

South Australia's Laws for Burning in the Open

Do you know that burning plastics (like the string that comes on hay bales, the strings and clips used for staking tomatoes, cucumbers and capsicum, and the plastic used to wrap greenhouses) is not allowed in South Australia?

Burning plastic produces toxic fumes which affects the air quality and may affect the health of people and wildlife in the area. Even if you have a permit for Burning in the Open, you are not able to burn plastics.

String and plastic can be discarded in your red bin, or delivered to Wingfield Transfer Station for disposal to landfill. Council is currently working with industry to investigate alternative disposal solutions for the future.

Keep our air healthy and our community safe by burning responsibly

Why burning in the open is regulated

Burning in the open is a common practice to reduce the risk of bushfires, manage agricultural land and to dispose of agricultural and forestry wastes. Open fires are also used to cook food, prepare beverages, and as part of recreational activities (ie campfires).

While activities such as burn offs for bushfire reduction are absolutely necessary, smoke from these activities can impact on human health and the environment, and can also cause nuisance. Wood smoke from burning in the open also contributes to poor air quality in South Australia.



In the City of Playford you can only burn when it is for:

- Disposal of agricultural or forestry waste (vegetation only) – requires council approval (permit or notice)
- Preparation of food or beverages where the size of the fire and fuel are appropriate for that purpose
- Heating an outdoor area using a brazier, chiminea or fire pit – charcoal only
- Fire prevention or control (vegetation) – requires council approval (permit or notice)
- Other – requires council approval (permit or notice)

Need to apply for a permit? See information below.

If you burn without a required permit you will be breaking the law and will be fined \$300, under section 34 of the Environment Protection Act 1993, by Council compliance staff or South Australia Police. In addition, a person who contravenes a mandatory provision of an environment protection policy is guilty of an offence. Maximum penalty for a category B offence—\$4,000. If you see an incidence of illegal burning, please report to City of Playford on 8256 0333.

APPLYING FOR A PERMIT

If you are unsure, please check with City of Playford before you burn to determine if you are able to burn or require a permit.

Contact us on 8256 0333 or find the Burning Permit Online Application on our website:
www.playford.sa.gov.au/live/environment-and-waste/fire-safety/burning-permit-application

