



Air Quality Information for Homeowners

*The Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District
is dedicated to protecting human health and property
from the harmful effects of air pollution.*

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Don't Light Tonight Line: (530) 757-3787

About the Air District

The Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District is, by law, required to achieve and maintain healthful air quality for its residents. This is accomplished by establishing and enforcing air pollution control rules and regulations in order to attain all state and federal ambient air quality standards and minimize public exposure to airborne toxins and nuisance odors.

The District regulates, permits and inspects stationary sources of air pollution. Among these sources are factories, power plants, gasoline stations, auto body shops and dry cleaners. While the state is responsible for controlling actual tailpipe emissions from vehicular sources, the District is required to implement transportation control measures. These measures are designed to reduce the number of cars on the road and promote the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles. The District also funds a number of important public and private agency projects that provide innovative approaches to reducing pollution.

How We Control Pollution

Controlling sources of air pollution includes a wide range of activities. As part of our clean air strategy, we do the following:

- Monitor the District's air quality through a network of monitoring stations that record pollutant levels 24 hours a day;
- Prepare plans to identify how much pollution is in our air, where it comes from and ways to control it effectively;
- Adopt rules to reduce emissions from specific types of equipment, industrial processes, paints and solvents;
- Evaluate plans for any new project that involves installing, altering or operating equipment that either causes air pollution or is used to control it;
- Issue permits and inspect businesses to ensure compliance once evaluations are complete; review and implement new technologies to help clean the air;
- Respond to public complaints and inquiries; provide information to the public regarding current air quality conditions and health implications;
- Help individuals and businesses understand and comply with federal, state, and local air pollution laws;
- And educate the public on their role in cleaning up the air.

How You Can Help

Winning the battle against unhealthy air will take more than just placing tighter controls on smokestacks and tailpipes. Pollution also comes from products and services we use every day. We can help reduce pollution by making some simple changes in the way we live. One of the best ways to reduce air pollution is to prevent it from being generated in the first place. You can help do this by reducing your energy consumption, reducing the amount of products you use, and providing regular maintenance for your consumer goods to extend their life span. This not only cuts down on the formation of air pollution, it helps preserve resources. Additional information on programs we offer is attached.

ENVIROFLASH - For Local Air Quality Info

<http://ysaqmd.enviroflash.org>



ENVIROFLASH is a free program providing electronic notifications of local air quality forecasts and health advisories so that residents can take action to reduce exposure to pollution. Enrollment is available by going to <http://ysaqmd.enviroflash.org>

- Spare the Air Day notification
- “Don’t Light Tonight” advisories
- Health Advisories for exceptional events (e.g. wildfires)
- Air Quality Forecasts

Spare The Air Day Notifications:

All subscribers will receive Spare the Air Day advisories, which are issued for ground-level ozone when the regional air quality index (AQI) is expected to reach 150 (**Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups**).

“Don’t Light Tonight” Advisories:

Don’t Light Tonight advisories are issued on an as needed basis according to weather forecasts to reduce pollution from woodsmoke. All subscribers will receive notification of a **“Don’t Light Tonight”** when particulate pollution (PM 2.5) in the District is expected to reach 25 micrograms per cubic meter of air or higher. Burning wood or any solid fuel will be discouraged unless it is the sole source of heat.

Health Advisory:

All subscribers will receive a Health Advisory, which is issued when air pollution is expected to quickly increase and reach the **Very Unhealthy** category on the AQI. This type of advisory is urgent and will remain in effect as long as the situation requires.

Air Quality Forecasts:

By selecting the AQI level you wish to receive notification, you can determine the frequency of air quality forecasts. For those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution, a lower trigger is recommended.

