


Know the Law Before You Build!

Building a home or shop is an exciting, busy time. There are a lot of things to remember, and knowing the law will help you and your neighbors stay safe. When you build, make sure to keep the following things in mind:



Dust

While building your house, it is your responsibility to make sure that your dust is under control. If left uncontrolled, dust can be a public health hazard. When inhaled, fine dust particles travel deep into the lungs, increasing breathing problems, damaging lung tissue, and aggravating existing health problems.

Those at most risk of health effects are those with respiratory conditions, the elderly and the young. Children are at risk because their lungs are still developing. When demolishing, use water before, during and after to control dust. Use fabric or water to cover large dirt piles on the property during construction, and make sure to plant or cover exposed ground to control dust in the future.

Land Clearing

Sometimes you need to clear a piece of land before you can build on it. There are several ways you can deal with land that needs to be cleared:

- You can hire a company to clear it for you.
- You can clear it yourself, cutting the trees into firewood or using a chipper to create mulch.
- If you would like to burn natural vegetation resulting from clearing a site, you must get a Land Clearing Permit. (Permits are not available in all areas; call Ecology at the number below to find out if you can get one in your area.)

Disposal of Construction Debris

It is illegal to burn the following Materials (WAC 173-425-050):

- Building materials including paints, flooring, roofing and scrap lumber
- Rubber products, including tires
- Plastics or petroleum products
- Garbage, including asphalt and metal
- Cardboard and paper

Burning these materials can release toxic chemicals into the air. All of the above materials must be recycled, composted or brought to a landfill or transfer station. In many areas, burning anything could result in a fine of up to \$10,000! It pays to dispose of your debris properly!



Burn barrels are illegal in Washington!

Contact Ecology for more information: Eastern Regional Office, (509) 329-3400; or visit www.ecy.wa.gov.



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If you need this publication in another format, please call Tami Dahlgren at (360) 407-6800. If you have a hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. If you have a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.