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Outdoor furnace ban considered  
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WOODCLIFF LAKE — The Borough Council is considering an ordinance to ban outdoor wood-burning furnaces.

The ordinance, passed on first reading at Monday's Borough Council meeting, calls for fines as high as \$500 a day or imprisonment for as long as 90 days, or both, for those who violate the regulation by building and operating outdoor wood-burning furnaces.

Residents will have an opportunity to comment during a public hearing at the municipal building Feb. 18.

The ordinance is meant to signal that outdoor wood-burning furnaces are not permitted accessory structures in Woodcliff Lake, Borough Attorney Mark Madaio said at the meeting.

"We want to be a little bit proactive about the use of those, because they tend to be a little bit dirtier, a little bit noisier," he said. "Maybe they are appropriate in West Milford or somewhere on very large properties, but they would not be here," he said.

No one in Woodcliff Lake currently is using an outdoor wood-burning furnace, said Nick Saluzzi, the construction code official for Woodcliff Lake and neighboring Park Ridge. There are at least two in Park Ridge, he said.

"The properties are just too small in Woodcliff Lake and Park Ridge for these things," Saluzzi said Tuesday. "They produce a tremendous amount of smoke and pollution. These things are fine for houses that are on three or four acres."

If the ordinance is approved, those who currently use outdoor wood-burning furnaces can continue to do so.

But they will be barred from using lighter fluids, gasoline or chemicals to light the furnaces. If a furnace is not used for seven months, the borough will not allow the owner to restart operation.

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