ENVIROFLASH is available to local air districts through a partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

SPARE THE AIR - Regional Program

May 1 - October 31

“Making air quality information an expected and anticipated part of peoples daily lives”

Spare the Air (STA) is a regional program and a Spare the Air Advisory is a call-to-action that is issued to encourage individuals and businesses to reduce pollution producing activities during hot spells. The air districts in the Sacramento region run a proactive outreach campaign to keep residents aware of the air quality. This allows them to take precautionary measures to protect their health.

Understanding and using the **Air Quality Index (AQI)** is an effective step in the process to stay healthy. AQI data, used on a daily basis, helps individuals make informed decisions regarding actions to avoid or reduce their exposure to pollutants. The data, relayed hourly from monitors in the region, is used to report real-time pollution levels and to forecast expected levels in the region. With real-time data and forecasting, residents can plan activities on a daily basis as well as days in advance.

To make it easier to understand, the AQI is divided into six categories:

(AQI) Values)	Levels of Health Concern	Colors
<i>When the AQI is in this range:...air quality conditions are: ..as symbolized by this color:</i>		
0-50	Good	Green
51-100	Moderate	Yellow
101-150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple
Greater than 300	Hazardous	Maroon

Each category corresponds to a different level of health concern.

The six levels of health concern and what they mean are:

- **“Good” AQI is 0 - 50.** Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
- **“Moderate” AQI is 51 - 100.** Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people. For example, people who are unusually sensitive to ozone may experience respiratory symptoms.
- **“Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups” AQI is 101 - 150.** Although general public is not likely to be affected at this AQI range, people with lung disease, older adults and children are at a greater risk from exposure to ozone, whereas persons with heart and lung disease, older adults and children are at greater risk from the presence of particles in the air. .
- **“Unhealthy” AQI is 151 - 200.** Everyone may begin to experience some adverse health effects, and members of the sensitive groups may experience more serious effects. .
- **“Very Unhealthy” AQI is 201 - 300.** This would trigger a health alert signifying that everyone may experience more serious health effects.
- **“Hazardous” AQI greater than 300.** This would trigger a health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.

Mower Exchange Program

Held in the Spring of each year

Since 1997, the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District has partnered with other air districts and agencies in the region to sponsor two mower exchange events. The air district teams up with partners to the east for the Sacramento regional event and partners to the west for the Yolo Solano Mower Exchange. The residents within our air district who own a gasoline-powered lawn mower are encouraged to exchange it for a rechargeable, electric mower at a reduced cost. The funding can vary each year so the quantities available and the cost of the new mower is determined on an annual basis.

Electric mowers are considered environmentally friendly because they:

- Use 70% less energy than gas
- Produce no on-site emissions
- No gas spillage
- No need to store gas
- No trips to the gas station
- No tune-ups
- No starting problems
- Noise level is 1/4th of a gas powered mower

Electric and rechargeable products create less emissions that can impact air quality. The use of a mulching mower improves soil structure, helps retain moisture and minerals while controlling pests and fungi, and cuts waste.

Why We Do It

Ozone is not discharged directly but is the result of complex reactions between a wide range of chemicals or precursors. Ozone is formed when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) combine in the presence of sunlight and high temperatures. As a result, the severity of the problem is highly dependent on weather conditions. The problem is often regional. Ozone plume and precursors can travel hundreds of miles. There are many different sources of pollution that contribute to the problem and by using electric and rechargeable products you can reduce emissions that impact air quality.

