



## UPDATED COMMUNITY NOTICE – 10/12/21

### Los Angeles County's Response to Odors Reported in City of Carson

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) continues working with Los Angeles County Public Works, County Fire Hazardous Materials, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District to evaluate and monitor hydrogen sulfide levels and to mitigate health impacts. The ongoing odors associated with the Dominguez Channel are sufficiently pervasive to be considered a public nuisance to residents and those working and recreating nearby that must be addressed.

#### ARE ODORS HARMFUL TO MY HEALTH?

The levels of hydrogen sulfide in the air are not expected to cause irreversible health effects but are high enough to cause a strong, foul odor in the community. At these levels, hydrogen sulfide does cause nuisance odors and can cause short-term, reversible symptoms and negatively impact quality of life. Some of these temporary symptoms include headaches, nausea, or eye, nose, and throat irritation. Symptoms should go away when the odors subside or when you are in an area where the odors are not present. If you experience worrisome, worsening, or lingering symptoms related to the odors, please contact your medical care provider.

#### HOW DO I REPORT ODORS?

If you notice "rotten egg" or "sulfur" odors, you can report them. A complaint can be filed online with South Coast Air Quality Management District at <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/air-quality/complaints>, or by telephone at 1-800-CUT-SMOG (1-800-288-7664).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

While the effort to get rid of the odor continues, Public Health recommends you consider taking the following actions to lessen symptoms and protect the health of you, your family, and your pets:

- 1) Keep doors and windows closed as much as possible to prevent outdoor odors from entering your residence or business. Air out your home/business when odors are not present.
- 2) If you have a central heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, contact an air conditioning specialist, if needed, to determine if the air filters in your system may be replaced with High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) or MERV-rated filters with activated charcoal (carbon) to improve the air quality inside.
- 3) Use a certified portable HEPA indoor air filter with activated charcoal to improve air quality in your home. See some examples of portable HEPA indoor air filters with activated carbon on the reverse side for consideration.
- 4) If symptoms are persistent or worsening, consider relocating to another area until odors go away.
- 5) If symptoms feel life threatening, seek immediate medical care.
- 6) Keep pets indoors. If you notice any of the following in your pets, please contact your local veterinarian: difficulty breathing, vomiting, lethargy, or nausea.

People experiencing persistent, worrisome, or worsening symptoms from the odors are encouraged to contact their health care providers, especially if they have any chronic health conditions. People should also ensure that they have adequate supplies of their medications, especially if they have heart or lung conditions. In addition, Public Health recommends temporarily leaving the area where odors are present to alleviate health impacts.

**For more information on protective measures to prevent odors from entering the home, please contact the Public Health Community line at 626-430-9821 and leave a message with your contact information and your call will be returned. The message line will be checked every hour between 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. everyday while odors persist.**

**You can also visit <https://lacounty.gov/emergency/> for more information.**



## Air Cleaners and Filters

Air cleaners and specialized filters designed for use in HVAC systems, if properly configured and maintained, may have the greatest potential to improve your entire home’s air quality because most HVACs circulate very large volumes of filtered air throughout the home.

Portable units are usually best for single room use, rather than multiple room or whole-house use, because of their limited capacity to circulate large volumes of filtered air.

### How to Choose an HVAC Air Filters with activated carbon

These are available for purchase online, e.g., through Amazon or Walmart, and at local stores. You must choose the correct sized filter for your HVAC system. 1) Check your furnace manual for the correct sized filter, or check the existing filter to determine dimensions. Most filters have the size prominently displayed on the surface in numerous places. 2) Look for filters designated as HEPA or that are Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV)-rated. The higher the value, the more particles are removed. 3) Look for filters with activated charcoal or activated carbon. They are commonly labeled as “odor eliminator”, “odor control”, or “odor reduction.”

Some Examples of Certified Portable Air Filters/Cleaners, as listed by the California Air Resources Board (CARB)

| Brand        | Model Name                  | Model Number | Type       | Date Notified | EO Number |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|-----------|
| Aireox       | Model 45x                   | 45B          | Mechanical | 2020-01-23    | G-20-009  |
| Levoit       | Tower Pro HEPA Air Purifier | LV-H134      | Mechanical | 2019-06-05    | G-19-086  |
| Winix        | 5300-2                      | 5500-2       | Electronic | 2016-04-20    | G-16-053  |
| GermGuardian | Air Purifier                | RAC5250PT    | Electronic | 2018-12-14    | G-18-136  |

These are just listed as examples; other brands and models of portable HEPA filters with activated carbon/charcoal exist. The ones listed were found to be available on Amazon and at local stores.

## CARB Certification

State regulation requires all air cleaners sold or distributed in California to be certified as not exceeding 50 parts per billion of ozone when tested using a specified test method. CARB offers a list of [certified air cleaner models](#) on its web page. Note that this certification only covers ozone emissions and electrical safety; it does not include performance testing for removal of particles or chemicals from the airstream.

## Reimbursement Program

If you’re a resident of **Carson or West Carson**, the County has a reimbursement program for the purchase of HVAC air filters, portable HEPA air filters, or temporary relocation during this public nuisance event. Please review the recommendations and guidance above before purchasing filters.

Click [here](#) to file a claim for reimbursement or contact the Call Center at 800-675-HELP (4357). You can also visit <https://lacounty.gov/emergency/> for more information on the reimbursement program.

