

Creating a clean and green Brisbane



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Managing air and odour pollution in our community

Brisbane City Council is committed to working with the community to keep our city clean and green.

Council, residents and businesses all have a role to play in managing air and odour pollution. Council encourages residents to work together to find practical solutions to manage air and odour pollution in our community.

Odour pollution can come from a range of sources, including compost bins, fertiliser application, piles of rubbish and use of chemicals.

Air pollution occurs when substances containing harmful or toxic elements enter the atmosphere. Dust, fumes, aerosols, odour, particulate matter and spray drift from paints are examples of air pollutants that can become environmental nuisances.

Tips to reduce odour pollution

- Keep your yard tidy as rubbish and vegetation can create odour.
- Consider weather conditions before applying fertilisers – avoid windy and wet days, to protect your neighbours.
- Cover or enclose your compost and turn it regularly.
- Consider the effects of chemicals, paints and other products that have strong offensive odours and inform your neighbours when you're planning to use these products.

Be a good neighbour

Your neighbour may not be aware they are having a negative impact on you. A friendly face-to-face conversation may quickly resolve the issue.

Follow our tips to be a good neighbour and avoid creating air and odour pollution or nuisance.

Tips to reduce dust pollution

- Check weather conditions when planning work, to prevent creating dust.
- Water down roadways or dusty areas.
- Retain as many plants and grassed areas as possible, as a barrier to dust.
- Use onsite resources as a dust barrier (e.g. green waste could be mulched and spread on the ground).
- Install a dust fence or tree rows.
- Use hydromulch for large areas.
- Use property access points away from neighbours.
- Limit vehicle speeds and reduce the time vehicles use unsealed roads.

Reducing spray drift

- Work indoors, where possible.
- Check weather conditions – don't spray on days with strong and gusty winds.
- Follow the guidelines provided by the manufacturer.
- Use a brush on small jobs.
- Use accurate equipment that reduces overspray.
- Use a commercial spray booth.

Smoke nuisance

Smoke from wood-fired heaters, or backyard burning, can be distressing to neighbours. Lighting fires in Brisbane is not allowed except in certain situations such as where cooking food for human consumption or on designated rural land, while maintaining low smoke emissions.

Wood-fired heaters must be operated in a way that prevents smoke nuisance. For information on techniques for making a good fire with low smoke emission and which firewood to use, visit brisbane.qld.gov.au and search 'wood heater guide'.

Responsibilities and the law

The *Health, Safety and Amenity Local Law 2009* (Part 2, "Fires") has provisions that aim to prevent smoke nuisance and does not allow fires in certain situations such as urban backyard burning.

The Queensland Government's *Environmental Protection Act 1994* regulates air and odour pollution from both domestic and commercial properties. Commercial operators also need to be aware of their responsibilities under *Brisbane City Plan 2014*.

Council is responsible for investigating air and odour pollution complaints and issuing notices and fines. In determining if there is an environmental nuisance, the investigating Council officer will consider various factors, including the:

- type of emission and how often the emission occurs
- duration and time of the emission
- emission's impact on the neighbouring environment.

Under the law, you are expected to take measures to ensure that you do not cause air and odour pollution or nuisance.

More information

If you are unable to resolve the issue with your neighbour, please lodge a complaint with Council by:

 **phoning** our Contact Centre on **3403 8888**

 **visiting** our website at **brisbane.qld.gov.au**

 **writing** to Brisbane City Council at GPO Box 1434, Brisbane QLD 4001.