

About EPA

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is Victoria's environmental regulator. We ensure businesses prevent and reduce the harmful effects of pollution and waste on Victorians and their environment.

EPA is an independent statutory authority. From 1 July 2021, we will enforce the *Environment Protection Act 2017*, and support businesses to comply.

Contact us

1300 372 842
(1300 EPA VIC) (24 hours)

contact@epa.vic.gov.au

epa.vic.gov.au

Accessibility

Contact us if you need this information in an accessible format such as large print or audio. Please telephone **1300 EPA VIC** (1300 372 842) or email **contact@epa.vic.gov.au**

If you need interpreter assistance or want this document translated please call **131 450** and advise your preferred language. If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service. For more information, visit **relayservice.gov.au**



Victoria's new environmental laws

The biggest change in 50 years to Victoria's environment protection becomes law on 1 July 2021.

The new laws require Victorians to understand and minimise their risks of harm to human health and the environment, from pollution and waste.

For businesses already managing their environmental risks, this likely means little to no change. Complying with the new laws is about taking reasonable, proactive steps and employing good environmental work practices.

Visit EPA's website for more information:
epa.vic.gov.au/new-laws



Your duties to protect our environment

General environmental duty

You must take steps to minimise harm to human health and the environment from pollution and waste.

Tell EPA about pollution incidents

Businesses must tell us if a pollution incident has caused harm to human health or the environment or is likely to.

Respond to pollution incidents

Anyone responsible for causing a pollution incident must restore the affected area.

Manage contaminated land

You must manage the risks to human health and the environment if you manage or control contaminated land.

Tell EPA about contaminated land

Anyone managing or in control of land who becomes aware it is significantly contaminated must notify EPA.

Manage waste

Everyone in the waste management chain must send all industrial waste to a lawful place. Anyone handling priority waste must manage it according to its risk.



Preparing for the new laws: Understand your risks

Complying with the new laws begins by understanding your risks. Complete a self-assessment to help understand any environmental risks you must manage:

epa.vic.gov.au/manage-risks



What the law expects of you

You are expected to understand the risk of pollution and waste your activities pose. It is not enough to act after a pollution event. You must proactively manage risks to prevent harm to human health and the environment. We expect your business to:

- identify and assess your risk of harm to human health and the environment
- implement suitable risk control measures
- respond quickly to EPA's advice and suggestions, and make changes when needed
- minimise your environmental impact and repair damage
- assist EPA authorised officers by answering questions and providing information during inspections
- ask for support when needed and act on EPA's advice.



What you can expect from EPA

Protecting the environment for future generations is a shared responsibility. EPA will support businesses, industry, the community and other regulators manage environmental risks. We will:

- provide information about environmental risks and how to identify them
- work with industry associations to share examples of good practice
- coordinate with other regulators to reduce regulatory burden
- enforce the law on those who don't comply.