Emissions
Health effects due to smoke inhalation are common and varied. Wood-fired boilers emit unhealthy levels of pollutants, such as particulate matter, dioxin, carbon monoxide, hydrochloric acid, and formaldehyde.

Particulate Matter
Particulate matter is emitted by boilers in large amounts. Particulate pollution is a growing problem in Allegheny County and is associated with several health effects such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and premature death.

Did you know …
One boiler emits the same amount of particulate matter that 3,000-8,000 homes heated by natural gas would!

Remember:
Consider all the potential complications of outdoor wood-fired boilers! They may not be as economical as you think.

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Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers

Wood-fired boilers may seem like a quick fix to an increasing gas bill, but before considering one, take a moment to go over all the facts.

Allegheny County enforces air quality regulations that concern boiler use, and levies fines accrued due to their improper installation, usage, and maintenance. In addition, the initial investment may be greater than the cost saved by lowering gas consumption. There are health concerns related to the use of wood-fired boilers and you can easily create a neighborhood nuisance!

Outdoor wood-fired boilers aren’t all they’re cracked up to be!

If you have a boiler on a small property, it will be harder to stay within our regulations. Wood-fired boilers are suited for large tracts of land, where smoke can disperse naturally and evenly before crossing property lines.

Consider your location and the proximity to your neighbors. Will smoke and odors produced on your property bother others?

You can be fined!

Fines, along with the high cost of installation and maintenance, can greatly outweigh what you’re currently paying for gas heat!

Keep these regulations in mind!

Visible Emissions Regulation

If smoke emissions from your boiler exceed an opacity of 20% for more than three minutes in any 60 minute period, or exceed an opacity of 60% at any time, you are in violation of this regulation. Fines may be imposed under such conditions.

Odor Regulation

If any malodor from your boiler crosses property lines, it is considered a nuisance. Our regulations can be enforced and fines will be unavoidable. Complaints of odors caused by wood-fired boilers by neighbors are on the increase in Allegheny County.