



Things Your Business Should Know About Reducing Air Pollution

A Guide To Air Pollution Control
In Spokane County

What's Inside

- All about Spokane Clean Air
- Kinds of businesses regulated by Spokane Clean Air
- Staying in compliance with air quality regulations



*Use this booklet to help assure that
your business is meeting air quality
requirements.*



The quality of the air we breathe directly affects our health and well-being. Health impacts for individuals exposed to air pollution range from minimal effects to short-term reduction in lung function to an increase in respiratory illness and premature death. For this reason, preserving air quality has been a strong national priority since 1970, when Congress passed the Clean Air Act. Under this authority, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established health-based, air quality standards – known as National Ambient Air Quality Standards – for six criteria pollutants: particulate matter, carbon monoxide, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead. Locally, the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (Spokane Clean Air) implements federal, state and local air quality regulations and programs which are designed to attain and maintain clean air standards.

What Is the Status of Air Quality in Spokane County?

Tremendous improvements have been made in cleaning up the air over the last three decades. According to air monitoring data in 1975, there were over 300 "unhealthy" days in Spokane. Regular violations of health standards occurred for both particulate matter (dust and smoke) and carbon monoxide. Thirty years later, in August 2005, Spokane was officially declared in "attainment" of all federal air quality standards.

Future Challenges:

Air Toxics – Toxic air pollutants are harmful substances in the air that are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health problems. Spokane is impacted by a variety of activities that emit toxic pollutants, including gasoline storage, transfer and refueling commercial and industrial operations, motor vehicles, outdoor burning, wood heating, etc. There are 188 hazardous air pollutants listed in the Federal Clean Air Act, plus diesel particles. Additionally, the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) lists over 600 air toxic pollutants. Diesel particles, formaldehyde, benzene and acrolein are the pollutants that create the greatest air toxics-associated health risks in Washington state.

Particulate Matter (PM) – Newly revised standards for PM will address the health concerns of fine particles, which penetrate into the sensitive regions of the respiratory tract. Children, the elderly, and individuals with cardiovascular disease or lung disease, such as emphysema and asthma, are especially vulnerable.

Ozone – Also known as photochemical smog – ozone is becoming more prevalent in the Spokane-area. Ground-level ozone forms when nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react in the presence of sunlight. Sources of these pollutants include motor vehicles, commercial and industrial facilities, chemical solvents, combustion products from various fuels, and consumer products.



Do Businesses Contribute to Air Pollution?

Individuals as well as businesses contribute to air pollution. This is why reducing air pollution is everybody's business. Just as individuals are required to follow certain activities, such as curtailing wood burning and having their car emissions tested, businesses are also required to reduce emissions released into the air. Businesses create or contribute a variety of different pollutants, including some or all of the six criteria pollutants, depending on their manufacturing process and products used in their process. This is why facilities are subject to air pollution control requirements, registration, permitting and annual inspections.

In addition to the six criteria pollutants, some businesses release toxic compounds. The EPA and the Washington State Department of Ecology developed rules addressing toxic air pollutants, which Spokane Clean Air implements locally.

What Is Spokane Clean Air?

Spokane Clean Air is a local government agency formed under the 1967 State Clean Air Act. The agency is responsible for administering federal, state and local laws and regulations regarding outdoor air pollution. Spokane Clean Air's jurisdiction is countywide, including the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Spokane County.

To achieve the goals of the Clean Air Act, Spokane Clean Air implements programs aimed at reducing air pollution from all significant sources. A combination of education and regulatory efforts is directed toward commercial and industrial emission sources, residential wood combustion, outdoor burning, motor vehicles, asbestos, and dust sources.

