

Burning garbage releases toxic chemicals into our air, water and soil. These toxins get into the foods we eat and remain in our bodies, where they can cause serious health concerns like cancer. Burning garbage in rural areas where food is produced increases this danger.

Burning can affect everyone who eats, not just those who burn!



If you're burning garbage, you're making poison.



Bernie the Burn Barrel and this brochure developed by the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District with support from the EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office.

*Bernie the
Burn Barrel,
reformed burner*



Burning garbage puts toxins in the food we eat!

Even burning paper can release hazardous pollutants like heavy metals and deadly dioxin. Each burn barrel can release up to 11 times more dioxin than a full-scale municipal incinerator. Burn barrels smolder at lower temperatures and don't contain pollution control devices. Reports show that backyard garbage burning is now the **LARGEST** source of dioxins in the United States. Industry has cleaned up their act—now it's time to clean up ours!

Burning is dangerous to property, too. Debris burning can cause destructive wildfires and even house fires. Help keep the environment and your family safe and healthy- don't burn garbage!



Backyard burning is preventable pollution!

What can you do?

Don't burn garbage!

Not even at the cabin or in the campfire!

Use recycling facilities and garbage services.

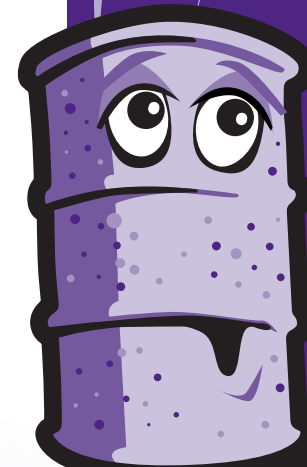
Encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Educate your family and neighbors about the hazards of burning.

Remember Bernie!

Know the laws. Burning garbage is illegal in many states, cities or towns.

Contact local conservation or law enforcement officers for more information.



Alternatives to Burning:

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

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. It's better not to burn!