



Burning garbage releases dioxins which are a family of halogenated organic compounds that build up in living tissue (bioaccumulate) over time, so even small exposures may accumulate to dangerous levels.

Health Effects of Dioxin

Male Reproductive Effects

- Reduced sperm counts
- Abnormal testes
- Reduced size of genital organs
- Lower testosterone levels
- Male feminization
- Decreased sex drive

Female Reproductive Effects

- Decreased fertility
- Inability to maintain pregnancy/miscarriages
- Ovarian dysfunction
- Endometriosis
- Hormonal changes

Fetal Effects

- Birth defects
- Alteration in reproductive system
- Neurological and developmental problems
- Fetal death
- Delayed puberty

Other Effects

- Chloracne
- Hirsutism
- Hyperpigmentation
- Immune suppression
- Hormonal changes
- Altered glucose response
- Altered fat metabolism
- Wasting syndrome
- Diabetes
- Liver spleen, thymus and bone marrow damage
- Lung cancer
- Stomach and Liver Cancers
- Nerve system damage
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Soft and connective tissue cancers

Clearwater County Environmental Services
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**Clearwater County
Environmental Services
Wants to know:**

Do you burn garbage?



**You're making
poison if you do!**

So What Can You Do?



Alternatives to Burning:

- Reduce waste
- Recycle
- Compost
- Shred Paper
- Use garbage services!

Many of the items commonly burned could be reused, recycled or composted:

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| Newspaper | Cardboard |
| Yard Waste | Food Scraps |
| Used Oil | Office Paper |
| Bottles | Cans |
| Magazines | Lumber Scraps |

Burning may seem to reduce garbage volume, but it really just moves the toxins from the garbage into your body through the air or in food. Even ashes can be toxic!!



Don't burn garbage! Not even at the cabin or in the campfire!

Use recycling and garbage services. Clearwater County provides recycling canisters in Bagley & Clearbrook, household canister sites throughout the county and the Landfill for items prohibited at the canisters. You **PAY** for these services, why not **USE** them!!

Educate your friends, family and neighbors about the hazards of burning!

Know the laws!! Burning garbage has been illegal in Minnesota since 1969. Contact local fire, conservation or law enforcement to report burning.

For more information please contact Clearwater County Environmental Services at 218-694-6183.

- In 1969 Minnesota made backyard burning of garbage illegal!*
- Because burn barrels smolder at lower temperatures and don't have pollution control devices like an incinerator, a barrel can release up to 11 times more dioxin than a full scale incinerator!*
- This pollution damages not only the air quality, but also the soil and water in your very own backyard!*
- It's important to know that 40% of the wildfires in Minnesota are a result of debris burning!*