

Air Quality

Everyone feels the effects of high levels of particulate matter in the air. Not only do high particulate levels limit visibility and our ability to enjoy the scenery and activities so popular in Arizona, they can also cause serious health problems.

Particulate matter that is 10 micrometers or less in diameter is called PM-10. These tiny particles can invade the natural defense mechanism of the human respiratory tract, penetrating deep into the lungs. Consequently, PM-10 can cause a wide variety of harmful health effects, especially for children, the elderly and people with pre-existing respiratory or cardiovascular diseases.

With this potential threat to human health, several groups in the Phoenix metropolitan area have developed and are implementing programs to help the area meet the Federal Clean Air Act standards for PM-10. The Town of Queen Creek supports Maricopa County's clean air initiative, Running Out of Air.



The Arizona Department of Agriculture offers a compliance assistance program for commercial farmers to ensure compliance with laws and rules that address air quality standards within Maricopa County.

Members of the public can file complaints regarding excessive agricultural dust with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) at 602-771-2300.

Learn more about Maricopa County's clean air initiative, Running Out of Air, at www.runningoutofair.com

Visit the **Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)** Web site for air quality forecasts and advisories at www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/index.html

To report a dust violation in Maricopa County, visit the **Maricopa County Air Quality** site at www.maricopa.gov/aq/contact_us/report_violation.aspx or call 602-372-2703.

To report a dust violation in Pinal County, visit the **Pinal County Air Quality** site at <http://pinalcountyz.gov/Departments/AirQuality/Pages/FileaComplaint.aspx> or call 520-866-6929.



Town of Queen Creek

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DUST CONTROL

Make the Clean Air Commitment:
Join the Town of Queen Creek in helping the Valley obtain healthier, cleaner skies.



What the Town is Doing to Reduce Particulate Pollution

The Queen Creek Town Council adopted a resolution to implement nine measures to reduce PM-10 particulate matter in the Valley, becoming the first of the jurisdictions in the region to do so.

The Town's resolution includes the naming of the first week of August "Dust Awareness Week." As one of the several measures the Town is taking to control particulate matter emissions, Dust Awareness Week is meant to encourage Queen Creek residents to join the Town in its commitment to healthier, cleaner skies.

Other measures included in the Town's resolution that address this issue include the following:

- Establishes a dust control hotline to receive calls regarding air quality concerns. To report a dust problem, call 480-358-3130.
- Modifies right-of-way encroachment and onsite building permits to include a reminder of dust control requirements.
- Monitors off-road vehicle activity and gathers data to determine problem areas and enforcement measures.
- Cleans Town streets with PM-10-certified street sweepers.
- Stabilizes unpaved public parking lots and drive approaches, and identifies unpaved privately owned parking lots to determine a course of action needed to correct deficiencies.
- Stabilizes 52 linear miles of unpaved shoulders in the Town with a dust control agent.
- Requires paving of all public roads in the Town's jurisdiction and enforces current Zoning Ordinance and building permit requirements related to dust control.

New Air Quality Ordinances

To comply with state legislation, the Town adopted Ordinance 419-08 including additional air quality and fugitive dust requirements. The requirements became effective March 31, 2008.

It is property owners' responsibility to control dust on their property. Check to see if the following new dust control restrictions apply to you!

■ ATVs and Other Off-Road Vehicles

Prohibits the operation of any vehicle on an unpaved surface that is NOT public or private road, street or lawful easement and that is closed by the landowner. This includes vehicles such as:

- Off-highway vehicles (OHVs)
- Off-road recreational motor vehicles (ORRMVs)
- All-terrain vehicles (ATVs)

■ Leaf Blowers

Prohibits blowing landscape debris into public roadways at any time by any person and using leaf blowers on bare, native soil. Leaf blowers can only be used on stabilized surfaces such as:

- Concrete/asphalt
- Grass
- Gravel
- Finished landscape (decomposed granite or similar stabilizing surfaces)

■ Vehicle Parking

Prohibits vehicle parking on unpaved surfaces, including vehicles for sale parked on:

- Dirt shoulders
- Vacant lots
- Street corners

■ Vacant Lots

Requires vacant lot owners to control dust if ground surface has been disturbed. Solutions to re-stabilize disturbed surfaces include:

- Landscaping
- Vegetation
- Water
- Dust palliative

Prohibits vehicle driving on vacant lots. Solutions to prevent vehicle trespassing include:

- Signs
- Fences
- Berms

What You Can Do to Make a Difference About Particulate Pollution

Controlling particulate matter takes more than a government agency and more than a scientific plan. Only the people of Maricopa County can make the air cleaner.

Along with supporting laws, rules and efforts to make our air healthier, there are a number of things everyone can do to make the air we breathe cleaner.

- Drive less, particularly on pollution advisory days. Reduce the number of trips you take in your car.
- Don't drive or park in the dirt.
- Drive slowly on unpaved roads.
- Report ATVs or other off-highway vehicles in washes or future Town park sites to the Town Park Ranger's hotline: 480-358-3770.
- Report ATVs or other off-highway vehicles on private property or unpaved roads to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office: 602-876-1853.
- Don't use leaf blowers and other equipment that raise a lot of dust. Avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Maintain your landscape. Cover loose dirt with vegetation or gravel.
- Reduce wood-burning fireplace and woodstove use, and don't use them on no-burn days.
- Consider using gas instead of wood. If you use a wood-burning stove or fireplace, make sure it meets EPA design specifications and burn only dry, seasoned wood.
- Conserve electricity.
- Don't burn leaves, trash or other materials.
- Report serious offenders to the Maricopa County Air Quality Department: 602-372-2703.

Some of the categories for violations are:

- Dust from construction, vacant lots or processing plants
- Improper gaseous emissions from businesses
- Illegal open surface coating/painting
- Illegal open burning
- Smoking vehicle