

## Other Resources

North Cowichan Fire Protection Bylaw  
[www.northcowichan.ca](http://www.northcowichan.ca)

Click on Municipal Hall, then Bylaws

More Information on Campfires and  
Recreational Fire Pits in North Cowichan  
Visit [www.northcowichan.ca/AirQuality](http://www.northcowichan.ca/AirQuality) and  
click on: Campfires/Recreational Fire Pits

BC Venting Index  
1-888-281-2992

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/venting](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/venting)

BC Government Fire Bans  
and Restrictions Information  
[www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-  
status/fire-bans-and-restrictions](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/fire-bans-and-restrictions)

Open Burn Smoke Control Regulation  
[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/enviro  
nment/air-land-water/air/air-pollution/smoke-  
burning/regulations/openburningregulation](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air/air-pollution/smoke-burning/regulations/openburningregulation)



7030 Trans Canada Highway  
Duncan BC V9L 6A1  
T: 250-746-3108  
F: 250-746-3133

[bylaw@northcowichan.ca](mailto:bylaw@northcowichan.ca)  
[www.northcowichan.ca/AirQuality](http://www.northcowichan.ca/AirQuality)

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# DISPOSING OF YARD WASTE

## OPEN BURNING What You Need to Know



Peerless Road Recycling Centre

### Cowichan Valley Regional District Recycling Facilities:

North Cowichan encourages you to compost at home, utilize a wood chipper or take your yard waste (year-round, free of charge) to:

#### Bings Creek Recycling Centre & Garbage Drop-Off Depot

Address: 3900 Drinkwater Road, Duncan  
Hours: Open every day 8 am to 5 pm  
Closed on all Statutory Holidays, Easter Monday  
and Boxing Day

#### Peerless Road Recycling Centre & Garbage Drop-Off Depot

Address: 10830 Westdowne Road, Ladysmith  
Hours: please call 250-746-2540  
Closed on all Statutory Holidays, Easter Monday  
and Boxing Day

## How to Obtain a Burning Permit

Burning is only allowed in limited circumstances and all requirements must be met:

If your property is within the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB) a permit is required (free of charge) and:

- the property must be 2 acres or larger
- you must obtain a Municipal Permit
- only between March 15 to April 15 AND September 15 to November 30 (burn window)
- only when the venting index is **GOOD**
- in compliance with the High Smoke Sensitivity Zone & OBSCR

If your property is outside the UCB, a permit is not required but you can only burn:

- between March 15 to April 15 AND September 15 to November 30 (burn window); and
- when the venting index is **GOOD**
- in compliance with the High Smoke Sensitivity Zone - OBSCR

**These are the minimum requirements, more details are located on our website.**



## Frequently Asked Questions

### How do I know if my property is in the UCB?

The UCB is defined in the Official Community Plan (OCP) as those areas within the Municipality that are designated for urban growth and development, while areas outside the UCB are designated to remain rural. Approximately 8% of the land base in North Cowichan is within the UCB and 92% is outside of the UCB. You can use our online mapping tool to confirm if your property is within the UCB by going to:

[www.northcowichan.ca/UCB](http://www.northcowichan.ca/UCB)

Type your address into the search bar, and click enter to see if you are inside or outside the UCB.

### How do I obtain a burning permit?

- confirm the eligibility of the property (must be within the UCB and larger than 2 acres)
- complete an application form
- complete an agent authorization form (required if you are not the property owner)
- review and adhere to the [BC Open Burning and Smoke Control Regulation](#) and High Smoke Sensitivity Zone map

There is no fee to apply for, or obtain, a burning permit.

### Do I need a new permit each time I burn?

- you can burn multiple times within a single burn window
- you will need a new permit for each Spring and Fall burn window



### What are the setbacks for open burning?

Fires must be located at least:

- 4 m from all buildings, structures, and combustible and flammable materials, and
- 10 m from all property lines

### Can I have a campfire or recreational fire pit in my backyard?

Unless there is a complete campfire ban issued by BC Wildfire Service, campfires (less than 0.5m<sup>3</sup>) are allowed throughout the Municipality, including within the UCB. [See our website for more details.](#)

### Why does the Municipality discourage the burning of yard waste?

We encourage other means of disposing of yard waste to reduce the volume of fine particulates being discharged and strive to enhance our air quality. In particular, we limit burning within the UCB because these areas have the highest density of homes and businesses that can be adversely affected by smoke from nearby burning.

Recent studies conducted in the Cowichan Valley have found that 53% of total PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions (these fine particles can remain airborne for long periods and travel hundreds of miles and are a major cause of respiratory ailments) resulted from open burning, 24% from space heating, 14% from the pulp and paper industry, 6% from mobile sources such as vehicles and 3% from other miscellaneous sources.



### What about burning on BC Assessment Authority Registered Class 9 farms?

Burning completed under "normal farm practices" as defined in the *Right to Farm Act* is exempt from the requirements of the Municipal [Fire Protection Bylaw](#), providing that the land on which the burning takes place is appropriately zoned to allow farming as a land use, is done within the [BC Open Burning and Smoke Control Regulation](#) and is part of a legitimate farm business.

### What about Category 3 burns?

These are fires that are larger than 2m high and 3m wide, or multiple piles burned concurrently, and are typically used to burn debris from land clearing or development. Category 3 burns are not allowed within the UCB at any time. They are allowed outside the UCB only in conjunction with an air curtain burner.

### How do I report a suspected violation?

Email [bylaw@northcowichan.ca](mailto:bylaw@northcowichan.ca) and include a photo (if possible), the address, date and time of the suspected violation. Be aware that North Cowichan may not be able to respond immediately. We will follow up with property owners to ensure they are aware of the requirements for open burning.

