



PERMIT TO BURN

INFORMATION GUIDE

When is Burning Allowed?

City of Kalamunda residents and/or landowners can burn during the dates listed below.

NOTE: The dates reflect prevailing seasonal conditions and are subject to change. Before lighting a fire ensure you check conditions and dates with the City.

Burning is not permitted when the fire danger rating is High or above or a TOTAL FIRE BAN is declared.

BURNING PERMITTED - 1 June - 30 September

Burning permitted. Conditions still apply - refer to page 3.

SPRING - RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD: 1 October - 30 November

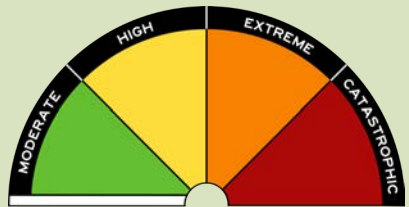
AUTUMN - RESTRICTED BURNING PERIOD: 1 April - 31 May

- » Permits to burn are required for burning activity during the day or evening when piles exceed 1m³.
- » 1m³ garden refuse piles can be burnt without a permit between the hours of 6pm - 11pm. Conditions still apply - refer to page 3.

SUMMER - PROHIBITED BURNING PERIOD: 1 December - 31 March

- » NO burning activities permitted at any time. Report all signs of smoke to 000.
- » For information on fires for the purpose of cooking during this period download the information sheet [here](#).

Penalties exist for lighting fires outside of the fire and burning regulations with modified penalties of \$250 up to \$5,000. An on the spot fine of \$1,000 can be issued for breaching a Total Fire Ban. If the circumstances are severe enough it may lead to a conviction and a fine of \$25,000 and / or imprisonment for 12 months can apply.



Changes to the Fire Danger Rating came into effect September 2022.



Burning Without a Permit

You can burn small piles without a permit providing you follow the below conditions. These requirements follow the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

- » Only garden refuse piles can be burnt.
- » The pile should not exceed 1m³ (1m x 1m x 1m) in size.
- » The pile can only be lit between the hours of 6pm and 11pm.
- » The pile must be fully extinguished by midnight.
- » There is no flammable material within 5 metres of the fire while it is burning.
- » At least one person is in attendance of the fire at all times.
- » Ensure the fire is completely extinguished by the application of water.

If you wish to burn a garden refuse/waste pile larger than 1m³ and/or outside of the 6pm to 11pm timeframe you will need to apply for a permit to burn.

NO FIRES CAN BE LIT ON DAYS WHERE THE FIRE DANGER RATING IS HIGH OR ABOVE AND/OR A TOTAL FIRE BAN HAS BEEN DECLARED FOR THE AREA.

To check for fire bans, fire danger ratings, alerts and warnings visit [emergency.wa.gov.au](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au) for all alerts and warnings.

Requesting a Permit to Burn

To ensure City residents and/or landowners are well prepared, it is important that certain measures are taken prior to a permit to burn being issued.

The following requirements follow the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and *Bush Fires Regulations 1954*.

- » The burn pile only consists of garden refuse/waste (refer to 'What am I allowed to burn during the restricted burning period?' on page 6).
- » You have a suitable water source and/or firefighting equipment available for extinguishing the pile. If you use a hose, ensure it is in good working order, has sufficient pressure and can reach past the pile you intend to burn.
- » Plan for three (3) people to be in attendance of the fire at all times until fully extinguished.
- » Install or upgrade a minimum 3-metre bare mineral earth fire break around the pile. The Fire Control Officer issuing the permit may require you to increase the size of the fire break depending on prevailing risks/hazards identified.
- » Check the weather forecast to assist in planning for your burn date.
- » Ensure neighbours are informed of your plans. This must be done no less than 4 days prior in writing or no less than 24 hours verbally.
- » Register your burn with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).
- » If burning within 3km of forest land, you must notify the Department of Biodiversity and Conservation Attractions (DBCA).
- » Check your property does not have any environmental sensitivities that may require additional permits. This is important to ensure you are following any requirements under other legislation. For example, the *WA Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Refer to 'Who do I speak to if I have Declared Rare Flora or Fauna (DRF) or Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) on my property?' on page 7.

NO FIRES CAN BE LIT ON DAYS WHERE THE FIRE DANGER RATING IS HIGH OR ABOVE AND/OR A TOTAL FIRE BAN HAS BEEN DECLARED FOR THE AREA.

Applications for a permit to burn should be made at least one week prior to the intended burn date. This allows sufficient time for a Fire Control Officer to attend the property, assess the burn pile, ensure all other conditions are met and the permit issued on time.

