

Burial, Burning, and Dumping

Solid waste, in most instances, can neither be burned, dumped, nor buried, according to Rule 128 (R 299.4128) of Part 115 of Act 451. If not prohibited by local ordinance, an individual is not prohibited by Part 115 and its administrative rules from burning solid waste from an individual's own household upon an individual's own land if in compliance with Rule 128(2) and (4)(a)(b) (R 299.4128) of [Part 115](#).

COMMON VIOLATIONS INCLUDE:

For homeowners:

- Burning of household waste and/or yard waste (e.g., leaves and grass) at their residence, without verifying whether burning is allowed by local ordinance.
- Burning household waste in a container that is not in compliance with Part 115 rule requirements, i.e. a metal or masonry device, with a metal cover, which has openings no larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.
- Burning or burying items that are not considered to be household waste; for example, a building or any part of a building or any other prohibited material.

For businesses:

- Open burning of any waste that is generated by the business.
- Open burning of materials to facilitate recycling; e.g., the burning of the plastic coating on copper wire to recover the metal.
- On-site burial of construction or demolition debris generated by the business or burial of construction or demolition debris at a work site.
- On-site or off-site storing or disposing of material classified as solid waste on the ground.

Above are violations that have been identified during inspections by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Waste Management Division staff. The violations are not listed in order of severity or frequency of findings. The requirements are referenced in [Part 115](#) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA, as amended (Act 451).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE LINKS:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has developed a guidebook that addresses illegal solid waste dumping. It is called the [Illegal Dumping Prevention Guidebook](#).

The Air Quality Division (AQD) has a document that addresses [Burning of Household Waste](#). The AQD also has a brochure that discusses [Open Burning Regulations in Michigan](#). To check if open burning is allowed in your area, contact your township or city office.