

The correct way to pile burn



Make the pile wide and long rather than high. This will spread the heat and be safer.



Give power lines a wide berth. Consider the radiant heat and smoke the burn will generate.



Try to choose a space with open canopy away from the base of trees. Wait until the piles have been burnt or removed before planting.



Stay away from fences and property boundaries. Consider local residents and their needs. Maintain a clear area between piles and any other combustible material.



DO NOT burn on a day declared as a Total Fire Ban by the Rural Fire Service.



DO NOT burn on a no burn day as declared by the Department of Environment and Conservation.



DO NOT burn unless you meet the Conditions in Council's "Notice of Approval to Burn".



DO NOT burn unless you have notified your neighbours and the relevant fire authority.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT PILE BURNING PLEASE CONTACT

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

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Pile Burning

Your guide to a safe and legal pile burn



What is a pile burn?

Burning of cut and stacked vegetation is called a pile burn.

Pile burns may be carried out to get rid of vegetation from:

- Removal of bush fire fuels
- Bush regeneration or weed removal
- Property maintenance
- Agricultural activities

Do you need approval for a pile burn?

Pile burns are permitted for rural properties larger than one acre as long as certain conditions are met. The conditions are available on Council's "Notice of Approval to Burn".

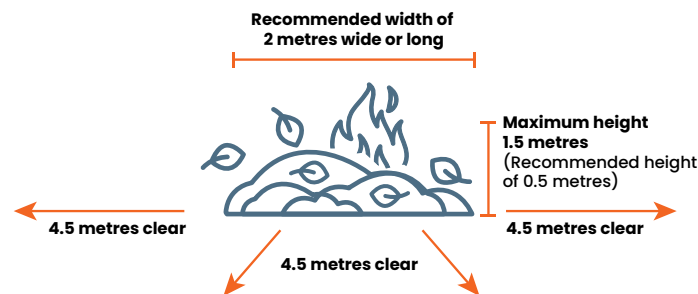
If the conditions are met, your pile burn is eligible for general approval and you don't need to apply.

Legally, you must notify all residents who adjoin the site of the pile burn at least 48 hours prior to the work. Other residents who might be inconvenienced by the pile burn should also be notified.

You must also notify your local Rural Fire Service Fire Control Centre at least 24 hours before the fire is lit.

Construction of pile burns

- Guidelines for the construction of safe and efficient burning:
- Material to be burns must be of local vegetation, not household or building materials such as plastics, wood pallets or cardboard boxes (NB: it is illegal to burn treated timbers or tyres anywhere in NSW).
- Logs over 150mm in diameter should not be added to piles – instead they should be left on the ground to prevent erosion and provide habitat.
- If practical place vegetation in an area where it will receive direct sunlight to allow the pile to dry out.
- All material must be dead and dry before being burnt.
- No soft green weeds (such as Wandering Jew, Grasses, Chick Weed) should be added to a pile burn. These are best disposed by composting. Woody weeds such as Lantana and Privet are suitable for a pile burn.



Pile burn safety measures

- Before lighting make sure you have suitable tools handy (rakes and shovels) to conduct the burn and control any possible spot fires.
- Accelerants (such as petrol) must never be used on the pile.
- Ensure that there is a sufficient water supply to extinguish the burn and that you have a hose with appropriate water pressure that can reach around the pile.
- Wear protective clothing such as heavy cotton pants, a long-sleeved shirt, leather work boots, work gloves and a wide-brimmed hat.
- Disturb piles immediately prior to lighting to scare away animals such as lizards and snakes which may be taking refuge within the pile.
- Supervise the burn constantly after lighting to ensure there are no flare-ups in surrounding vegetation.
- Completely extinguish the pile immediately after the burn is finished. The spreading of burnt material after the burn also enables smouldering material to be extinguished.

If multiple piles are to be burnt, burn only one pile at a time unless adequate resources and operators are present at each pile. You should also give consideration to the amount of smoke being produced if multiple pile burns are being conducted.

For more information

To obtain a copy of the conditions, contact Council on **02 4372 7777** or download the information online: penrith.city.