For more helpful information on burning visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Burn SMART at dfes.wa.gov.au/plannedburning/.

NOTE: Running fire permits may have different or additional conditions and requirements. For more information, contact the City on 9257 9999 or email enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au.



Applying for a Permit to Burn

OPTION 1 - ONLINE

- » Visit the City's website and download the Permit to Burn assessment form.
- » Complete the form and return via email to enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au or hand in to the administration building front counter at 2 Railway Road, Kalamunda.

OPTION 2 - PHONE

- » Contact the City on 9257 9999 and provide your details.

OPTION 3 - IN PERSON

- » Visit the City's administration building and collect a Permit to Burn assessment form.
- » Complete the form and hand in to our front counter staff or email through to enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au.

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- » Valid permits are suspended on days when a Total Fire Ban has been declared for the area and/or on days where the Fire Danger Rating is High or above.
 - » Fire Control Officers understand the importance of reducing fuel loads and dead flammable material to improve bushfire safety and property preparedness however, a Fire Control Officer may deny issuing a permit to burn due to safety concerns, environmental sensitivities, or failure to comply with conditions.
 - » If denied a permit to burn you have the opportunity to appeal the decision in writing to the City via enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au where it will be reviewed by the City's Chief Bushfire Control Officer.

What am I allowed to burn during the restricted burning period?

You **CAN** burn the following with caution:

- » Garden refuse /waste piles
- » Bush
- » Paddocks (grass/stubble)

You **CANNOT** burn the following at any time:

- » Plastics
- » Tyres
- » Treated posts or materials
- » Pallets
- » General rubbish and/or junk
- » Any garden refuse that has not come from the property
- » Commercial waste
- » Wet/damp garden refuse causing a smoke nuisance
- » Large stumps and logs (these may continue to burn for an extended period of time falling outside of the permit conditions)
- » Verges*
If you do wish to undertake work to improve the condition or appearance of the verge, please contact the City's Parks and Environment Team on 9257 9999 to seek approval. This is to ensure the relevant guidelines for verge maintenance are followed and avoid any penalties. For more information visit kalamunda.wa.gov.au/our-city/environment/verge-street-trees.

The onus lies on the permit holder and anyone assisting with the burn to comply with the conditions outlined on the permit and under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and *Bush Fires Regulations 1954*.

Managing Smoke

Smoke may be considered a nuisance particularly in urban areas when produced in excessive quantities. If you are undertaking burning activities in the City, be aware of any legislative requirements to manage smoke and avoid causing a smoke nuisance.

Check the weather forecast and the conditions for the day prior to burning. Be mindful that wind restrictions such as direction and speed, may be applied to a Permit to Burn by the issuing Fire Officer. These additional restrictions aim to mitigate smoke travelling across roads, into schools, into businesses and directly into dwellings. For more information visit the City's website and download the [Smoke Management Factsheet](#).

Alternative Measures

Alternatives to burning / creating a smoke nuisance include:

- » Mulching
- » Taking green waste to the Walliston Transfer Station
- » Waste collection bins
- » Green waste wheelie bin

More information:

- » Download the [Smoke Management Factsheet](#) from the City's website.
- » Contact the City's Health and Fire Officers on 9257 9999.
- » Visit the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation website der.wa.gov.au/our-work/programs/burnwise

It is an offence to create a smoke nuisance under the *Public Health Act 2016, Local Government Act 1995* and the *City of Kalamunda Control of Animals and Nuisance Local Law 2011, part 3*.

Environmental and Heritage Protection

Removing trees or vegetation in some areas could have a significant impact on the natural environment or heritage land. It is important to check additional requirements prior to starting any work or burning on your property.

Some considerations may include:

- » Wind, water and soil erosion
- » Landslip risk
- » Declared Rare Flora and Fauna (DRF)
- » Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC)
- » Bush Forever site
- » Weeds and plant disease (dieback)

If you know, suspect or are unsure whether you live at a property with Declared Rare Flora or Fauna and/or Threatened Ecological Communities you should enquire with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). There is legislation in place to protect these environmental sensitivities in Western Australia and DBCA can advise of any additional requirements or regulations.

A full list of contacts is available in the Guide for Applying the Bush Fire Risk Treatment Standards on the DFES website - dfes.wa.gov.au.

Visit www.emergency.wa.gov.au
for all alerts and warnings.

For all emergencies call **000**

2 Railway Road, Kalamunda WA 6076

PO Box 42, Kalamunda WA 6926

T: 08 9257 9999. F: 08 9293 2715

E: enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

kalamunda.wa.gov.au

