

### What is the proper way of disposing of a U.S. flag?

According to the U.S. Flag Code:

“the flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

[Section 324.5514](#), of Part 55 (Air Pollution Control) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451 of 1994, as amended, states the following:

“A congressionally chartered patriotic organization that disposes of an unserviceable flag of the United States by burning that flag is not subject to regulation or penalty for violating a state law or local ordinance pertaining to open burning of materials or substances.” For fire safety, it would be good idea to check with the local fire department to see if there is a burn ban in effect because of dry conditions, etc. before burning.

Contact the [Michigan Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, Public Information Office](#) at [517-481-8141](tel:517-481-8141) for further information about flags and a listing of chartered patriotic organizations.

The entire copy of the U.S. Flag Code can be accessed at the [Legal Information Institute, Cornell Law School](#). Go to [www.law.cornell.edu](http://www.law.cornell.edu), click on “US Code” and then scroll to Title 4 “Flag and Seal, Seat of Government, and the States” of the US Code Table of Contents. From Title 4, click on Chapter 1 “The Flag,” and scroll to “[Respect for Flag](#).”

For [flag etiquette](#) information go to [www.usflag.org](http://www.usflag.org), click on “Frequently Asked Questions” and scroll to “Flag Etiquette.”