

GUIDE TO LANDSCAPE WASTE DISPOSAL & OPEN BURNING RULES IN DU PAGE COUNTY



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March 2012

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In 1990, the DuPage County Board passed Ordinance OWR-001-90 banning the illegal disposal of landscape waste in unincorporated DuPage County, now addressed in Chapter 30 of the DuPage County Code.

WHY?

- To maintain acceptable ambient air quality and to protect the health, welfare and safety of DuPage County's residents.
- The open burning of landscape wastes produces particulate matter that may exceed the National Ambient Air Quality survey standard.

WHAT DOES DU PAGE COUNTY'S ORDINANCE SAY?

Sec. 30-17(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or allow any open and uncontrolled burning of landscape wastes at any site in unincorporated DuPage County.

Sec. 30-17(B) It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or allow the burning of any refuse including landscape waste in any chamber not specifically designed for the purpose and approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to regulations adopted by the Illinois Pollution Control Board or specified by this Ordinance.

Sec. 30-18(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to cause or allow the open dumping or disposal of any waste including landscape waste at any site in unincorporated DuPage County, except at a site approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to regulations adopted by the Illinois Pollution Control Board and in accordance with the requirements of this Ordinance.

Sec. 30-18(B) It shall be unlawful for any person to abandon, dump or deposit any waste, including landscape waste, upon the public highways or other public property, except at a site approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to regulations adopted by the Illinois Pollution Control Board and in accordance with the requirements of this Ordinance.

WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES?

Under the Ordinance, open burning is considered a petty offense and is subject to a **\$500.00 minimum fine and a \$1,000.00 maximum fine**. The offender may also be required to remove and properly dispose of illegally dumped yard waste. The court may order the County to supervise the removal of the illegally disposed of waste. The cost of such removal is recoverable from the offender.

WHAT ARE THE EXCEPTIONS?

- Burning for habitat management, fire protection management practices (both require a permit from the Illinois EPA) and one-time bonfires for institutional special events are allowed in unincorporated areas of DuPage County. Contact your fire department for any local requirements.
- Occasional recreational fires such as barbecues, campfires and fire pits when used for food preparation purposes are allowed in unincorporated DuPage County. The only item that may be used for this type of fire is clean dry firewood. Wood burned in these instances may be considered fuel if it is being used for the purpose of creating energy, rather than for providing a means by which to discard the landscape waste. The burning of leaves, shrubbery, grass, and construction wood is **never** allowed.

HOW DO I OBTAIN A PERMIT?

Permits may be obtained from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Air. Please call (217) 782-2113 for further information. Please note that an air curtain destructor may be required to burn in DuPage County. Always check with your local fire department prior to burning.

Other questions or for information on facilities that are permitted to take landscape waste may be directed to DuPage County at (630) 407-6700.

HOW DO I REPORT SOMEONE WHO ILLEGALLY BURNS?

To report someone who you feel is violating this DuPage County Ordinance, call the DuPage County Sheriff's Department by dialing 911.