

Know Before You Go

Staying Informed about Air Quality in Philadelphia

In Philadelphia, poor air quality days are rare, but they do happen. It's important to stay informed and know what to do when the air quality is poor, so you can stay safe and healthy.

What is air quality?

Air quality is measured by the number of pollutants in the air. Polluted air can cause coughing, wheezing, and make breathing harder. This is especially true for people with chronic conditions, like asthma.

What causes poor air quality?

Poor air quality can be caused by many things, such as large fires, exhaust from vehicles, and construction.

How is air quality measured?

The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a tool used to measure outdoor air quality. It tells you how clean the outdoor air is and whether there are any concerning health effects.

AQI uses six color-coded levels of concern, with darker colors and higher AQI numbers meaning the air is more polluted and harmful.

AQI Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0-50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little to no risk.
Moderate	51-100	Air quality is acceptable, but those who are extremely sensitive to pollution may be at risk.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects.
Unhealthy	151-200	Some members of the public may experience health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201-300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Hazardous	301+	Health warning of emergency conditions: Everyone is more likely to be affected.

Check the air quality near you!

Breathe Philly is a network of real-time air quality monitors throughout Philadelphia that provide accurate, hourly, air quality measurements wherever you live, work, or play in the city.

- 1 Scan the QR code.
- 2 Visit the link below.

phila.gov/breathephilly

