

**TOWN OF CHELSEA  
CIVIL ORDINANCE  
REGULATING THE DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE  
THROUGH OPEN BURNING AND INCINERATION**

WHEREAS, the Town of Chelsea has, by virtue of the authority granted in Title 24, V.S.A. Chapter 59, section 1971 and 24 V.S.A. Chapter 61, Subchapter 8, Section 2202(a), the power to adopt, amend, repeal, and enforce ordinances, and to manage and regulate the solid waste disposal within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Chelsea has determined that disposal of solid waste through open burning and incineration practices prohibited by this Ordinance constitute public nuisances, and the Town of Chelsea has the authority to regulate and prohibit such practices by virtue of the authority granted in 24 V.S.A., Part 2, Chapter 61, Subchapter 11, Section 2291.

NOW, THEREFORE, to protect public health and safety and to promote the responsible use of resources and protection of the environment, the Selectboard of the Town of Chelsea hereby adopts this ordinance to regulate the open burning and incineration of solid waste in the Town of Chelsea, Vermont.

**ARTICLE I  
PURPOSE; TITLE**

Purpose: This ordinance is enacted to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the inhabitants of the Town of Chelsea and to prohibit Solid Waste disposal practices that pose a danger to the public health and welfare and the environment or constitute a public nuisance.

Title: This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the "Ordinance Regulating the Disposal of Solid Waste Through Open Burning and Incineration".

**ARTICLE II  
DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Construction/Demolition Debris" means materials resulting from construction, demolition, or renovation of buildings, roads, bridges and other structures.
- B. "Incineration" means the burning of solid waste in an enclosed container, such as a furnace, stove, incinerator or similar device.
- C. "Hazardous Waste" means waste that is identified as hazardous in, and regulated by, the Vermont Hazardous Waste Management Regulations including, but not limited to, waste that contains toxic, corrosive, reactive, explosive, or flammable ingredients.
- D. "Natural wood" means any of the following, provided such material has not been treated or injected with preservatives, paint or oil;
  - 1. Trees and brush, including logs, boles, trunks, branches, limbs, roots and stumps;
  - 2. Lumber, including timber, logs, dimensional lumber or slabs dressed for use;
  - 3. Pallets and skids

This definition does **not** include processed wood products such as plywood, particle board, fiber board, and press board.

- E. "Non-woody vegetation" means leaves, grass, yard trimmings, and other organic materials.
- F. "Open burning" means any burning in the open or in an open container, including but not limited to a brush pile or a burn barrel, where the products of combustion are emitted directly into the atmosphere without passing through a stack, chimney or other enclosure.
- G. "Recyclable" means any type of refuse designated by the Town of Chelsea or by the local solid waste management district to be separated for recycling.
- H. "Solid Waste" means any garbage, refuse, hazardous waste or other materials generated by residential, commercial, industrial, and community activities. This definition does **not** include natural wood and non-woody vegetation, as defined in this Article.
- I. "State Permit to Kindle Fire" means the written document giving permission to burn at a specific time and place, with the authority to set special conditions, in accordance with Vermont State Forest Fire laws, 10 V.S.A. Chapter 83, Section 2645.

### **ARTICLE III OPEN BURNING AND INCINERATION**

- A. The open burning or incineration of solid waste is prohibited in the Town of Chelsea, unless prior permission is obtained from the Department of Environmental Conservation.
- B. Prior to open burning, a State Permit to Kindle Fire shall be obtained from the Town Forest Fire Warden. Such permit may only be issued for the following types of open burning:
  - 1. The open burning of Natural wood and Non-woody vegetation resulting from yard or property maintenance, logging and clearing operations, agricultural improvements, forest or wildlife management, or for festive celebrations.
  - 2. After providing the required notice to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, the burning of solid or liquid fuels, or structures for bona fide fire training provided that materials other than natural wood are removed to the greatest extent possible prior to the training.
  - 3. With the prior approval of the Department of Environmental Conservation, the open burning of construction or demolition materials and commercial wastes such as pallets and skids. These materials and wastes can only be "Natural wood" items.
  - 4. With the prior approval of the Department of Environmental Conservation, burning authorized by the Selectboard of the town of Chelsea for the protection of public health or to thwart a hazard, which cannot properly be managed by any other means.
- C. The open burning of Natural wood and Non-woody vegetation is allowed at a designated place within the municipality by the Town of Chelsea in accordance with 10 V.S.A. Part 1, Chapter 23, Section 565 and under the direction of the Town Forest Fire Warden.

- D. Any open burning not listed in paragraphs (B) and (C) is prohibited by this ordinance including but not limited to the burning of hazardous wastes and recyclable materials.
- E. The provisions of this Ordinance shall not apply to the burning of natural wood or any virgin fuel in a furnace or other enclosed container to produce heat, power or for the purpose of preparing food.
- F. Combustion of solid waste in an incinerator is prohibited unless the incinerator meets all the requirements of the Vermont Air Quality Regulations and Solid Waste Management Rules.
- G. Open burning or incineration in violation of this ordinance may result in enforcement actions as described in Article IV.

**ARTICLE IV  
PENALTIES AND CIVIL ENFORCEMENT**

- A. This ordinance is a civil ordinance and enforcement shall be brought in the judicial bureau in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 1974a et seq.
- B. The penalties for violating this ordinance are as follows:

	<u>Civil Penalty</u>	<u>Waiver Fee</u>
First Offense: No Penalty	Written warning – demand to cease burning	
Second Offense	\$100.00	\$ 50.00
Third Offense	\$250.00	\$125.00
Fourth & Subsequent Offenses	\$500.00	\$300.00

- C. For each offense, a written notice of violation will be issued. The waiver fee is paid by a violator who admits or does not contest the violation.

**ARTICLE V  
DESIGNATION OF ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

For the purposes of this ordinance, the Selectboard may designate any combination of the following persons as enforcement personnel: members of the Selectboard, the Town Health Officer, the Town Attorney, the Town Constable(s) and any official with law enforcement authority under Vermont law.

**ARTICLE VI  
REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances, resolutions, regulations, or other documents inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**ARTICLE VII  
SEVERABILITY**

This ordinance and its various parts, sentences, sections, and clauses are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, section or clause is adjudged invalid, it is hereby provided that the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

**ARTICLE VIII  
EFFECTIVE DATE**

Pursuant to the provisions of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59 § 1973, the citizens of the Town of Chelsea have the right to disapprove this ordinance by submitting a petition, signed by not less than five (5) percent of the qualified voters, to the Selectboard or the Town Clerk, within forty-four (44) days following the date of its adoption by the Selectboard. If no petition is submitted, this ordinance shall become effective on October 5, 2002 which is sixty (60) days from its adoption.

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Date

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Jack Johnson

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Douglas Lyford

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Arthur Goodrich