

LAND

Debris Management Guidelines for Residents

This fact sheet is intended to assist the public in making informed decisions about managing debris from the recent floods. If you have a significant amount of debris from the flood, check with your local officials to see if they have an approved community staging area available for your use. Otherwise, you should utilize the specific disposal options identified for each of the following debris categories.



Rock, Brick, Concrete & Asphalt

- Not considered solid waste and may be left in place or buried

Tree Limbs

- Check with your local officials to see if a chipper is available
- May be burned on the property where generated as long as the burning is done in compliance with burning guidelines listed on page 2

Untreated Lumber

- Check with your local officials to see if a chipper is available
- Burning of untreated lumber debris from the 2007 Oklahoma floods may be approved by the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. Check with your local officials to see if a "Limited Open Burning Exception" has been approved for your area. The burn must be done in compliance with the burning guidelines listed on page 2.

Household Waste (Including Bedding & Clothing)

- Your usual household waste disposal method

Furniture & Carpet

- Take to a permitted landfill or transfer station
- Do not burn

Construction Demolition Waste (Shingles, siding, sheetrock, treated lumber, pvc pipe, wiring, etc.)

- Take to a permitted landfill or transfer station
- Do not burn

Metal Appliances, Cars & Other Bulky Metal Items

- Try to recycle or take to a salvage yard
- Take to a permitted landfill or transfer station

Computers, TV's & Other Electronics

- Try to recycle components
- Take to a permitted landfill or transfer station

Chemicals (Explosives, fuel containers, pressurized gas cylinders, chlorine, batteries, paint, etc.)

- Check with local officials to determine if local household hazardous waste collection center is available
- Check with your local landfill, transfer station, or trash pick-up service provider to see what they will accept.
- You may call DEQ at 1-800-522-0206 for assistance in determining the proper method of disposal.
- Do not burn

Open Burning Guidelines



Burning any combustible material results in emissions of carbon monoxide, particulate matter, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and air toxics. Thus, the use of open burning as a disposal method should be minimized. Open burning of tires is not allowed under any circumstances.

The following requirements **MUST** be met when conducting open burning:

- The open burning cannot create a public nuisance.
- The open burning must be controlled so that a visibility hazard is not created on any roadway, rail track or air field as a result of the air contaminants being emitted.
- The open burning must be conducted so that the contaminants do not adversely affect the ambient air quality of a city or town.
- The initial burning must begin at least three hours after sunrise and no less than three hours before sunset. Also, fuel shall not be intentionally added to the fire at times outside this time period.
- The open burning must not be prohibited by local ordinances or a burn ban.

The following guidelines should be followed in order to minimize the threat of harm to the public health and environment:

- The site of the open burning shall be located at least 500 feet from area residences. A minimum of one-half mile is strongly recommended.
- The site should be inspected to ensure that there are no petroleum pipelines on or near the burn site to avoid explosion hazards.
- Items that should not be burned, such as *asbestos, oils, PVC pipe, fertilizer, carpet, upholstered furniture, treated lumber, rubber, tires, etc.*, should be eliminated from the burn pile.
- The amount of dirt and other non-combustible materials comingled with the debris to be burned should be minimized to achieve the most efficient burn.
- Someone with fire fighting equipment should be at the site at all times.



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For more information on debris management, please contact DEQ at 1-800-522-0206.