu - is permitted, along with wood fired kiln and in some cases community bonfires. However, you must not cause smoke or odour nuisance outside of your boundaries.

Reporting a smoke nuisance or a fire

Concerned about smoke or a fire? Try talking to the person, they may be unaware they are causing a problem. If the nuisance continues, call our 24/7 Environmental Hotline on 0800 504 639.

Alternatives to burning

- » Dispose of your waste through council's roadside collection.
- » Recycle plastics, paper, glass and tins by placing them in your recycling bin, or taking them to your local recycling centre.
- » Compost your garden waste - including clippings, trimmings, small branches and leaves.
- » Take larger quantities of refuse to a transfer station for disposal.

Fire permits and restrictions

Northland Regional Council does not issue fire permits.

- » During a fire ban you are not allowed to light fires or burn outside.
- » During a restricted fire season, you must apply for a permit.

Even with a permit the rules above still apply.

- » To find out if there is a fire restriction or ban in place, or to apply for a permit, go to www.checkitsalright.nz or call 0800 658 628.

Penalties

Those found breaching regional rules may face enforcement action and this can include being issued with an instant fine of up to \$2,600.

Contact details

To report smoke nuisance and/or an air quality issue, call the regional council on our 24/7 Environmental Hotline: 0800 504 639

If you feel the fire is a danger, call 111 immediately.