

Burn, Trash, or Recycle?

This activity teaches kids how to keep their air cleaner when using a fireplace or wood stove. Kids consider what can be burned and what should go in the trash or recycling. This can be used independently or as a group.

Materials

- Printed worksheet
- Markers or crayons

Initial Discussion with Kids

- Does your home have a wood stove in your home? Or a fireplace? What about a campfire outside?
- What should your family burn in the stove? What should go in the trash? What should you recycle?

Discussion Points

- The only thing that should be burned in a fireplace or woodstove is newspaper, small sticks/ kindling, and dry, cut firewood. Putting other items in the fire like plastics, treated wood, metal, or other garbage may create unhealthy/toxic pollutants in the air.
- Make sure your family reads the owner's manual before using it so you can stay safe and warm.
- Families should make sure their fireplaces are properly vented and in good working order

Answer Key

- Wood/logs can go in the fireplace/woodstove
- Banana should go into the garbage (or compost if available)
- Broken toy should go into the garbage
- Empty milk containers should be recycled
- Candy wrapper should go into the garbage
- Old chair should go into the garbage or be recycled
- Empty soda should be recycled
- Uneaten pizza/food should go into the garbage or be recycled
- Newspaper can be recycled OR used as in the fireplace (as firestarter)

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Matching Activity (worksheet)

Name: _____

Draw a line to where the items should go.



Recycle



Burn



Trash