



Smoke from Outdoor Wood Boilers Prohibited

As the price of home heating oil, natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) increases, many households are looking for heating alternatives. Increasingly, people are turning to Outdoor Woodburning Boilers (also known as OWBs, Outdoor Furnaces, Outdoor Wood Heaters, or Outdoor Wood-Fired Hydronic Heaters) to provide space heating, year-round heating of hot water, and heating of swimming pools, jacuzzis, and hot tubs.

Outdoor woodburning boilers in New Jersey must comply with NJAC 7:27-3, "Control and Prohibition of Smoke from Combustion of Fuel." This regulation mandates that stationary indirect heat exchangers, such as outdoor woodburning boilers, produce no smoke, except for three minutes in any 30-minute period. This does not include outdoor fireplaces such as chimineas and firepits.

Homeowners and Local Building Officials should be aware that the requirement of no visible emissions makes it most likely that operating an outdoor woodburning boiler at a residence can violate state regulations. There are substantial fines associated with their use should they produce any visible smoke. These penalties start at \$300 for a first offense.

Who should I contact with questions?

You may call the regional field office that corresponds to your geographical area:

Northern Regional Office (Bergen, Essex,
Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic,
Somerset, Sussex, Warren)

973 656-4444

Central Regional Office (Mercer, Middlesex,
Monmouth, Ocean and Union)

609 584-4100

Southern Regional Office (Atlantic,
Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland,
Gloucester, Salem)

856 614-3601

CALL IN COMPLAINTS CONCERNING OWBs TO THE DEPs 24 HOUR TOLL-FREE ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE at 1-877 WARN DEP (1-877-927-6337)

COMPLIANCE ADVISORY

Where can I get more information?

The following web sites can be accessed for additional information regarding this advisory:

A copy of NJAC 7:27-3, "Control and Prohibition of Smoke from Combustion of Fuel" can be found at:
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/aqm/Sub03v2002-02-04.pdf>

For more information on the issues associated with emissions from these units, please see the report "Assessment of Outdoor Woodburning Boilers" by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) at:
http://www.4cleanair.org/OWB-NESCAUM-Report_March2006.pdf

General information on wood burning in New Jersey:
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/baqp/woodburning.html>

Visit the following web site for general DEP information:

Contact NJDEP: <http://www.nj.gov/cgi-bin/dep/contactdep.pl>

To comment on this advisory:

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html>

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance with this initiative, please contact the Enforcement numbers listed above.