Residential Woodburning

Voluntary “Don’t Light Tonight” Program

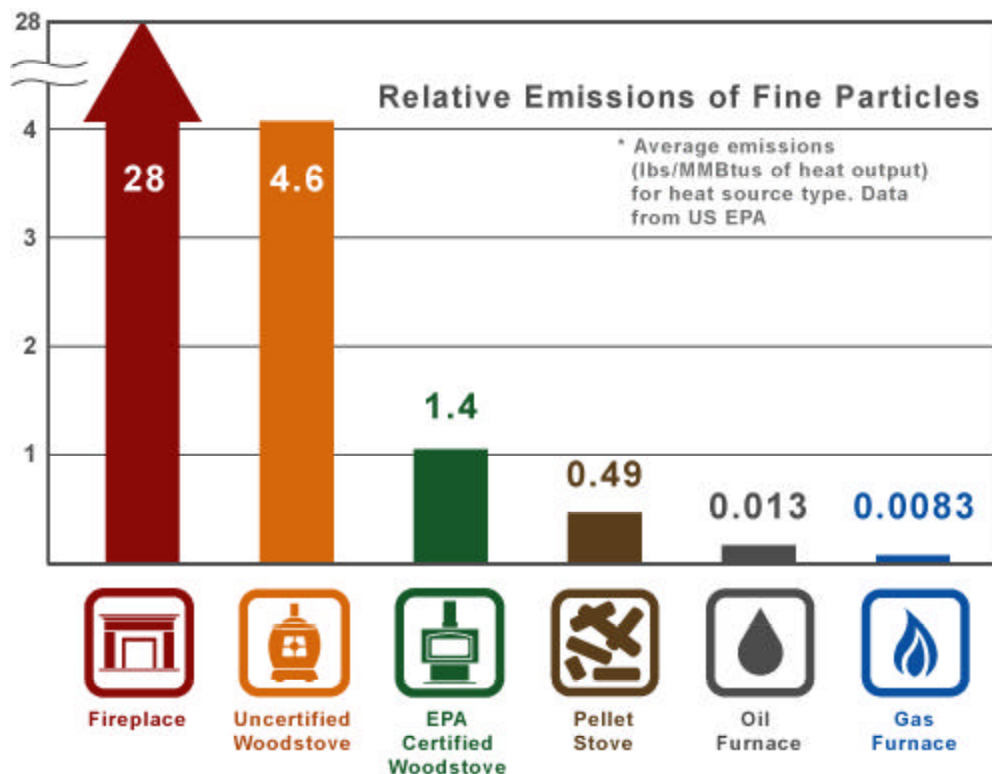
“To promote the reduction of particulate matter from wood burning appliances”

Don’t Light Tonight is a voluntary program during the fall and winter in which the District asks residents not to use their woodstoves and fireplaces when air pollution approaches unhealthy levels. The program is aimed at keeping pollution levels of particulate matter (PM) below the health-based standards.

Concentrations of particulate matter can reach high levels due to low-lying air inversions. These inversions trap pollutants close to ground level affecting the air we breathe. These cold weather conditions, coupled with increased use of fireplaces and woodstoves, can create pollution levels that lead not only to poor air quality but also the health problems for many residents.

If your home has a woodburning device, it should be EPA Phase II certified. It is illegal to install an open hearth fireplace or a non-certified stove with the YSAQMD’s jurisdiction. If you have a woodburning device and you choose to use it, the District asks that you ‘light it right’ and adhere to ‘Don’t Light Tonight’ advisories. To receive air quality information sign up at: <http://ysaqmd.enviroflash.org>.

Pollution from wood smoke affects the health of you, your family and your neighbors.



TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

511: Comprehensive Sacramento Region Travel Information

Transportation is one area where most residents can make choices that have an impact on air quality. Visit www.sacregion511.org/ or call 511. 511 provides access to information about all modes of travel: traffic conditions for commuters, bus and light rail information for more than 20 transit agencies, paratransit services for the elderly and disabled, ridesharing information and information on commuting by bike. The telephone service is available in English and Spanish. Local transportation services are provided by Yolo County Transportation District. Visit www.yolobus.com or call (530) 661-0816. Cycling is a good alternative mode of transportation and to ensure safety, drivers and cyclists should adhere to the following tips:

For Drivers:

