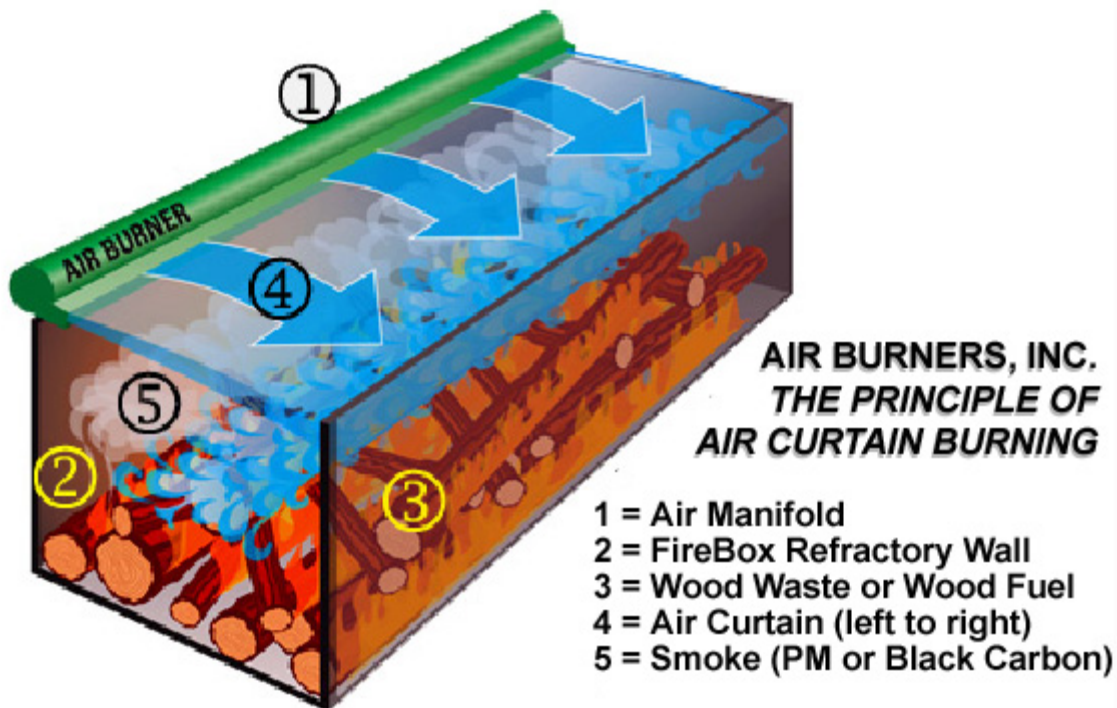




## THE PRINCIPLE OF AIR CURTAIN BURNING

Air Curtain Burners were designed principally as a pollution control device. The primary objective of an air curtain machine is to reduce the particulate matter (PM) or smoke that results from burning clean wood waste. It is sometimes hard to visualize without seeing a machine in operation, but the machines do not burn anything, rather they control the results of something burning. You could look at it as a pollution control device for open burning. Clean wood waste is loaded into the FireBox, and accelerant like diesel is poured on to the wood and the pile is ignited. Very similar to starting a campfire. The air curtain is not engaged until the fire has grown in strength or the air curtain may blow the fire out. Once the fire has reached suitable strength, usually 15 to 20 minutes, the air curtain is engaged. The air curtain then runs at steady state throughout the burning operations and the waste wood is loaded at a rate consistent with the rate of burn. Our smallest machine will burn at a rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 ton per hour, our largest machine can burn in excess of 10 tons per hour.

### Principle



The purpose of the air curtain is stall or slow down the smoke particles on their way out of the FireBox. In doing this the particles are subjected to the highest temperatures in the FireBox. Stalling the smoke particles in this region just under the air curtain causes them to re-burn, further reducing their size to an acceptable

limit. The result is a very clean burn with opacities well under 10 on the Ringelmann scale (as compared to open burning which typically can run at 80 to 100 on the Ringelmann scale).

### Operation

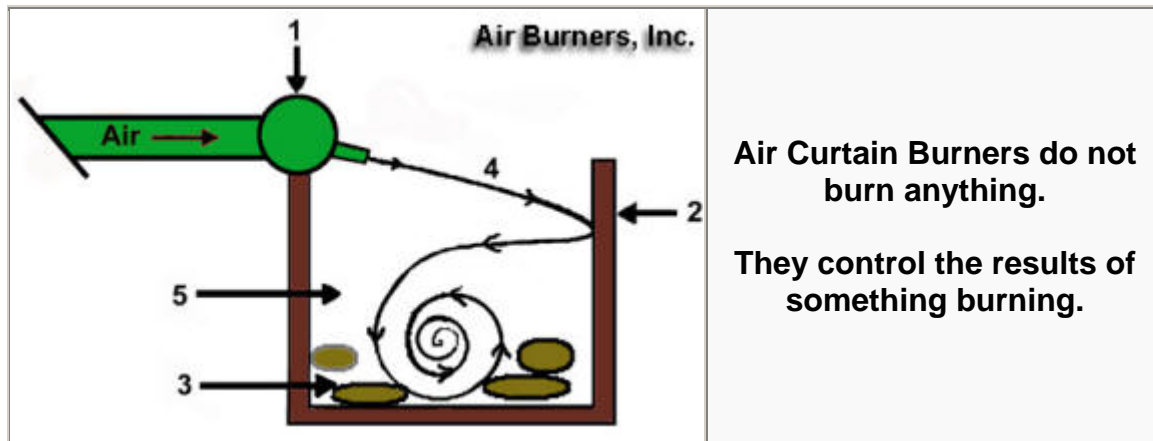
You can see in the picture to the right an Air Burners FireBox completely full and burning while in the background a pile of wood is open burned.

The wood pile that is open burning continued to burn for two weeks, That entire pile could have been eliminated with the FireBox in less than 20 hours.



For proper operation, the air curtain machine has to be designed to provide a curtain of air over the fire that has a mass flow and velocity that are in balance with the potential mass flow and velocity of the burning wood waste. If the curtain velocity is too high the FireBox or Trench can become over pressurized and over agitated. The higher pressure will lift the curtain and cause it to become ineffective. The over agitation will cause

embers and ash to be blown out of the box or pit past the ineffective curtain at a significantly higher rate than normal. If the mass flow of the curtain is too low then the unburned particles (smoke) will penetrate the curtain on the high velocity of the hot gasses being generated from the burning wood.



#### "The Wood Waste is the Fuel"

- 1 Air curtain machine manifold and nozzles directing high velocity air flow into refractory lined fire box or earthen trench.
- 2 Refractory lined wall as on the S-Series machines, or earthen wall as used with the T-Series trench burners.
- 3 Material to be burned.

- 4 Initial airflow forms a high velocity “curtain” over fire.
- 5 Continued air flow over-oxygenates fire keeping temperatures high. Higher temperatures provide a cleaner and more complete burn.

**Click below for Streaming Video Clip of a FireBox in Operation**  
[www.airburners.com/video/s217video.html](http://www.airburners.com/video/s217video.html)

## **RECYCLING**

The ash from typical wood waste is a very useful soil additive, and as such offers a commodity that can be marketed to plant nurseries, farms, etc. as a potting soil additive. Recycling our resources is not only socially and politically imperative, but it often reaps the additional benefit of tax incentives or tax credits. Solid waste landfills are diminishing rapidly, and permits are difficult to secure for new sites. The Air Burners System provides an affordable and environmentally sound alternative to indiscriminate depositing of wood debris into landfills.



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