

# Do Your Share for Clean Air

WHS school has launched an Air Quality Awareness Program. We are doing a lot of things to keep our bodies healthy. We eat right. We exercise. We even track the daily air quality to make sure don't have any health concerns.

## What is Air Pollution?

Air pollution is when gasses, dust particles, smoke, and odor enter the air. Things that pollute the air are called pollutants. There are primary and secondary pollutants. Primary pollutants are gasses and particles that are pumped into the air and secondary pollutants are particles that are mixed to form a chemical reaction.

Are you paying attention to air Quality? The AQI (air quality index) is an index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or polluted your air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for our school. See the AQI on the next page.

## Indoor Air Pollution

Indoor air pollution is just like outdoor air pollution, but it is air within a building. This has more of a health risk for humans.

Indoor Air Pollution is caused by:

- Smoke
- Chemicals
- Particles

Indoor Air Pollution is caused by different things in different rooms:

- Bathroom pollution is caused by mildew and cleaning chemicals.
- Bedroom pollution is caused by dust, mites, and pet hairs.
- Attic is polluted by dust and asbestos
- Kitchen pollution is caused by smoke, chemicals, and carbon monoxide
- Living rooms can be polluted by carpeting, furniture, chemicals, and smoke.



Thanks for reading!

# Air Quality

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# Air Quality Index

AQI Numbers

Colors

0 to 50	green
51 to 100	yellow
101 to 150	orange
151 to 200	red
201 to 300	purple
301 to 500	maroon

## What do these numbers mean?

Colors

What does it mean?

Green	Good
Yellow	Ok
Orange	Bad for asthma
Red	Bad
Purple	Really bad
Maroon	Super bad

## How does AQI work?

The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. An AQI value of 100 generally corresponds to the national air quality standard for the pollutant, which is the level EPA has set to protect public health. AQI values below 100 are generally thought of as satisfactory.

## Causes of Air Pollution

Air pollution is caused by natural and human actions. Wind erosion, volcanic eruptions, and forest fires can cause natural air pollution. A common human cause is factory smoke. The smoke carries tiny particles called carbon monoxide into the air. Heavy-duty trucks, farming chemicals, and burnt fossil fuels also pollute the air and can be very harmful to human lungs.

## Effects of Air Pollution

Some effects of air pollution are acidification, eutrophication, and particulate matter.

- **Acidification** - When sulfuric acid combines with water droplets, it becomes acid rain. Acid rain can kill trees, and harm animals.
- **Eutrophication** - Rain can deposit nitrogen in some pollutants and can make for harmful conditions for animals living in lakes and rivers.
- **Particulate Matter** - This is a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets that are harmful to humans. Short-term

effects of particulate matter are irritation to eyes, throat, and nose. Long-term effects are lung cancer, heart disease, and chronic respiratory disease.

## Solutions

You can help prevent air pollution by:

- Taking public transportation
- Cutting down on your use of energy by being aware of your use of water and turning off the lights
- Recycling and re-using things to cut down on the need for factories to produce smoke!

**Help to make this world a better place!**

**Stay sustainable!!!!**