

DAMAGED MATERIAL CLEAN-UP & DISPOSAL TIPS

IMPORTANT: Always use extreme caution when near debris left by wildfire.

Structures damaged by wildfire, including homes, sheds, trailers and outbuildings, may be covered in residual ash containing hazardous materials such as asbestos, mercury, lead, cadmium, chromium and other chemicals that pose significant risk if inhaled or come into contact with exposed skin.

Common hazards also include:

- Downed power lines and other electrical sources
- Unstable walking surfaces and landscape
- Sharp objects buried under dirt, debris and ash

Recommended protective gear includes:

- Sturdy footwear
- Safety eye goggles
- Properly fitted N95 respirator
- Heavy-duty work gloves
- Disposable coveralls or clothes cleaned after every use

- N95 respirators are more effective than cloth face coverings, paper masks and bandanas for filtering out fine airborne ash, dust, or asbestos fibres.

- Avoid exposure to toxic airborne particles by avoiding the use of leaf blowers to clean up ash and insuring ash is effectively water-soaked before cleaning up

- Protect local water quality by keeping all water containing ash out of the stormwater system and surface waters.

- Hazards from clean-up and debris are harmful to children and not always visible - keep children away from clean-up area and activity.

- Wash recovered items according to directions provided by reputable restoration professionals, insurance representatives or the initial clean up tip sheet.

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Special directions for fire-damaged material disposal:

Burnt materials and ash are subject to special disposal regulations to protect the health and safety of workers and the public. For example:

- Burnt dwelling debris (building material, drywall, insulation, etc.) will be accepted at local Transfer Stations and Landfills.
- Double-bag and securely seal ash for disposal before taking to a transfer station or landfill. Loose ash (not double-bagged) will not be accepted.
- Dispose small quantities of burnt wood, lumber, plywood, etc. (pick-up truck load or equivalent) or brush and branches (under eight inches in diameter) at the Scotch Creek or Skimikin Transfer Station.
- Large loads of wood and brush debris go to the Salmon Arm Landfill.
- Damaged vinyl siding is accepted at all CSRD waste disposal facilities. Disposal fees apply for commercial loads.
- Scrap Metal is accepted for recycling at all CSRD waste disposal facilities. Disposal fees apply for commercial loads.
- For large quantities of concrete disposal (i.e. foundation demolitions) contact the CSRD for options.
- **Small Animals** (up to 60kg or 130lbs) can be double bagged and disposed of in refuse bins at CSRD Transfer Stations. **Large Animals** require special instructions. Email operations@csrd.bc.ca or Call (250) 833-5950.

Contact the CSRD for further information on disposal options specific to your property and situation.