

Webisode 57DHYAFZF January 25 2026 Letter to a gated community about wood burning bans

A letter to a gated community about wood burning bans

I see you are a rule based society

You must surely have bans on wood burning

Inside and outside the residences of your community

No? Well let me educate you about the dangers of wood smoke

From indoor residential wood burning

Which is neither cost effective nor aesthetically pleasing

Which you will learn to your peril if you do not have wood burning bans

Wood smoke emits 450 times the PM 2 point 5 as natural gas burning

Wood smoke emits 2 point 8 times the PM 2 point 5 as coal burning

PM 2 point 5 is particulate matter of 2 point 5 micrometer size

The perfect size to infiltrate the human lung

Setting off a cascade of human health problems and early deaths

Does a potential wood burner intend to

shunt the wood smoke efficiently up his chimney?

Then more wood smoke will then enter

the yards and infiltrate the homes of near neighbors

Those near neighbors will have to stay inside their sealed homes

Instead of enjoying being outside in their own yards

And inside those sealed homes near neighbors will have to run

Multiple air purifiers 24 hours a day to suck up the wood smoke

That infiltrates their homes and they will also

never be able to open a window without fear of air pollution entering their home!

The cost of health care for illnesses caused by wood smoke

Ranging from cancer to asthma to costs for funerals for early deaths

Will cost more than any savings to a wood burner by chopping his own wood

Wood could be used to construct furniture rather than destroying wood by burning

That furniture could be a point of pride

rather than shame by needlessly polluting the air of near neighbors

And incrementally contributing to climate change

Yours truly a fellow human being facing reality daily

Here is an addendum to my letter

Giving you current information about wood burning bans

Bans on wood burning exist in gated communities

Bans on wood burning exist!

Such restrictions are increasingly common,

particularly in California and other regions

with high wildfire risks or poor air quality!

These rules are typically enforced

by Homeowners Associations (HOAs)

rather than state or federal governments.

Regional Indoor Wood Burning Bans exist!

In the California San Francisco Bay Area,

regulations make it illegal to burn wood during

"Winter Spare the Air Alerts,"

and new construction in many areas

is banned from installing wood-burning fireplaces entirely.

## Home Owners Association HOA Authority

Many gated communities and HOAs have, or are considering, rules to ditch wood-burning units due to health concerns, air quality, or fire hazards.

### Outdoor wood burning Nuisance and Health Rules:

Some communities ban outdoor wood burners (OWBs) entirely, while others have strict nuisance ordinances against smoke.

Variation in Prevalence: In some areas, such as the Northeast, HOAs might be less likely to ban fireplaces compared to the West Coast.

Alternatives Encouraged: Where wood is restricted, communities often allow EPA-certified, gas, or electric alternatives.

For specific, up-to-date information, it is necessary to review the Declarations, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the HOA of a particular gated community.