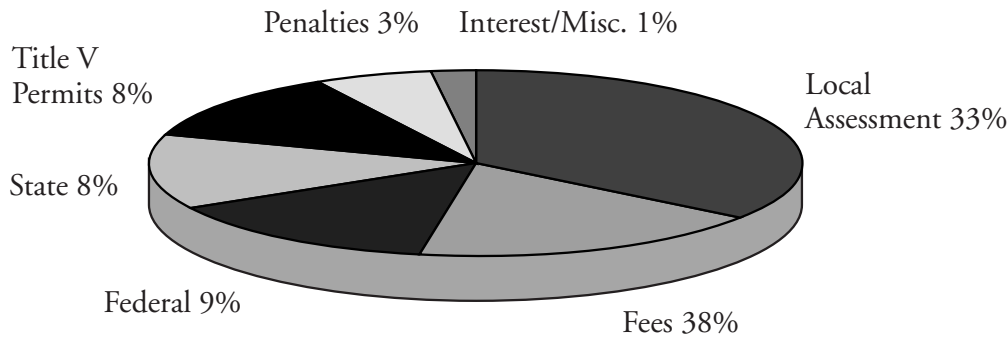
What Is the Governing Body of Spokane Clean Air?

The agency is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, which includes one Spokane County Commissioner, a City of Spokane Valley representative, a City of Spokane representative, a Small Cities and Towns representative and a Member-at-Large. The Board of Directors conducts regular monthly meetings, and the public and regulated business representatives are encouraged to attend. Meeting agendas and minutes are available online at www.spokanecleanair.org.

Spokane Clean Air also has a nine-member Advisory Council, appointed by the Board of Directors, to advise them and the staff on air pollution policies, regulations, and programs. The Advisory Council meets monthly and its membership represents: agriculture, air pollution control, business community, chemistry, citizen, environmental community, fire protection, industry and public health.

How Is Spokane Clean Air Funded?

Funding Revenues for Fiscal Year 2010



Spokane Clean Air finances its programs through state and federal grants, local assessments, registration fees and permit fees.

How Is Spokane Clean Air Organized?

Spokane Clean Air employs a professional staff to provide technical, engineering, compliance, administrative and clerical support.

- The Technical Services Staff maintains the air monitoring network, conducts data analysis and quality assurance, and provides computer service assistance to other agency staff.
- The Engineering Staff reviews and approves facility permit applications, provides information on regulations, and reviews environmental impact statements.
- The Compliance Staff conducts inspections, responds to citizen complaints, does routine surveillance, enforces air pollution regulations, and participates in public education programs.
- The Administrative Staff participates in intergovernmental coordination, planning and evaluation processes.
- The Clerical Staff provides a variety of specialized secretarial/clerical assistance, and performs work in accounting, financial records, and personnel records.
- The Education and Communications Staff develops and implements school programs, develops and distributes literature, communicates with the media, and coordinates public/private partnerships and special events.

What Kinds of Businesses are Regulated by Spokane Clean Air?

Spokane Clean Air regulates air emissions from a broad range of approximately 650 commercial operations and industrial facilities. Below is an example of the types of businesses registered with Spokane Clean Air:

Abrasive Blasting	Gasoline Dispensing
Asphalt, Concrete, Aggregate	Grain Handling/Seed
Boilers, Incinerators, Afterburners	Metal Plating
Dry Cleaners	Surface Coating
Fiberglass/Plastic	Woodworking
Foundry	Miscellaneous

For a more detailed list, contact Spokane Clean Air, (509) 477-4727, or visit www.spokanecleanair.org/regulated_businesses.asp.

What Regulations Should I be Aware Of?

The following sections describe key regulations that are important for all businesses to know. Additional information on these and other regulatory programs is available by contacting Spokane Clean Air, (509) 477-4727, or visit www.spokanecleanair.org, and click on "business information."

Spokane Clean Air's Registration Process

Spokane Clean Air Regulation I, Article IV lists categories of sources that have been identified as having potentially significant air emissions and therefore may be required to register with Spokane Clean Air and pay an annual registration fee.

