

Allowed - No Permit Required

In King William County, open burning is allowed without a permit for the items listed below provided three conditions are met:

1. The burning takes place on private property.
 2. The location of the burning is at least 300 feet away from any occupied building unless the occupants have given prior written permission.
 3. The party responsible for the burning notifies King William Dispatch (804-769-0492) of the date, time, and location of the open burning. Failure to notify Dispatch may result in a Class 1 misdemeanor.
- Camp fires or other fires used solely for recreational purposes, ceremonial occasions, outdoor noncommercial food preparation, and for warming outdoor workers provided prohibited materials are not burned.
 - On-site destruction of leaves, tree, yard, and garden trimmings, provided no regularly scheduled collection service is available.
 - On-site destruction of household waste by homeowners or tenants, provided no regularly scheduled collection service is available.

King William County complies with the provisions of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) in its entirety. The Board of Supervisors has authorized the County Fire Official to enforce the SFPC as provided for by §27-37.1 of the Code of Virginia.

Contact firemarshal@kingwilliamcounty.us with any questions and for more information.

Brochure Updated: December 20, 2022

What is Open Burning?

Open Burning is the burning of unwanted materials, such as paper, trees, brush, leaves, grass, and other debris, where smoke and other emissions are released directly into the air. During open burning, air pollutants do not pass through a chimney or stack, and/or combustion of the solid waste is inadequately controlled.

Open burning pollutes the air and poses a forest fire hazard. The air pollution created by open burning can irritate eyes and lungs, obscure visibility, create annoying odors, or pose other nuisance or health threats.

Because of the problems created by this activity, state and local laws prohibit open burning of many materials. Many people are unaware of the regulations or unsure about which regulations apply to them. The information in this brochure will help identify the problems, regulations, sources of information, and alternatives to open burning.

Alternatives to Open Burning

- **Compost organic waste** and use for mulch to produce valuable soil fertilizer through the natural process of decomposition. Compost piles are simple to begin and maintain, and take up relatively little space. Learn what items are suitable for composting by contacting the [Extension Office](#) or visit kingwilliam.ext.vt.edu.
- **Recycle or dispose of unwanted items** at a [VPPSA](#) Convenience Center, Transfer Center, or the Landfill rather than burning them. Visit kingwilliamcounty.us for locations and hours.
- **Donate** reusable items to family members, friends, or charitable organizations.



COUNTY OF KING WILLIAM, VIRGINIA

Open Burning Regulations

King William County
180 Horse Landing Road #4
King William, VA 23086
www.kingwilliamcounty.us

Dept. of Fire & EMS - (804) 769-4960
Non-Emergency Dispatch - (804) 769-0492
Fire Official
firemarshal@kingwilliamcounty.us

Allowed - Permit Required

In King William County, a Burn Permit is required for debris piles and bonfires greater than 2,400 cubic ft. (approx. 20'x20'x6'). The full conditions for such fires are provided on the [burn permit application](#). Some conditions include:

- The fire consists of brush, stumps, and similar debris waste and shall not include demolition or construction waste or any of the prohibited items listed herein.
- The fire must be attended at all times.
- The fire must be at least 500 feet from any occupied building unless the occupants have given written permission.
- The respective power company must be contacted for written approval if power lines are near the burn site.
- Burning shall be conducted only when the prevailing winds are away from any city, town, or built-up area.

The burn permit application must be submitted at least three days prior to the planned date of the burn. Applications can be completed online or downloaded from kingwilliamcounty.us.

Open burning for forestry and agricultural purposes are regulated by the Department of Forestry and Virginia Air Pollution Control Board (DEQ) and do not require a King William County Burn Permit. Check with those authorities for any permits or conditions they may require.

No permits are required by homeowners for the open burning of grass clippings, leaves, and limbs. Homeowners are required to notify King William Dispatch (804-769-0492) when burning. Failure to notify Dispatch may result in a Class 1 misdemeanor. If you live in a subdivision, open burning may be prohibited. Check with your HOA or other neighborhood association for any regulations.

Forestry Burning Laws

Open burning may be used for the following forest management practices provided the burning is conducted in accordance with the Department of Forestry's smoke management plan: To

1. Reduce forest fuels and minimize the effect of wild fires.
2. Control undesirable growth of hardwoods.
3. Control disease in pine seedlings.
4. Prepare forest land for planting or seeding.
5. Create a favorable habitat for certain species.
6. Remove dead vegetation for maintenance of railroad, highway, and public utility right-of-way.

Open burning for forestry is regulated by the Department of Forestry and does not require a King William County Burn Permit. The party responsible for the burning must notify King William Dispatch (804-769-0492) when burning. Failure to notify Dispatch may result in a Class 1 misdemeanor. Check with the [Virginia Department of Forestry](#) for any permits or conditions they may require - dof.virginia.gov or 804-769-2962 (Aylett Office).

Prohibited Items to Burn

The following items are always prohibited from open burning in King William County:

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| ✘ Tires | ✘ Animal waste |
| ✘ Used oil | ✘ Petroleum based materials |
| ✘ Coated wires | ✘ Impregnated or chemically treated wood and lumber |
| ✘ Asphaltic materials | ✘ Batteries |
| ✘ Roofing shingles | ✘ Synthetic and painted building materials containing high concentrations of hazardous compounds that produce toxic emissions when burned |
| ✘ Construction & demolition waste | |
| ✘ Hazardous wastes & waste containers | |
| ✘ Animal carcasses | |

Agricultural Burning Laws

Open burning for agricultural practices is allowed for the following agricultural practices: To

1. Destroy undesirable or diseased vegetation.
2. Clear orchards and orchard prunings.
3. Destroy empty fertilizer and chemical containers.
4. Denature seed and grain that may no longer be suitable for agricultural purposes.
5. Prevent loss from frost or freeze damage.
6. Create a favorable habitat for certain species.
7. Destroy strings and plastic ground cover remaining in the field after being used in growing staked tomatoes.

Open burning for agriculture is regulated by the [Virginia Air Pollution Control Board](#) and does not require a King William County Burn Permit. The party responsible for the burning must notify King William Dispatch (804-769-0492) when burning. Failure to notify Dispatch may result in a Class 1 misdemeanor. Check with DEQ for any permits or conditions they may require - deq.virginia.gov or 804-527-5020 (Piedmont Region).

