



Darebin City Council
ABN 75 815 980 522

Dear Resident,

Re: Darebin City Council – Wood Heater Odour Log

I refer to your recent request relating to odour/smoke from a wood heater that is causing you concern. Wood heaters are a legal form of heating that when used correctly should not create emission, please note smoke may be visible up to 20 minutes after lighting or loading a wood heater.

If you are concerned about air pollution from a wood heater the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is the primary regulator. Darebin's Health Protection Unit is responsible for investigating residential wood heaters where wood smoke emissions may be creating a public health risk. For information on the types of odour/smoke that Council investigate, please see [Council's website](#).

Do you wish to:

- Report wood heater emissions affecting air quality. Report to EPA air pollution hotline on 1300 372 842.
- Report wood heater emissions that are affecting your health. Progress to complete the attached log.

To assist our Officer's in investigating the allegation of nuisance we request you complete a wood heater log, this log has been enclosed for your action. The log must be completed for at least a 14-day period as this allows Council to identify any patterns regarding frequency, duration, and outline where the odour/smoke is entering your home including bedroom, lounge room, etc. We seek your support in this investigation, please complete these logs with accuracy and include clear descriptions because they may be used as evidence if further action is pursued.

The data provided will enable an Authorised Officer to determine whether the odour/smoke is potentially unreasonable or may be deemed a nuisance that requires further investigation. In order to be considered a nuisance, the emission needs to be affecting your health. The officer is required to detect the emission from within a habitable room of your dwelling when the wood heater was operational to confirm it is dangerous to health.

Enforcement action can only be taken if a nuisance is found to exist as required by under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

Complaints in relation to the compliance of wood heater installation, building structure or plumbing issues are not investigated by the Health Protection Unit.

Where an odour/smoke emission is not deemed to be unreasonable or a nuisance, Council will not be able to take any further action. In these cases, you will be advised to speak to your neighbour directly, consider mediation with your neighbour through the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria or seek to resolve the matter privately.

Where odour logs have not been returned to Council after a period of 30 days from the

Postal Address
PO Box 91
Preston VIC 3072
T 03 8470 8888
F 03 8470 8877
darebin.vic.gov.au



National Relay Service
relayservice.gov.au

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.



Speak your language
T 03 8470 8470

العربية
繁體中文
Ελληνικά
हिंदी
Italiano
Македонски
नेपाली
ਪੰਜਾਬੀ
Soomalii
Español
اردو
Tiếng Việt

date of lodgement of your request, Council will consider that the matter has resolved, and no further action will be taken.

Once completed and signed Wood Heater Odour logs can be submitted via mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au

Regards,

Health Protection Unit
City of Darebin

Privacy Statement

The collection and handling of personal information is in accordance with Council's Privacy Policy which is displayed on Council's website and available for inspection at, or collection from, Council's Customer Service Centres.

Declaration

I hereby confirm that the information I am providing on the log sheets is true and correct and that:

1. I am willing to give evidence in relation to this matter in a Court of Law or Tribunal
2. I am aware that it is an offence under Section 210 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 to give information, make a statement or produce a document that is false or misleading in a material particular to the Secretary, a Council, the Chief Health Officer or an Authorised Officer under this Act or the Regulations. A contravention of this section is guilty of an offence against this Act and may be liable to a penalty of not more than 60 penalty units in the case of a natural person, and of not more than 300 penalty units in the in the case of a Body Corporate.

I hereby acknowledge that the information contained above was written by me and is a true and correct account of observations taken of odour emanating from _____(Wood Heater smoke).

I understand that I may be required to present this document in a court of law should this matter ever proceed and further acknowledge that I make this statement knowing that it is an offence for a person to provide false or misleading information to a regulatory authority.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Dated: ____/____/____

Please return the completed Wood Heater
Odour log to:

City of Darebin
274 Gower Street
PRESTON VIC 3072

Email: mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au