

# Wildfires and Indoor Air Quality

During a wildfire, smoke can make the outdoor air unhealthy to breathe. Local officials may advise you to stay indoors during a smoke event associated with a wildfire. While sheltering, some outdoor smoke can enter your home and affect your indoor air quality. Explore these resources to learn what steps you can take to protect your family from wildfire smoke indoors.



Scan the QR Codes below to access each resource, or scan the code to the right to explore EPA's [Wildfires and Indoor Air Quality webpage](#), which is available in nine languages.

## 'How to Create a Clean Room at Home' Video

Spending time in a clean room at home can help reduce your exposure to smoke while staying indoors. This video will show you how to create a clean room to reduce your family's exposure to wildfire smoke while indoors.



This series of factsheets from EPA's AirNow program will help you prepare for wildfire season and take steps to reduce your exposure to smoke and ash.

**WILDFIRE SMOKE FACTSHEET**

### Prepare for Fire Season

If you live in an area where the wildfire risk is high, take steps now to prepare for fire season. Being prepared for fire season is especially important for the health of children, older adults, and people with heart or lung disease.

**Before a Wildfire**

- If any family member has heart or lung disease, including asthma,** check with your doctor about what you should do during smoke events. Have a plan to manage your condition.
- Stock up** on you don't have to go out when it's smoky. Have several days of medications on hand. Buy groceries that do not need to be refrigerated or cooked because cooking can add to indoor air pollution.
- Create a "clean room"** in your home. Choose a room with no fireplace and as few windows and doors as possible, such as a bathroom. Use a portable air cleaner in the room.
- Ask an air conditioning professional** what kind of high efficiency filters to use in your home's system and how to clean the fresh air intake if your central air system or room air conditioner has one.
- Have a supply of N95 respirators** and learn how to use them. They are sold at many home improvement stores and online.
- Organize your important items** ahead of time, including financial and personal documents. Know your evacuation routes and where to go if you have to evacuate. Make sure to prepare your children, and consider your pets when making



## DIY Air Cleaner Infographics

If portable air cleaners are not available or affordable, you may choose to use a do-it-yourself (DIY) air cleaner. These infographics provide directions for how to create different types of DIY air cleaners.

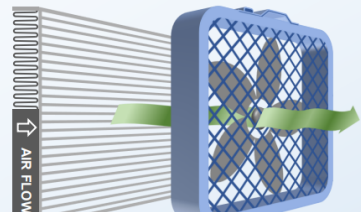


Smoke events can last for days and weeks, which is why it is important for building owners and managers to have information on best practices for reducing exposure to smoke that may enter schools, commercial buildings, or multi-unit housing.



### DIY Air Cleaner to Reduce Wildfire Smoke Indoors

**Materials**



**20" X 20" air filter**  
Suggested rating: MERV 13

**20" X 20" box fan**  
Only use certified fans with UL or ETL marking (2012 model or newer)

**Clamps** or **Duct Tape** or **Bungee Cords**

Learn about box fan safety tips:  
<https://www.epa.gov/air-research/research-diy-air-cleaners-reduce-wildfire-smoke-indoors#FAQ>

**Assembly**

1. Attach the air filter to the back of the box fan using either clamps, duct tape or bungee cords.
2. Check the filter for the direction of the air flow (marked on the side of the filter).
3. Replace filters when dirty.

For more information about protecting indoor air quality during emergencies and disasters, visit EPA's [Emergencies and Indoor Air Quality webpage](#) by scanning the QR code to the right.