Existing facilities need to fill out registration forms, itemizing the processes within the facility and the vents/exhaust points to the outdoor air. Before processes or emission points are added or modified, the facility should contact Spokane Clean Air. A Notice of Construction and Application for Approval may be required.

New facilities must contact Spokane Clean Air and follow the Notice of Construction and Application for Approval process, which also serves as the registration form for the facility. In addition, they may need to obtain approval from other departments and agencies such as the County Planning and Zoning Department, the Building Department, Spokane Regional Health District, and other agencies. *We will gladly assist facilities with the registration and the Notice of Construction process.*

Notice of Construction Rule

New air pollution sources, modifications to existing sources, and new or altered air pollution control equipment are required to go through a Notice of Construction (NOC) approval process prior to construction, installation, establishment, or modification (See Regulation I, Article V). Some of the equipment and activities that require approval include: boilers, spray-coating operations, use of solvents, gasoline storage and dispensing, degreasing, dry cleaning, paper manufacturing, printing operations, fiberglass fabrication, metal casting, and coffee roasting.

The NOC and Application for Approval form must be completed and submitted along with any detailed schematics, associated environmental information, modeling results, and other pertinent information. Call Spokane Clean Air to request an info sheet on the NOC process and/or an application packet, or visit www.spokanecleanair.org/compliance_resources.asp.

Surface Coating Rule

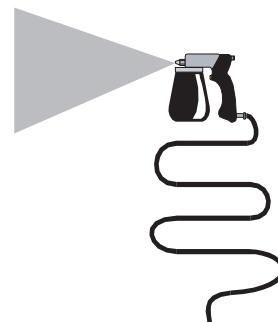
The Surface Coating Rule applies to many different kinds of businesses (see Regulation I, Section 6.13). It addresses emissions from surface coating operations including VOCs (volatile organic compounds), toxic air pollutants and particulate matter. The regulations are designed to reduce particulate emissions, reduce public exposure to toxics, prevent atmospheric ozone formation and encourage pollution prevention.

Dust Control Requirements

Dust from unpaved surfaces and dirt tracked onto paved surfaces contributes significantly to Spokane's particulate matter (PM₁₀) air pollution. To reduce these types of emissions, Spokane Clean Air requires that dirt tracked onto paved surfaces be promptly removed and that reasonable measures be taken to control dust from unpaved areas. These requirements apply to many different operations, such as construction, landscaping, and road work.

Renovation, Demolition and Asbestos Rules

To protect public health from asbestos exposure, Spokane Clean Air operates a comprehensive asbestos program. If your business is involved directly or indirectly in any renovation or demolition activities, you need to contact Spokane Clean Air for a specialized packet of information pertinent to your project.



Odors & Nuisances

Odorous emissions can impact the community. Spokane Clean Air requires that businesses and residents not allow the emission of any air contaminant in sufficient quantities that is likely to: harm the health or safety of human, animal, or plant life; cause damage to property; or unreasonably interfere with enjoyment of life and property.

Opacity Limits

To reduce the amount of contaminants emitted into the air, Spokane Clean Air requires that visible emissions from a stack/point be less than twenty percent opacity for an aggregate of more than three minutes in any one-hour time period. For a visual of legal and illegal opacity limits, visit www.spokanecleanair.org/opacity_limits.asp.

How Can My Business Stay In Compliance with Regulations?

Spokane Clean Air conducts annual inspections of registered businesses to verify compliance with existing regulations. In addition, Spokane Clean Air inspects facilities that are not registered to determine if they are complying with air quality regulations. Facility records are often reviewed during inspections and annual data that documents air emissions are required. The inspections also serve as an opportunity for you to ask questions, request resource information, and learn about upcoming regulatory changes.



Keeping good records of product usage can save time when reporting throughput data to Spokane Clean Air. Since a portion of the registration fee is based on emissions, it is important that records be maintained showing the amount of raw materials used and annual production for your facility. Also, many other programs require record keeping. Be sure to ask the Spokane Clean Air inspector what records need to be kept for your facility.

