

Household Hazardous Wastes

Special care should be taken when managing household wastes that may pose a more significant threat to human health and the environment, such as paint, solvents, mercury-containing devices, pesticides, drain cleaners, batteries and electronic waste. The Web site www.azrecycles.gov is a resource for disposal of these materials. You may also contact ADEQ at the numbers listed on the back of this brochure for additional assistance.

Disposal of non-liquid household hazardous waste in the curbside trash isn't prohibited by law but ADEQ prefers these items be recycled if possible. Chemical wastes from businesses are heavily regulated and the management of these materials should adhere to state and federal hazardous waste laws.

Waste Facilities

In addition to consulting the local phone directory for waste collection and disposal services, ADEQ maintains lists of solid waste landfills and transfer stations, which includes facilities publicly available for waste disposal. Please go to: <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/solid/1c.html> to access these lists.

Attention to safe disposal practices for wastes resulting from a wild-fire disaster will help protect you, your family and your neighbors, and minimize additional impacts to your property and surroundings.

Contact Information

ADEQ Main Office

1110 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602) 771-2300 AZ Toll Free: (800) 234-5677
(602) 771-4829 (*Hearing impaired*)

Southern Regional Office

400 W. Congress, Suite 433, Tucson, AZ 85701
(520) 628-6733 Toll free: (888) 271-9302
E-mail: sro@azdeq.gov

Community Liaisons

Coconino, Mohave and Yavapai counties
(928) 679-7307
E-mail: nwaz@azdeq.gov

Apache, Navajo, and northern Gila counties

(928) 337-3565
E-mail: neaz@azdeq.gov

Maricopa and Pinal counties

(602) 771-2311
E-mail: caz@azdeq.gov

Pima County

(520) 628-6716
E-mail: sro@azdeq.gov

Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz, and southern Gila counties

(928) 348-3040
E-mail: seaz@azdeq.gov

La Paz and Yuma counties

(520) 770-3309
E-mail: swaz@azdeq.gov



www.azdeq.gov



CLEANING UP AFTER A WILDFIRE

Proper Waste Disposal Practices For Households

Wildfire is a reality in the Southwest.

One of its unfortunate consequences is the production of waste from direct burning, smoke damage and ensuing floods. This brochure is intended to help residents in Arizona's fire damaged areas identify options for waste disposal from property cleanups. This information is not intended as a substitution of state and federal statutes and rules.

As a general rule of thumb, wastes that can decompose should be bagged and containerized quickly to reduce odors and eliminate fly breeding.

Fire-Impacted Vegetation

Burned trees or vegetative debris transported from firefighting or storm water can pose a safety hazard or nuisance. Property owners may productively reuse vegetative waste, such as in the production of firewood and mulch, without being subject to regulation. Ash from burned vegetation may be used as a soil additive.

It is also permissible to burn most types of vegetative waste in the open, provided an open burning permit is obtained from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) or delegated local fire authority and the permit conditions are followed. Please refer to: <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/permits/class.html#open>.

Generally, the burial of vegetation isn't allowed without specific approval from ADEQ. If the material won't be reused or burned, it should be placed at the curb for regular waste collection or self-transported to an appropriate waste facility for proper disposal (see "Waste Facilities" at the end of this brochure).

Construction and Demolition Debris

Per Arizona law, concrete and metal used in the reinforcement of concrete are "inert materials" and are not regulated as wastes. Other types of inert, unregulated materials include hardened asphalt, brick, rock, gravel, sand and non-polluted soil. These materials can be stored and buried in a manner consistent with local ordinances and away from surface waters.

Other types of construction debris are regulated wastes and should be safely transported and disposed at an approved off-site facility (see "Waste Facilities" at the end of this brochure), though untreated wood containing no lead based paint may be burned via an open burning permit.

Construction debris and ash from burned structures often contain asbestos and other microscopic particles which are hazardous to human health when inhaled. Please refer to ADEQ's Catastrophic Emergency Events Involving Asbestos fact sheet for information on the safe handling of asbestos-containing waste:

http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/asbestos/download/asbestos_emergency_fs.pdf

Additional Information

See ADEQ's wildfire support page: <http://www.azdeq.gov/function/programs/wildfire.html> for additional wildfire resources and links, including safety precautions when cleaning up after a fire.

Dead Animals

Loss of pets and livestock can be especially distressing. Smaller animals which do not exceed 75 pounds in weight may be picked up by the regular waste collection service. For larger animals, the local waste disposal facility should be contacted to coordinate collection. (See "Waste Facilities" at the end of this brochure). If neither of these options is feasible, the local county health department can be contacted for guidance.

Food Waste

Food waste decomposes quickly, can present a nuisance to public health and the environment, and attracts insects, rodents, and even bears and other large mammals. If it can't be reused (such as for livestock feeding and composting), food waste should be quickly bagged, containerized, and disposed at an approved off-site facility (see "Waste Facilities" at the end of this brochure).

Appliances and Vehicles

Metals are often a valuable recyclable commodity and recyclers may be willing to accept (and even pick up) recyclable metal scrap from property owners. A useful, online resource for locating recycling opportunities (by city or zip code) is www.azrecycles.gov.

Many metal recyclers may be willing to pick up fire and flood-damaged vehicles. Title will need to be signed over to a recycler and Motor Vehicle Division salvage requirements apply.

Information on the proper handling of used oil is available at: <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/solid/oil.html>