- Understand that it is perfectly legal to ride a bicycle on streets, so watch for cyclists. Cyclists are not required to ride on road shoulders, which are often full of debris or potholes.
- Reduce your speed when passing bicyclists, especially if the roadway is narrow.
- Give cyclists enough room for their safety in case they have to maneuver around grates, parked cars or debris. Three feet is suggested.
- If the lane is too narrow to safely share, cyclists are entitled to the whole travel lane.
- In bad weather, give bicyclists extra trailing and passing room, just as you would other motorists. When uncertain in any situation, SLOW DOWN until it's safe to pass.
- Do NOT pass bicyclists if oncoming traffic is near. Wait as you would with any slow-moving vehicle. Your patience will only take a few seconds and can help prevent a serious crash or worse.
- Don't blast your horn when approaching bicyclists — you could startle them and cause an accident.
- After passing a bicyclist on your right, check over your shoulder to make sure you have allowed enough room before moving over.
- Do not pass bicyclists if you will be making a right turn immediately afterward. Always assume bicyclists are traveling through unless they signal otherwise.
- Children on bicycles are often unpredictable — expect the unexpected.
- When turning left at an intersection, yield to oncoming bicyclists just as you would yield to oncoming motorists.
- When pulling over and stopping to talk on a cell phone, don't park in the bike lane.

For Cyclists:

- Always wear a properly fitted helmet designed and approved for bicyclists.
- Always ride in the same direction as traffic and obey all stop signs and traffic signals and signal your turns.
- If a bike lane is provided, stay in it except to pass or avoid obstructions.
- Be predictable. Do not weave in and out of parked cars. Watch for people opening car doors.
- If there is no bike lane and the vehicle lane is wide enough to safely share with cars, ride to the right side.
- Do not try to share the lane if it is too narrow — ride in the center. Cyclists call this “taking the lane.”
- When proceeding straight through an intersection with right-turn lanes, move to the lane going straight and allow vehicles to turn right on your right side. When stopped at a signal, move to allow cars to turn right.
- When making a left turn, signal and move to the left before initiating the turn, just like an automobile. If you do not feel safe doing this, cross the street you want to turn onto. At the other side of the street, dismount and turn your bike in your desired direction, then proceed when it is safe and legal to do so.
- When riding at night, always wear light-colored or reflective clothes, and use both front and tail lights, as well as reflectors. The California Vehicle Code spells out bicycle-equipment requirements for night riding.

SIMPLE TIPS TO KEEP THE AIR CLEANER

EVERY DAY TIPS:

- Conserve energy—at home, at work, everywhere.
- Combine errands to reduce “cold starts” of your car and avoid extended idling.
- When refueling your vehicle, do NOT top off the tank. Be careful not to spill fuel and always tighten your gas cap securely.
- Keep car, boat, and other engines tuned up according to manufacturers’ specification and avoid engines that smoke.
- Be sure your tires are properly inflated.
- Carpool, use public transportation, bike, or walk whenever possible.
- Use environmentally safe paints and cleaning products whenever possible.
- If you use a wood-burning stove or fireplace insert, it should be EPA Phase II certified. Burn only dry, seasoned wood.
- Mulch or compost leaves and yard waste.
- Some products that you use in your home or office are made with smog-forming chemicals that can evaporate into the air when you use them. Follow manufacturers’ recommendations for use and properly seal cleaners, paints, and other chemicals to prevent evaporation into the air.

SPARE THE AIR TIPS:

- Conserve electricity and set your air conditioner at a higher temperature.
- Choose a cleaner commute—share a ride to work or use public transportation. Bicycle or walk to errands when possible.
- Defer use of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Refuel cars and trucks during cooler hours of the day preferably after dusk.
- Combine errands and reduce trips.
- Limit engine idling.
- Use household, workshop, and garden chemicals in ways that keep evaporation to a minimum, or try to delay using them when poor air quality is forecast.

TIPS FOR DAYS WHEN PARTICLE (PM) POLLUTION IS EXPECTED TO BE HIGH:

- Reduce the number of trips you take in your car.
- Reduce or eliminate fireplace and wood stove use.
- Avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- It is illegal to burn trash and other materials.