



Odour diary

Publication F1019 June 2021

Your details	<i>(full name)</i>		
	<i>(address)</i>		
Diary start date	/ /	Diary end date	/ /



What to do if you are affected by offensive odour

1. Call EPA on 1300 EPA Vic to report the odour.
2. Record your observations in this odour diary.
3. Keep the diary record for future issues.
4. EPA may use information from your diary as evidence for legal action.

About this odour diary

Residents submitting this form to EPA may have to either provide a formal statement or appear as a witness in court. If they are uncomfortable in doing this, EPA will not be able to progress with them as a witness. This document is to assist residents to record their observations during times when they are being affected by offensive odour. The template is used in preparing witness statements.

Why EPA Needs Community Evidence

All businesses that produce odour are required to minimise odour as far as reasonably practical. One of the harms defined in the Environment Protection Act 2017 (the Act) is a change to the condition of the environment that make it offensive to the senses of human beings.

To fine or prosecute a company for offensive odour, among other things, requires evidence of how people were affected. Through interpreting the Act and subordinate legislation, offensive odour can be defined as odour which affects the general life, health and well-being of an individual, as a result of the intensity, character, frequency, and duration of the odour. People experience odours differently. To build a successful prosecution, EPA requires individual reports demonstrating how the presence of the offensive odour has infringed on peoples' lives.

This evidence cannot be provided by an EPA officer if they are not living in the area. They cannot claim that their general life, health and wellbeing are being affected.

What to Include

Each of the odour logs prepared needs to have sufficient information in case you are requested to prepare a formal statement at a later date. Some prompts have been provided overleaf, but please remember:

- Fill in as much detail as you can
- Each observations needs a new statement – making it clearer to differentiate observations over time
- Try to be realistic and objective about your observations – an odour of “15 out of 10” may reflect how you feel about the odour, but will not give a realistic measure of the level of odour in the area.

Reporting Pollution

The community supports EPA by reporting pollution in its area to us on 1300 EPA VIC. EPA officers use information such as wind data, recent field investigations and information from the community to determine possible sources.

Follow-up action may include on-site attendance, after consideration of the extent, nature and severity of pollution reports from the community.

Describing odour

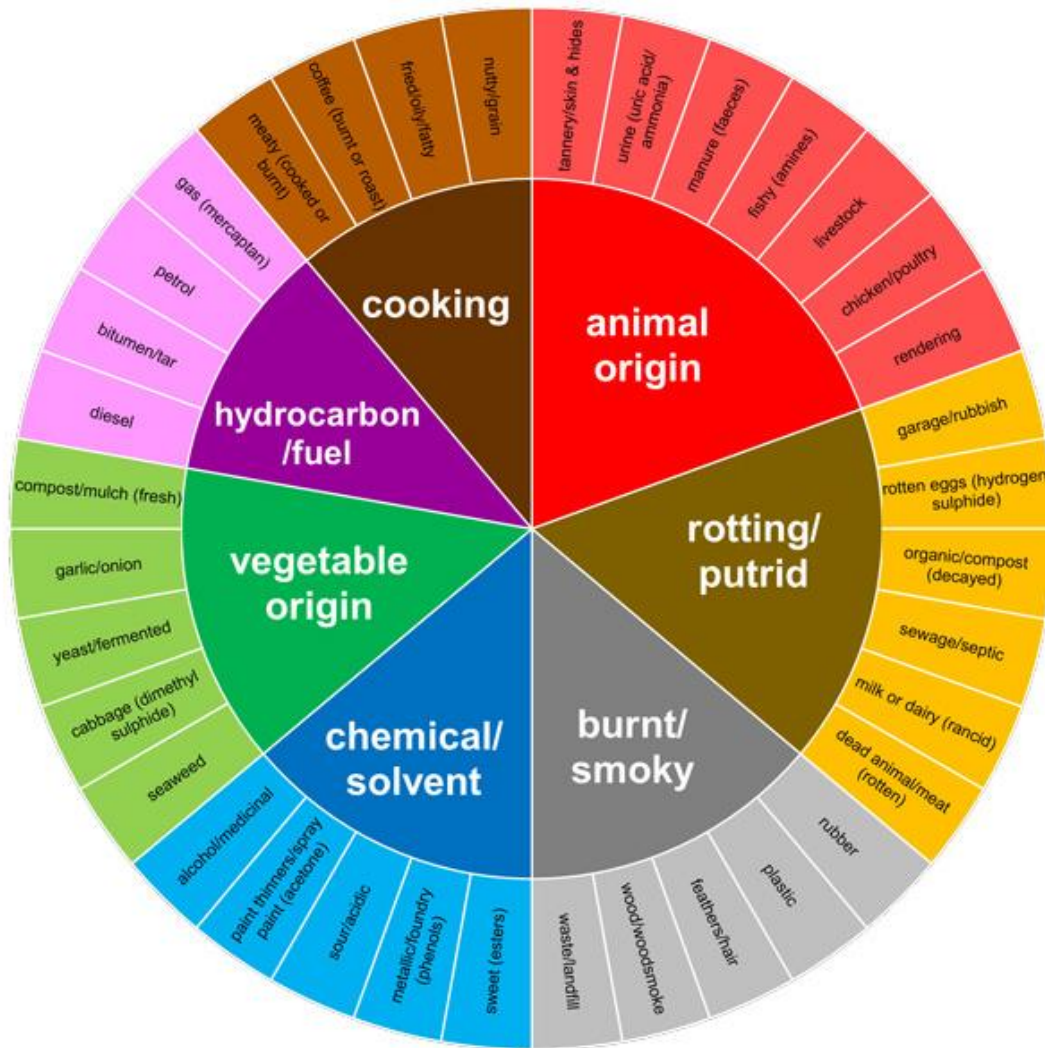


Figure 1: Odour wheel

Common industrial odour descriptors

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 01 Fragrant/Perfume | 15 Woody, resinous | 25 Tar-like |
| 02 Nut Roasting | 16 Burnt, smoky | 26 Metallic |
| 03 Sweet | 17 Medicinal, ether-like, anaesthetic | 27 Oil, fatty |
| 04 Fruity | 18 Chemicals | 28 Sour, acrid, vinegar |
| 05 Bakery | 19 Fibreglass resin-like styrene | 29 Silage |
| 06 Coffee-like | 20 Paint-like | 30 Compost |
| 07 Spicy | 21 Petrol, diesel, kerosene, solvents | 31 Musty, earthy, mouldy |
| 08 Meaty (cooked) | 22 Ammonia/Urine | 32 Rubbish |
| 09 Raw meat, blood-like | 23 Rotten egg, sulphurous | 33 Rancid |
| 10 Herbal, green, cut grass | 24 Gas-like (methylmercaptans) | 34 Putrid, foul decaying, vomit |
| 11 Cooked vegetables | | 35 Dead animal |
| 12 Garlic, onion | | 36 Manure |
| 13 Sea/marine | | 37 Sewage, septic |
| 14 Fishy- fresh or rotten | | 38 Other (describe) |

Odour diary

Details of odour event		
Odour first noticed	(time)	(date)
Time reported	(time)	(date)
Odour Intensity	Strong	Weak
Odour description <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did it smell like?• Was it consistently present?• How long did it last?		
How the odour affected you <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did the odour present make you feel?• How long did you feel this?• Did the odour disrupt your activities?		

Details of odour event		
Odour first noticed	(time)	(date)
Time reported	(time)	(date)
Odour Intensity	Strong	Weak
Odour description <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What did it smell like?• Was it consistently present?• How long did it last?		
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