



**Summary of Open Burning of Landscape
Waste Regulations
McHenry County Public Health Ordinance
Effective April 1, 2008**



**View a copy of the Ordinance:
www.mcdh.info
or call 815.334.4585**

**This Ordinance applies to all areas of McHenry County.
If you live in a city with more stringent restrictions, the more restrictive rules apply.**

PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES

- Burning of manure, garbage, construction debris, trash, etc. on any property in McHenry County.
- Burning of landscape waste within 100' of a habitable structure (i.e. residence, school, etc)
- Burning of landscape waste within 50' of a non-habitable structure (i.e. detached garage, barn, etc).

RESTRICTIONS WHEN GREATER THAN 100' FROM A HABITABLE STRUCTURE AND 50' FROM A NON-HABITABLE STRUCTURE

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| • Only landscape waste and only on the property where the landscape waste was generated | • Only when the winds are less than 10 mph |
| • Only during the months of April, May, Oct. and Nov. - on weekend days (Saturdays and Sundays) | • Must be supervised by an individual at least 18 years of age |
| • Only between dawn and dusk | • A fire extinguisher, garden hose or water source must be available at the burning site |

500' EXEMPTIONS:

Burning of on-site generated landscape waste 500' or greater from a habitable structure is allowed:

- 1) During any month of the year
- 2) On any day of the week
- 3) At any time of the day

OTHER EXEMPTIONS:

- Recreational fires; not larger than 3'x3'x3', and excludes leaves, grass or shrubbery clippings
- Ceremonial fires (bonfires) larger than 3'x3'x3', and excludes leaves, grass or shrubbery clippings; permit required from McHenry County Department of Health
- Habitat Reclamation or Firefighter Training

NOTE: All other prohibitions / restrictions apply.

ENFORCEMENT

Any officer of the McHenry County Department of Health, law enforcement agency, fire department or fire protection district is authorized to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.

McHenry County Department of Health
Division of Environmental Health
2200 N Seminary Ave
Woodstock, IL 60098
www.mcdh.info
815.334.4585



Alternative Ways to Dispose of Landscape Waste

The Open Burning of Landscape Waste Ordinance became effective April 1, 2008. Residents who may have been able to burn leaves and landscape waste in the past, may no longer be able to do so.

The Health Department recommends composting, mulching and native landscaping as possible alternatives to reduce/reuse landscape waste. If landscape waste removal is necessary, residents can contact their waste hauler for curbside pickup, or work together with their neighbors to rent roll-off dumpsters or contract waste haulers to organize a group pickup of leaves and landscape waste. For a fee, homeowners may drop-off yard waste at an approved compost facility or landscape waste transfer station. Complete details regarding suggestions can be found at our web site www.mcdh.info or by calling 815-334-4585.



Composting

By composting you return organic matter to the soil in a useable form. The composting process reduces material volume by 70 - 80%. Organic material in the soil improves plant growth by:

- Enhancing soil texture
- Adding nutrients back into the soil
- Increasing the soil's ability to retain water & nutrients
- Improving soil structure by adding organic matter
- Loosening heavy soils, allowing better root penetration
- Reducing the need for fertilizers

Mulching

Use your mower to shred leaves into bits which will be washed down into the soil between the grass blades during the next rain. Mulched leaves contribute to soil health by:

- Adding nutrients & organic content
- Encouraging earthworm activity
- Preventing soil compaction
- Conserving moisture
- Reducing weeds and soil erosion

Native Landscaping

Selecting plants that are native to our area will provide the following benefits:

- Reduce pesticide use
- Reduce use of power equipment
- Enhance wildlife habitat
- Less upkeep and watering
- Benefit local wildlife
- Reduce yard work

Local Waste Haulers

Waste haulers who are licensed in McHenry County and provide regular residential waste pickup are required to offer the service of picking up landscape waste. An additional fee may be charged for the service.

Some waste haulers offer additional services for landscape waste/removal. Options may include working cooperatively with neighbors and subdivision associations to contract with a licensed waste hauler to pick up bagged or loose leaves from curbsides or dumpsters. Another option is to coordinate roll-off containers that would be shared by multiple properties and then picked up by the waste hauler for appropriate disposal.

For additional services offered by waste haulers see: www.mcdh.info — Nuisance Control; Open Burning of Landscape Waste — Other Alternatives

Yard Waste Recycling Facilities

Homeowners also have the option of dropping off their yard waste at an approved compost facility or landscape waste transfer station for a fee.

For more information call:

Thelen Sand and Gravel Compost Facility

815-675-6613
www.thelensg.com

Midwest Organics Recycling

847-493-9116
www.compostmatters.com

Petersen Pit Landscape Waste Transfer Facility

815-675-6613

Garden Prairie Organics

815-597-1318
www.gpocompost.com



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