



CHIPPING

Benton Clean Air Agency, 526 S. Clodfelter Road, Kennewick, WA 99336
Phone: 509- 783-1304 Website: www.bentoncleanair.org

What does this mean?

Large quantities of woody vegetative material from yards, gardens, other landscaping features, or land clearing can be turned into a useful product. The resulting wood chips can be used for a number of purposes.

WHY ALTERNATIVES

Residential and land clearing burning is not allowed within the Urban Growth Area (UGA) of cities or where there are reasonable alternatives. Except for residential burning, which is exempt from a permit outside the UGA, it is necessary to obtain a written permit from Benton Clean Air Agency for other types of burning. Vegetative residue cannot be hauled from an area where burning is prohibited to an area where burning is allowed.

This information is intended to briefly explain who, how, and why chipping could be used as an alternative to burning. Use of alternatives to burning is encouraged even in areas where burning is not prohibited.

WHO COULD USE CHIPPING?

- Individuals at private residences.
- Local neighborhoods with several residences.
- Regional community-based by cities or counties.
- Any entity that generates large amounts of woody vegetative material.



HOW DO I CHIP?

- Sizes of chippers range from small residential models to commercial tub grinders capable of grinding up entire trees and stumps.
- Residential units can be purchased or rented for individuals to chip woody vegetative materials from areas of small housing to several acres. Neighbors may want to jointly rent or own a chipper and cooperative share labor in work parties.
- Large-scale land clearing or removal of large trees or shrubs will usually require hiring commercial chippers, shredders, or tub grinders.

WHY SHOULD I USE CHIPPING?

- Uses materials that would otherwise be discarded or burned.
- Produces a useful material for use as mulch, can be used on pathways and roads, or used as a source of "brown" material in composting.
- Reduces material volume and puts it in form that is more easily handled.
- In some cases, the chips could be used as a fuel for boilers.

DOWNSIDE AND PROBLEMS

- Requires considerable effort and takes space for storage if supply of chips exceeds places where it can be used.
- May produce unpleasant odors during decomposition.
- Feed materials that are very dry or contain large amounts of dirt can produce large amounts of dust during the chipping.
- Operation can be expensive because of high equipment costs and labor needed to process. Rentals or hiring professional operators is expensive.
- Individuals operating chipping equipment must be prepared for hard work and proper safety measures to protect:
 - eyes and body from flying chips
 - respiratory system from dust
 - against injury from moving parts of the machine
 - hearing from high noise levels.

MORE INFORMATION

Weed Control

- Yellow Pages: *Weed Control, Lawn & Grounds Maintenance*
- WA State Weed Association 509-547-5538
- Benton Co. Noxious Weed Control 509-786-6988
- Franklin Co. Noxious Weed Control 509-545-3847

Landscaping

- Yellow Pages: *Tree Service, Lawn & Grounds Maintenance*
- WA State University Master Gardeners 509-735-3551 or 509-786-2226 or www.gardening.wsu.edu/eastside
- Internet
 - Search Term: *xeriscape, low water use landscaping*

Chipping and Mulching

- Yellow Pages: *Tree Service, Lawn & Grounds Maintenance, Landscape Equipment & Supplies, Hardware – Retail*
- WA State University Master Gardeners 509-735-3551 or 509-786-2226 or www.gardening.wsu.edu/eastside

Landfill and Transfer Information

- Waste Management of Kennewick 509-582-5121
- Kennewick Transfer Station Kennewick 509-586-7555
- Richland Landfill 509-942-7498
- Richland Solid Waste Collection 509-942-7497
- Basin Disposal Inc. (Prosser, Benton City, and Benton County) 509-547-2476
- Ed's Disposal (W Richland and Benton City) 509-547-2476

On-Site Burial

- No restrictions in cities. Call if burying large amounts.
- No restrictions in Benton County on small amounts, larger amounts may need to be permitted 509-736-3086 or 509-786-5621