



1600 South Second Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-5202
ph 360-428-1617
fax 360-428-1620
info@nwcleanairwa.gov
www.nwcleanairwa.gov

Wood-Heating Exemption Guidance

Public FAQ

What is a wood-heating exemption?

- If a residence *needs* to heat with wood during periods of impaired air, an exemption allows residents to burn wood in a solid fuel burning device (SFBD - wood stove, pellet stove or fireplace inserts) during air quality burn bans (NWCAA Regulation 506.8). Residents are encouraged to use an alternative heat source during periods of impaired air, if available, so that air quality does not further degrade.

What is an exemption *not*?

- It is not an exemption from other wood smoke laws (opacity).
- It is not an exemption to heat attached or detached garages, shops or outbuildings.

What are the types of exemptions?

1. One-time 10-day
2. Low-income
3. Temporary breakdown of primary heat source
4. No adequate source of heat

How do residents apply for an exemption?

1. One-time 10-day; by phone, link on our website, or on hard copy
2. Low-income; written application (hard copy or website link); requires income qualification via Opportunity Council
3. Temporary breakdown of primary heat source; written application (hard copy or website link)
4. No adequate source of heat; written application (hard copy or website link)

Who processes and approves applications?

- **Except** for the one-time 10-day, all exemptions require a review and approval/denial process. NWCAA staff will review, process and approve/deny applications.
- The one-time 10-day exemption application can be taken over the phone by any NWCAA staff and has no other qualification than to provide the necessary information asked on the form.

How will the resident know if their application was approved or denied?

The applicant will be contacted by their preferred method indicated on their application whether they are approved or denied.

Is there a fee?

No, there is currently no fee for any of the exemptions

How long is an exemption valid?

- Unless otherwise specified, written exemptions will expire June 30 of each year.
- Low-income, temporary breakdown and inadequate source of heat exemptions may be renewed by NWCAA, provided the applicant meets the applicable requirements at the time of exemption renewal.
- For low-income renewal, the applicant must meet LIHEAP income qualification levels each time an application is made. Opportunity Council will income qualify applicants.
- Exemption request may be denied by NWCAA, regardless of the applicant's exemption history.