

Householders

Environmental consequences of burning of household waste

There is a notable rise in the incidence of reports and complaints to the Local Authorities about backyard burning which is a direct result of the significant increase in backyard burning by householders.

The Councils' are very concerned that householders are purchasing "burners" from a number of DIY Stores, Garden Centres, and Home Improvement Stores. The Councils' view is that backyard burning of household waste is an outdated and anti-social practice. The use of these burners for the disposal of household waste can lead to the production of smoke and other air pollutants that may contravene provisions of the Air Pollution Act 1987. The Councils have advised retailers of these units, to consider the voluntary withdrawal from sale of these burners from their stores in line with their environmental and social responsible policies.

Uncontrolled, low temperature burning of household waste can impact on human health, food safety and the environment. Current research indicates that when household waste is burned in barrels, or open pits, or commercially available home incinerators, toxic pollutants are released into the air. Microscopic particles, including dioxins are formed and these particles are inhaled deep into our lungs. These microscopic particles are associated with bronchitis, asthma and other respiratory illness. People who already have respiratory or heart problems; the young and the elderly are most at risk, when exposed to these microscopic particles.

Householders are requested to avail of kerb side collection facility for disposal of residual household waste and collection of recyclable materials. Use composters/ wormeries or digestors for green kitchen and garden waste. Green waste may also be taken to your recycling centre.

