



Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Do I need a permit?
 - YES! All open burning in Mesa County requires a permit. There are two types of permits issued by the Mesa County Health Department: Agricultural burn permits and General burn permits.
2. Why do I need a permit?
 - Permits are issued to help educate the community on the rules for open burning. Open burning is regulated to protect the health and welfare of Mesa County residents.
3. How do I know what permit to get?
 - The online application system selects the permit type based on the Mesa County assessor's property use designation. Visit www.health.mesacounty.us
4. I tried to use the online system and it keeps sending me to the permit that costs, but I am agricultural. Why won't it let me select the permit type?
 - The online system uses the property type assigned by the assessor's office. If you have additional information that might change the status of the property, contact the Mesa County Assessor's office.
5. I am agricultural and never needed a permit before, why do I need one now?
 - Mesa County Health Department and Mesa County fire districts worked in partnership to standardize the permitting process. Properties designated agricultural are still exempt from the air quality requirements, and there is no fee associated with the permit. Issuing agricultural permits is in compliance with fire safety requirements, lets us collect data on open burning and provide education in a standardized format to all Mesa County residents.
6. When does the agricultural permit expire?
 - The agricultural permit expires at the end of the year, Dec. 31.
7. Why are the "general burn permits" only valid for 2 weeks?
 - We want to encourage people to be prepared and conscientious about their burns. Setting an expiration helps people prepare for the burn by getting their materials ready in advance, consider alternatives and helps space out the burns so that pollution concerns are lessened.
8. What happens if I can't burn before my permit expires?
 - If there are burn restrictions issued during the 2 week period of the permit, contact the Mesa County Health Department to be considered for an extension on the permit. 970-248-6900

9. When are the burn seasons?

- Spring season – March 1 to May 30
- Fall season – Sept 1 to Oct 31

10. What if I live in Grand Junction city limits?

- Contact the Grand Junction Fire Department

11. Do I need a permit to burn in a fire pit?

- No, fire pits are not considered part of open burning because the burn is contained. However, this does not mean that you can burn trash or restricted materials in a pit. Recreational fires and outdoor fire pits or fireplaces must be at least 25 feet from structures, and cannot be larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height.

12. Do I need a permit for a bonfire?

- Yes, an agricultural permit will be issued at no cost. Contact the Mesa County Health Department 970-248-6900.

13. Why can't I get a general burn permit postdated or get it before the burn season starts?

- Due to the nature of the online system, general burn permits are assigned permit numbers and expiration dates based on the date of purchase. Agricultural permits will be issued year round, but for the launch of the new system will not be available until March 1.

14. Do I have to get a new permit each time I want to burn?

- General burn permit holders have two weeks to complete your burn. If you can't get all of your materials burned within the two weeks, you will be required to get another permit. You can get as many permits as you need, but remember that you can't burn more than 50 piles, more than 10 acres of grass or more than 5 acres of other vegetation in a year.

15. Why can't I burn in a barrel?

- The metal that the barrel is made out of releases toxins when it's heated.

16. Why can't I burn tree stumps?

- Tree stumps typically have lots of dirt that will prevent the stump from burning through, causing them to smolder and smoke.

17. Why can't I burn leaves or grass piles?

- Leaves and grass clipping piles are very dense and don't dry out well, causing them to smolder and produce a lot of smoke.