



Thornton Open Burning Regulations

What is Open Burning?

Open burning is an outdoor fire where wood or other combustible materials are burned for purposes like entertainment, training, or agriculture, as approved by the Thornton Fire Department.

Who Can Open Burn Without a Permit?

Single-family homes, duplexes, and townhomes may burn without a permit if they follow these rules:

- Fires must be contained in a non-combustible chiminea, outdoor fireplace, fire pit, or similar device (max size: 3 ft diameter by 2 ft height).
- Containers must have wire mesh or screens to block sparks and embers.
- Fires must be at least 15 ft from structures and be constantly attended.
- Burning yard waste, leaves, garbage, or rubbish is prohibited.

Examples of approved containers for open burning include chimineas, outdoor fireplaces, and firepits with a mesh lids. Other containment methods, such as a built-in pit or fire ring may also be approved.

Who Needs a Permit?

Open burning is prohibited in apartments, condos, or shared spaces without a permit. All other open burning activities, including larger fires or events, require a permit from the Thornton Fire Department.

FAQs

Can I have a fire in a condo or apartment common area? Yes, but a permit is required.

Can my church group have a bonfire in the parking lot? No, unless it's part of a government-sponsored event. Small, contained fires require a permit.

Can our school have a bonfire for Homecoming? Yes, if it's a government-sponsored event (school district) and you obtain a permit.

Can my company use real fire for fire extinguisher training? Yes, with a permit and a trained professional conducting the training.

Can I burn tree limbs or yard waste? No, burning yard waste or leaves is prohibited.

What if my neighbor's outdoor fireplace smoke bothers me? The Fire Department can require fires to be extinguished if they create a hazard or health risk, but typically won't intervene over unpleasant odors.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO OBTAIN A PERMIT
call the Thornton Fire Department at 303-538-7602 or visit goCOT.net/fire.**