In addition, if you implement measures that improve efficiencies and reduce emissions, your Spokane Clean Air registration fee will likely be reduced. Check out the resource information Spokane Clean Air has put together on different industrial processes that can help you identify ways to reduce air emissions and your permit/registration fees.

How Can I Get More Information About Air Pollution Control?

Spokane Clean Air's regulations are available for review or purchase at our office or online at <http://www.spokanecleanair.org/regulations.asp>. To assist businesses in complying with air quality requirements, Spokane Clean Air has also developed a series of info sheets, newsletters and resource documents that may help your business prevent and control air pollution. Agency staff can help you access air quality and pollution prevention information that can help your business stay in compliance and likely, save money. For online air quality compliance materials, visit www.spokanecleanair.org/business_information.asp.

Call (509) 477-4727 or visit Spokane Clean Air, 3104 E. Augusta Ave., Spokane, WA 99207, to request information and/or set up a meeting.



Go Beyond Compliance

There are steps that a business must take to stay in compliance with air pollution regulations. These are required by local, state and federal rules, which are designed to protect the public from negative air quality impacts as a result of conducting business.

There are also steps businesses can take to go beyond compliance. By doing so, a business may benefit from reduced manufacturing costs, reduced employee absences due to illness, improved energy efficiency, reduced or simplified paperwork, and/or reduced emissions.

Examples of going beyond compliance:

- **Pollution Prevention** – in some cases, implementing "source reduction" and other practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants allow a business to get below certain emission-reporting thresholds, resulting in reduced registration fees.
- **Material Substitution** – using materials that produce fewer or no hazardous air pollutants or volatile organic compounds, but still result in the same or an improved product, may save a company material costs and/or reduce the administrative burden that comes with compliance.
- **Manufacturing Method Changes** – advancements in manufacturing techniques can often reduce the pollution produced through production process improvements and improved manufacturing efficiency.
- **Combustion Efficiency Improvements** – making equipment operate more efficiently can reduce energy consumption and reduce emissions.

Spokane Clean Air offers a free Pollution Prevention (P2) consultation to assist businesses in meeting and exceeding air quality regulations. Sign up for a P2 consult by calling (509) 477-4727.

Other Ways to Reduce Emissions & Save Money

Below are voluntary measures that can be implemented throughout your business that could have similar cost and emission-reduction benefits:

- **Idling reduction** – Idling = Zero Miles Per Gallon. Businesses throughout the state are helping keep Washington's air clean by making it their business to be idle free. Make it a workplace policy to not idle. Post “No-Idle Zone” signs near loading bays and other places where idling occurs. Spokane Clean Air can provide signs. Implement a "No Idle" policy for fleet vehicles and encourage employees not to idle their personal vehicles.
- **Commute Trip Reduction** - Clear the air and reduce costly gasoline bills. Emissions from our tailpipes spew fine particles, polluting gases and air toxics. These pollutants endanger our health and taint our environment. Reducing miles traveled is one of the most important actions we can take to protect air quality. Support programs that encourage employees to drive less by walking, biking or riding the bus. Other commute options include carpooling, vanpooling, or adopting alternative work hours by teleworking or flex scheduling. Assistance and incentives are available by contacting Spokane County's Commute Trip Reduction program at (509) 477-7650 or visit www.mycommute.org.
- **Energy Efficiency** – Using less energy more efficiently is an easy way to curb emissions and save money. Start by weatherizing your office to prevent energy you pay for from escaping; simply seal leaks and add insulation. Switch light fixtures to compact fluorescent lights, purchase Energy Star rated appliances and adjust your heating and cooling habits. Contact your local utility for more energy efficiency tips and/or rebates or visit EPA's EnergyStar website at www.energystar.gov.

Notes

Development of this document was funded in part by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency

3104 E. Augusta Ave.

Spokane, WA 99207

(509) 477-4727

FAX (509) 477-6828

www.spokanecleanair.org

