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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



WILDFIRE SMOKE REMEDIATION FACTSHEET

This factsheet is intended for residents whose homes were impacted by smoke plumes (but not destroyed) during the Los Angeles wildfires. Many are experiencing poor indoor air quality, property damage, and potential long-term health effects. The front page highlights a nonprofit organization and resources for smoke remediation to support cleanup and recovery efforts. The back page offers technical guidance on reducing smoke exposure and protecting your health.

Wildfire Smoke Resources and Education

Homeowner's Guide to Risk Reduction and Remediation of Residential Smoke Damage



The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) **Homeowner's Guide to Risk Reduction and Remediation of Residential Smoke Damage** was developed to help homeowners understand and address the risks of smoke, soot, and ash damage following a wildfire. The guide outlines science-based strategies for assessing smoke contamination, performing safe and effective cleanup, and reducing future smoke infiltration. It provides practical tools such as wipe tests, protective equipment recommendations, and cleaning protocols tailored to the level of damage ranging from light odor to heavy residue requiring professional remediation.

Volunteer Agencies Aid Those Impacted by Smoke Damage



Hope Crisis Response Network is offering support for homeowners affected by smoke and fire damage from the Los Angeles wildfires. Services may include cleanup and smoke remediation for homes that were impacted but not destroyed. To request assistance, you must be a homeowner or have permission from your landlord. Renters will be required to obtain a landlord waiver before support can be provided.



Complete this intake form to request assistance.

California Department of Insurance (CDI): Smoke Abatement Task Force



California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara has formed the Smoke Claims & Remediation Task Force to address the increasing impact of wildfire smoke on homes and personal property. This group will develop science-based standards and best practices for smoke damage assessment and cleanup. In March, Commissioner Lara issued a formal **Bulletin** requiring insurers, including the California FAIR Plan, to address smoke damage claims. This represents a critical step toward establishing consistent, statewide guidelines.*

*This factsheet is intended for informational purposes only. The information provided is based on publicly available statements and actions from the California Department of Insurance.



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Technical Resources for Reducing Indoor Exposure to Wildfire Smoke

Protecting Your Health from Wildfire Smoke & Ash



California Air Resources Board (CARB): Certified Air Cleaning Devices



California Air Resources Board (CARB): Smoke Ready California



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Smoke Factsheets & DIY Clean Room



LA County Public Health – Cleaning Up Smoke and Soot After a Fire



Wildfire smoke and ash contains fine particles and chemicals that can harm lung and heart health, especially for children, older adults, and those with existing medical conditions. To reduce health risks during events like the recent Los Angeles wildfires, [AirNow.gov](https://airnow.gov) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommend staying indoors, using high-efficiency air filters, and creating a “clean room” with a HEPA or CARB-certified air cleaner to clear out wildfire smoke.

Additional Resource: [AirNow.gov](https://airnow.gov) – Current Air Quality

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) offers a list of air cleaners that comply with state ozone emission limits. For best results, high-efficiency filters and portable room air cleaners should be used regularly. To reduce exposure to wildfire smoke indoors, individuals can set up a designated “clean room” in their home by running an approved air cleaner in a closed-off space with minimal outside air intrusion.

Smoke-Ready California is a statewide initiative aimed at helping residents, communities, and local agencies prepare for and respond to wildfire smoke events. Led by public health, air quality, and emergency partners, the initiative focuses on public education, access to clean air resources, and guidance on reducing smoke exposure. It promotes readiness through tools like air quality alerts, clean air shelter planning, protective equipment guidance, and coordination with sources such as [AirNow.gov](https://airnow.gov) and local health departments.

The **Smoke-Ready Toolbox** from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is a comprehensive collection of resources designed to help communities, emergency planners, public health officials, and residents prepare for and respond to wildfire smoke events.

Additional EPA Resources:

- **Wildfire Smoke Factsheet: Protecting Children From Wildfire Ash & Smoke**
- **Air Filters & Air Cleaners**
- **EPA: Ozone Generators & Air Cleaners**

The **Cleaning Up Soot Factsheet** from Los Angeles County Department of Public Health offers guidance for safely cleaning smoke and soot residue after a wildfire. It includes tips on protective equipment, ventilation, surface cleaning, and when to seek professional help especially for residents whose homes were impacted but not destroyed.