

Burn Barrels

Burning garbage has been illegal for most Minnesotans since 1969!

It is prohibited by Chisago County Ordinance, punishable by a fine, and enforced by DNR Conservation Officers and the Chisago County Sheriff.

Burn barrels, outdoor furnaces, and refuse piles burn modern garbage and paper at such low temperatures that they create and release toxic smoke containing dioxin, arsenic, lead, and mercury, right into your back yard!



These pollutants are linked to a long list of health problems including cancer, hormone disruption, and reproductive disorders.

Also, illegal burning is responsible for up to 40% of the wildfires in Minnesota every year!

Instead, sign up for garbage and recycling service with a [Licensed Hauler in Chisago County \(PDF\)](#). Licensed garbage service is easy, reliable, and cost effective. Many garbage haulers have a low volume discount. Additionally, garbage volume can be reduced by recycling.

Another option is to self-haul your garbage to a licensed transfer station. [View a listing of Solid Waste Disposal Services \(PDF\)](#).

3" diameter wood campfires are legal, and brush can be burned after obtaining a burning permit from the local DNR fire warden. However, you cannot burn treated, painted, or glued lumber, or construction and demolition (C&D) debris; instead, rent a roll-off from a local garbage hauler or take it to a licensed C&D landfill.

Call the Sheriff's Office at 651-257-4100, while the burning is taking place, if you have an illegal burning complaint.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Conservation Officers also ticket illegal burning activities, especially when it leads to wildfires. **Call the Cambridge Forestry Office at 763-689-7101.**

Burned Structures

The **debris from an accidental residential fire must go to a lined landfill**, (Chisago County uses the East Central Solid Waste Commission landfill in Mora). The ashes **cannot** go to an unlined landfill, (such as DKV demolition landfill in Rush City).



The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency confirms:

1. Ashes from accidental burn of a residential or commercial structure, whose remains consist of unrecognizable rubble, household contents, and ashes, are required to go to a lined landfill because of pollution and contamination issues.
2. If the structure cannot be surveyed for asbestos, it may also need to be disposed of as asbestos waste. If part of the building can be taken apart separately, only the recognizable demolition debris can go to an unlined landfill, (DKV).
3. Therefore, two dumpsters are needed to clean up an accidental burn site:
 - a. one for ashes that must go to a lined landfill, and
 - b. one for demolition that may go to an unlined landfill.

Chisago County has a demolition permit process to take down unwanted residential structures, which includes burned structures. Please see: [Environmental Services/Zoning & Parks – Building, Construction & Demolition Permits Page](#) on this website for more information.

Contact the Chisago County Solid Waste Administrator by calling 651-213-8923 for more information.

- [LINK to Minnesota \(DNR\) Website for Burning Permit Information](#)
- [LINK to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(PCA\) Website to view their Toolkit: No more burn barrels](#)