



WOOD WASTE INFORMATION

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Waste Management
Telephone: 701-328-5166 • Fax: 701-328-5200 • Website: <https://deq.nd.gov/wm>
Revision 10/2019

In the past, some managers of wood waste have relied on burn variances for disposing materials that could potentially be reduced, reused and/or recycled. The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (Department) encourages cities, landfills, and generators of wood waste to evaluate more environmentally suitable options for managing wood trade wastes such as pallets, scrap lumber, etc., as well as trees and tree branches. Options include waste reduction; reuse of wood materials such as pallets, lumber, etc.; using wood for firewood or as a heating source; grinding the materials to make a mulch or compost medium, and/or utilizing a permitted air curtain destructor. For buildings, we recommend investigating moving it to another location or salvaging the material. Some entities place several ads in the paper seeking people to take wood materials.

The intent of North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) 33.1-15-01-07 regarding variances is to allow open burning in cases of **exceptional circumstances**, rather than allowing routine open burning as an alternative to recycling or disposal. NDAC 33.1-15-01-07 reads:

33.1-15-01-07. Variances.

1. Whereupon written application of the responsible person or persons the department finds that by reason of exceptional circumstances strict conformity with any provisions of this article would cause undue hardship, would be unreasonable, impractical, or not feasible under circumstances, the department may permit a variance from this article upon such conditions and within such time limitations as it may prescribe for prevention, control, or abatement of air pollution in harmony with the intent of the state and any applicable federal laws.
2. No variance may permit or authorize the creation or continuation of a public nuisance, or a danger to public health or safety.

Enclosed is a list of companies who utilize, chip or process wood materials "Wood Processing/ Recycling Facilities and Equipment Vendors." We also recommend working with local salvage or firewood brokers. The Department, in providing this information, does not endorse these companies; rather it is intended to help provide information that may be beneficial. We encourage wood waste generators to evaluate options for the future. We ask that wood waste managers work with generators to reduce, reuse and recycle these materials. For any future variances, we ask that more details be provided on the justification for the variance, as well as what your facility is doing to encourage waste reduction, reuse and recycling. A copy of the variance form "Application for Open Burning Variance at Landfills" is enclosed for your future consideration.

In conclusion, we request that you begin to evaluate your options for improving the management of these wood materials to reflect the state's goals of waste reduction, reuse and recycling, as well as continued improvement of our environmental health. Should you have any questions or ideas regarding these matters, please feel free to contact the Department at the following address:

North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Waste Management
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