

Broome County Health Department

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OPEN BURNING IN BROOME COUNTY

BINGHAMTON, NY - As spring weather approaches we begin to think about cleaning our yards of the winter accumulation of debris. Broome County residents are reminded that state, county, and local laws prohibit the open burning of any refuse, garbage or yard waste. The Broome County Sanitary Code requirements are stricter than those of state regulations or neighboring counties and apply in rural areas of the county. Local municipalities may also have additional requirements.

Uncontrolled burning produces smoke that can adversely affect the health of those people who breathe it. The only exceptions to the Broome County law is burning for agricultural purposes on farms or at fire training exercises conducted by fire departments. Residents should seek other options to dispose of yard waste by contacting their local Public Works Department or the Broome County Division of Solid Waste. Most of this material can be composted, or recycled. The Broome County Environmental Management Council or Cornell Cooperative Extension can provide guidance on effective recycling techniques.

By following these suggestions residents can minimize local air pollution. Violators of the Sanitary Code are subject to civil penalties and may also be responsible for the costs of suppression by the fire department, should the burn get out of control.

Broome County residents can contact the Broome County Health Department at 778-2887 or the Broome County Fire Coordinators Office at 778-2170, for additional information.

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