



Business Assistance: Preventing, Reducing and Controlling Odors

Odors from your business activity can result in poor community relations and enforcement action from your air quality agency. This publication is to help you identify whether you have a problem and determine what to do about it.

Do you have a problem? Have your neighbors complained to you about odor from your business? Has your air quality agency visited as a result of a complaint? If the answer to either of these questions is yes, you may need to take action. Detectable odors can indicate unsafe chemical concentrations. Even if the odor is not harmful to health, an odor that interferes with use or enjoyment of property by members of the community may lead to regulatory action by your air quality agency.

What should you do? Working around an odor constantly can desensitize you to it. You may need to get outside help to identify the chemical or material causing the odor and evaluate the following:

- Does the odor coincide with specific operations, weather and wind conditions or times of day?
- Is it detectable both inside and outside your facility? If it is only present outside, check for elevated sources such as vents and stacks.
- Where is the odor strongest? Places to check:
 - Drains and sewer conduits
 - Open tanks and other containers
 - Pumping and loading stations
 - Vents
- Did the odor appear suddenly, or has it been present for a while? If it appeared suddenly, look for spills or leaks and examine recent modifications to your facility.
- Is the odor present all the time, or does it come and go? If it comes and goes, check cleaning and painting operations or other intermittent processes.

Do not delay in communicating with the community, your employees and your air quality agency on your commitment to solving the problem and the progress you have made so far. Enlist the help of your neighbors in identifying the nature and timing of the problem.

How can you solve the problem?

Do not mask the odor by spraying the area with a stronger but less offensive odor. This is not an acceptable solution under Washington regulations. If you plan to introduce a reactive agent to eliminate the odor, check with your local air pollution control agency (listed on the reverse) before taking any action.

Depending on the source of the odor, you may need to consider the following:

- change or upgrade equipment.
- Use different supplies and materials that do not generate offensive odors.
- Practice better housekeeping (for example, clean up spills immediately; practice spill prevention).
- Practice regular leak detection and repair. Focus attention on fittings, valve packing, pump seals and flanges.
- Install better emission control technology (consult with your air quality agency on permit requirements).
- Keep tank and other container lids closed whenever possible.
- Make use of state and local technical assistance resources listed below.

Olympic Air Pollution Control Authority
(Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason,
Pacific, Thurston Counties)
909 Sleater-Kinney Road SE, Suite 1
Lacey, WA 98503-1128
(360) 438-8768 or 1-800-422-5623

Northwest Air Pollution Authority
(Island, Skagit, Whatcom Counties)
302 Pine Street, #207
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-3852
(360) 428-1617
1-800-622-4627 (Island & Whatcom)

Southwest Air Pollution Control Authority
(Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania,
Wahkiakum Counties)
1308 N.E. 134th St.
Vancouver, WA 98685-2747
(360) 574-3058 or 1-800-633-0709

Yakima County Clean Air Authority
6 South 2nd Street, Room 1016
Yakima, WA 98901
(509) 574-1410

Spokane County Air Pollution Control
Authority
W. 1101 College Ave., Suite 403
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 456-4727

Puget Sound Air Pollution Control Agency
(King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish Counties)
110 Union Street, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98101-2038
(206) 343-8800 or 1-800-552-3565

Benton County Clean Air Authority
650 George Washington Way
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 943-3396

Department of Ecology Central Regional
Office (Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat,
Okanogan Counties)
15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite #200
Yakima, WA 98902-3401
(509) 575-2490

Department of Ecology Eastern Regional
Office (Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry,
Franklin, Garfield, Grants, Lincoln, Pend
Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, Whitman
Counties)
N. 4601 Monroe Street, Suite 202
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 456-3114

Department of Ecology Northwest Regional
Office (San Juan County)
3190 160th Avenue S.E.
Bellevue, WA 98009-5452
(206) 649-7000

If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in alternative format, contact the Department of Ecology Air Quality Program, (360) 407-6830 (voice) or (360) 407-6006 (TDD only).