



Aviation, Forest Fire and  
Emergency Services

Services d'urgence, d'aviation et de  
lutte contre les feux de forêt

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## Compost, Don't Burn

**One of the issues in caring for a yard is the waste we find ourselves facing in the spring and fall seasons. Traditionally, many people have used fire to get rid of dry grass and leaves. While fire may seem to be an effective tool to save time, the effects of burning can be harmful to people and the environment.**

Burning waste such as leaf litter, dry grass and brush has been proven to:

- Increase the risk of wildfires.
- Cause overall contamination of the air we breathe, potentially increasing health costs, and causing other environmental concerns.

A safer and healthier option is composting. Composting is the process of recycling organic waste, such as leaf litter and grass, by placing the materials in a bin and allowing them to decompose, ultimately creating a soil which benefits the growth of plants.

By making your own compost, you'll get rid of your yard waste, end up with free soil and provide an overall benefit to the environment.



If for some reason, composting is not a good option, consider taking the yard waste to a landfill site. Many locations offer spring and fall cleanup discounts and some landfills even have large compost areas.

If burning must be done, please keep in mind the risk for wildfires is somewhat lower in the fall compared to spring. In any case, know the rules before you light. Check the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry fire prevention website and contact your local municipal office.

To avoid the costs and dangers of burning yard waste, the choice is simple: compost.

**To report a wildfire in northern Ontario, call 310-FIRE (3473).**

For more tips on preventing wildfires, visit:  
[ontario.ca/fireprevention](http://ontario.ca/fireprevention).

