

# SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION

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[www.trees.sc.gov](http://www.trees.sc.gov)

# Make your community FIREWISE



[www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org)

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# Disposal of Yard Debris



Protect yourself and  
neighbors...  
dispose of yard debris  
properly!



## Benefits of Debris Removal

Removing dead and dying debris from homes and yards is a great Firewise practice. It removes flammable material that can ignite from embers blown in from wildfires or other flame sources (outdoor grills, chimneys, legal debris burning, etc.).



Removal of debris also presents a more pleasing appearance to a well maintained yard and garden.



However, if not done properly, disposal of debris can create problems for you and your neighbors. Piles of yard debris left in

wooded areas create more fuel for fires and can increase fire intensity and smoke related to fires. If dumped on neighboring property, there are legal issues.



## Options for Disposal

- **Grinding and/or composting**  
Both can provide material for soil improvement or mulch for garden beds.
- **Hauling debris off the property**  
Local solid waste collection/convenience centers may take yard debris. (Check local and county ordinances).
- **Burning**  
Consult your homeowner restrictions, local community rules, as well as local county ordinances before burning.
- Combining the removal with a **Firewise event** is a great way to help clean yards and have a recognized annual event. Debris can be collected and positioned at the road side for pickup or chipping by a local contractor.



*Chipping debris for neighborhood use.*

## La w s

**Outdoor Burning:** The South Carolina Notification and Precautions law must be followed, and you must also comply with DHEC



*A proper burn site has an adequate fire break, a means of control, and an individual with the burn until it is out.*

regulations and local ordinances.

The law does not apply within any town or city limits. If outdoor debris burning is allowed in a neighborhood, the law requires a landowner to call the SC Forestry Commission, have an adequate break around the burning site, have an adequate means of control, and to stay with the fire until it is completely safe.

Toll-free numbers to call in each county for yard debris burning notification can generally be found near the front of most local phone books and online at [www.trees.sc.gov/fyard.htm](http://www.trees.sc.gov/fyard.htm). The statewide number to report a wildfire is **1-800-777-FIRE**.

**Burning of household garbage is prohibited by state law.**