

Ordinance 36  
Township of Bridgewater  
Burning

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*An ordinance to regulate open burning*

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**THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER ORDAINS:**

**Section 1. Purpose.** This ordinance regulates open burning in Bridgewater Township. Open burning means a fire from which the products of combustion are emitted directly into the air without passing through a stack of chimney. Open burning does not include fires for outdoor food preparation, campfires, or fires set by authorized fire fighting personnel for training purposes.

**Section 2. Prohibition.** No person, firm or corporation shall initiate, maintain or permit open burning except as permitted by this ordinance.

**Section 3. Permissible Materials.** Leaves, paper, cardboard, brush, grass, and untreated wood may be disposed of by open burning but only on the property from which such refuse originated and only in the manner provided below.

**Section 4. Building materials.** Building materials may not be disposed of by open burning. This includes plywood and other wood materials held together by glue or resin, and treated lumber.

**Section 5. Burning in a containers.** Permissible materials may be disposed of by open burning without a permit if burned in a container meeting the standards of this Section.

- a. The container shall have solid or wire mesh sides with openings not larger than 3/4 of an inch in diameter or 3/4 of an inch in width or length. A suitable cover shall be used to prevent sparks and burning debris from escaping.
- b. The container shall be located at least 25 feet from any building, lot line or roadway.

**Section 6. Leaves.** Leaves and light brush may be disposed of by open burning according to the following standards.

- a. The materials must be located at least 25 feet from any building, lot line or roadway.
- b. The materials must be located at least 10 feet from any tree or combustible vegetation.

**Section 7. Permits.** Open burning of other permissible materials, when not in a container described in section 5, is only allowed if a permit is first obtained from the fire department serving the property where the fire is proposed. The permit shall be obtained by contacting the appropriate fire department, obtaining its approval and meeting all conditions of the approval.

**Section 8. Supervision.** Open burning is only permitted when attended at all times by at least one adult.

**Section 9. Wind.** Open burning is prohibited when wind conditions make it unsafe.

**Section 10. Nuisance.** Open burning that creates a smoke nuisance or odor nuisance is prohibited.

**Section 11. Hours.** Open burning is permitted only between sun-up and sun-down of each day.

**Section 12. Other Laws.** Open burning may only be done in accordance with all other applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

**Section 13. Violations.** Persons or firms violating this ordinance may be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 and imprisonment for not more than 90 days.

**Section 14. Repeal.** This ordinance supersedes and replaces Township Ordinance 4 and 5. Those ordinances are repealed.

**Section 15. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall take effect upon publication.

### **Certification of Township Clerk**

I, Karen Weidmayer, Bridgewater Township Clerk, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Bridgewater Township Ordinance to Regulate Open Burning Number 36 adopted by the Township Board at a regular meeting on July 18, 2001 by the following vote:

Motion: Douglas Parr ,  
Supported by Randy Spaller.  
Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0 Absent  
Motion Carried

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Karen Weidmayer  
Township Clerk