

My neighbor is burning trash in a burn barrel and the smoke is affecting my health. What can I do?

The Michigan Air Pollution Control rules prohibit the [burning of trash](#) at commercial establishments, but does not prohibit it at single family dwellings. Therefore, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) does not participate in the resolution of [open burning](#) issues between neighbors.

Some towns and cities have local ordinances either restricting open burning or simply banning private residences from burning in the backyard. A list of the [current local ordinances](#) regarding open burning can be found by going to www.michigan.gov/deqair, click on "Clean Air Assistance," and scroll down to "Open Burning Information."

We urge you to follow up with your local township government and pursue relief under your local nuisance ordinance. If you are interested in pursuing a local ordinance regarding open burning, you may want to submit a request to your township to enact an ordinance regulating this activity. The DEQ developed a [Model Ordinance](#) for Outdoor and Open Burning for the Michigan Township Association. To refer to this document, visit www.michigantownships.org/ordinances.asp.