



BACKYARD BURNING

ALTERNATIVES



Why are alternatives to backyard burning important? What are some of the burning concerns?

- Contaminants released into the air can impact the health and air quality of the community (e.g. fine particulate can impact breathing and other health conditions).
- Smoke from burning can be highly visible and can drive critical response resources away from other emergencies.
- Can create unwanted fire and wildfire risk.

ALTERNATIVES TO BACKYARD BURNING



Grass-cycling



Composting



Chipping & Mulching



Hauling



Curbside Pickup

BACKYARD BURNING

[SOOKE.CA/BURNING](https://sooke.ca/burning)



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If you need to perform an activity that creates woody debris, there are many alternatives to backyard burning:

Grass-Cycling: Grass clippings are a natural fertilizer. Your lawn retains its health because each time you mow, you return valuable nutrients and moisture to the soil. Any lawn mower can recycle grass clippings. Just remove the grass bag/catcher. Mowers specifically designed for mulching are available and they produce finer clippings for grass-cycling.

Composting: Composting takes ordinary yard and kitchen waste and transforms it into a superior soil amendment. Your plants will be healthier and more able to deal with insects and disease. Compost also aids in water absorption and minimizes the need for chemical fertilizers. Use a backyard compost bin or hire a collective service to pick it up.

Chipping & Mulching: Mulch inhibits weeds, retains moisture, and releases nutrients as it decomposes. Lay mulch in your yard with natural materials: dried grass, chipped woody material, or pine needles. Ensure that you do not spread these materials around within 10 meters of your home as they are highly combustible.

Curbside Pick-up: In Sooke, garbage disposal and composting companies may provide service contracts to residents and commercial operations. Garbage haulers may offer an optional curbside subscription service for collecting residential yard or “clean green” debris pick-up. Call your garbage hauler for details.

Hauling: Rake up your excess material and haul it to your nearest Transfer Station. Several locations in the CRD, including Sooke Soil and the Hartland Depot accept source separated yard and garden materials.

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