

D7 – Burning waste in the open



What is the purpose of this exemption?

This exemption allows you to burn plant tissue and untreated wood wastes in the open.

What types of activities can I do?

Example activities include:

- A landscape gardener has trimmed hedges and branches and wants to burn them on a bonfire at the same place.

Where can I carry out this activity?

You can only burn the waste at the place it was produced ([place of production](#)).

What can't I do?

You can't:

- burn types of waste other than those listed below in [What wastes can be used under this exemption?](#)
- bring waste from elsewhere to burn.
- burn treated wood wastes, e.g. treated pallets, wooden door frames.
- use this exemption to burn waste in an incinerator for disposal. See [Related exemptions](#).
- use this exemption to burn waste in a boiler to produce heat and power. See [Related exemptions](#).

What are the key limits?

You can burn **up to 10 tonnes** of waste in any 24-hour period.

You can store **up to 20 tonnes** of waste at any one time.

You can store waste **for up to six months** before burning, to allow certain wood wastes to dry out.

What are the key conditions?

The burning must take place on open land, not in an incinerator or a building.

What else do I need to know?

Plant tissue waste includes all materials of plant origin such as trees, branches, shrubbery, branches with or without foliage, leaves or foliage, wood and vegetation.

When burning waste under this exemption you should position the bonfire where it will not cause a nuisance to your neighbours through excessive smoke or odours. There are alternative methods of disposing of plant tissue wastes, for example by composting, which are preferable to burning.

Where the waste is an [invasive non-native species](#), you must follow certain procedures. See our website for guidance:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/wildlife/31350.aspx>

What wastes can be used under this exemption?

The waste codes below are those listed in the List of Wastes (LoW) Regulations. You should read the guidance on the LoW to ensure that the waste type you want to treat fits within the waste code.

In some instances the waste types permitted are more restricted than the LoW code. This is indicated by the word “only” in the waste type description in the table below.

You need to make sure your waste falls within the LoW code and the written description in the table.

Further guidance on this can be found at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/waste/32140.aspx>

Codes	Waste types
020103, 020107, 200201	Plant tissue
030105	Sawdust, shavings and cuttings from untreated wood only
030301	Waste bark and wood

The full text of the legislation can be found at:

http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2010/draft/ukdsi_9780111491423_en_1

Related exemptions

You can burn waste in a boiler for the purpose of producing heat and power under **U4 Burning of waste as a fuel in a small appliance**.

You can burn waste in an incinerator to dispose of the waste rather than using the waste as a fuel under **D6 Disposal by incineration**.

Registration of this exemption

You cannot register this exemption until **6 April 2010**. A link to the registration process is available on the following web page:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/permitting/116406.aspx>

Definitions

“invasive non-native species” is any non-native animal or plant that has the ability to spread causing damage to the environment, the economy, our health and the way we live.

“place of production” means in relation to any waste, the place where the waste was originally produced.

The full ‘**Glossary of terms**’ can be viewed [here](#)