

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

information sheet 06



Air quality key points

Any process that emits smoke, vapours or dust is a potential source of air pollution.

Spray-painting is a potential source of air pollution in the form of fumes, vapours and spray drift.



Sandblasting is a potential source of air pollution in the form of dust and sand.

Investigate less toxic alternatives to materials that you're currently using.



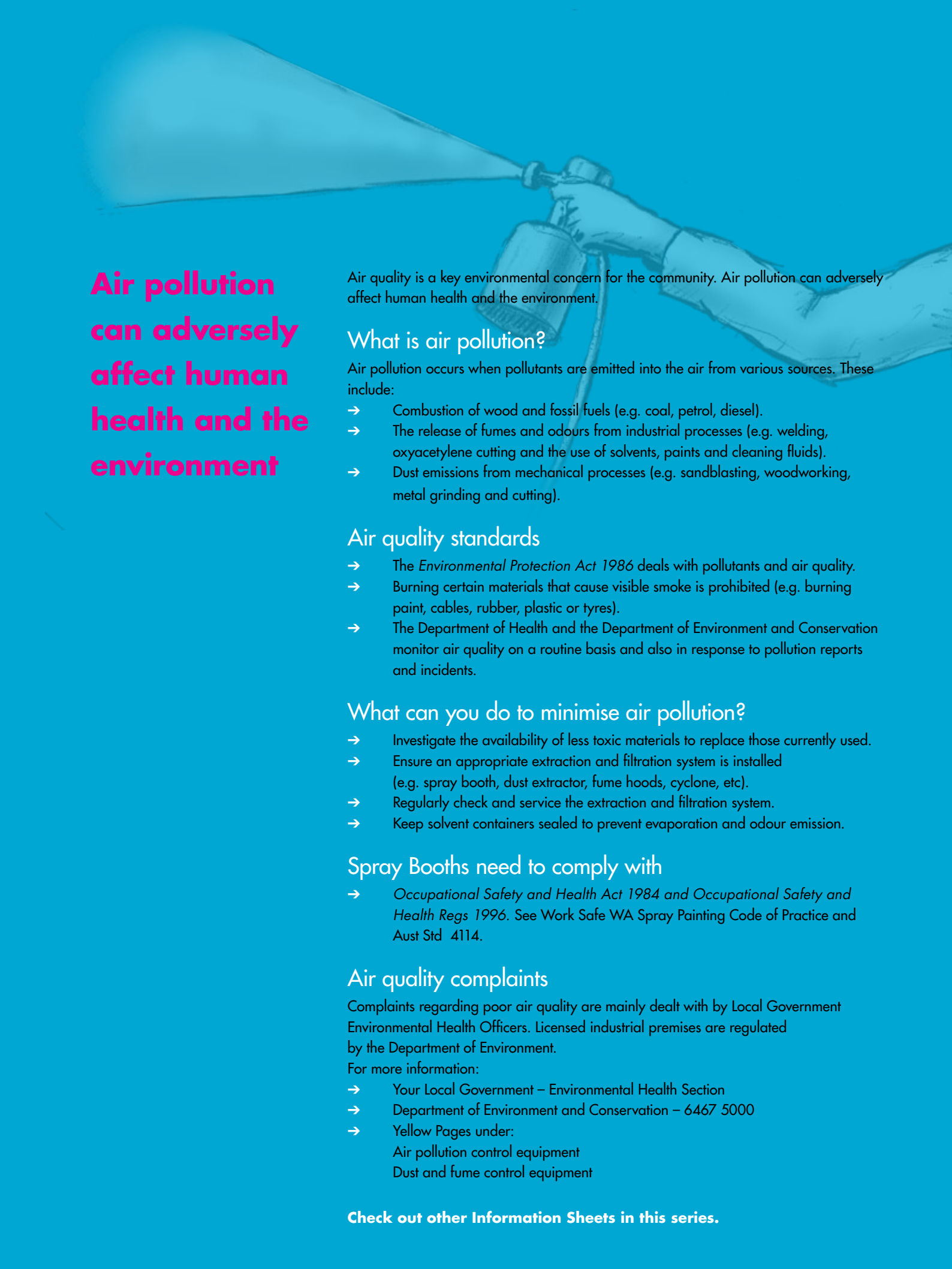
Use appropriate extraction and filtration systems, such as spray booths.



Burning materials that emit visible smoke is prohibited.

Keep solvent and paint containers sealed to prevent evaporation.





Air pollution can adversely affect human health and the environment

Air quality is a key environmental concern for the community. Air pollution can adversely affect human health and the environment.

What is air pollution?

Air pollution occurs when pollutants are emitted into the air from various sources. These include:

- Combustion of wood and fossil fuels (e.g. coal, petrol, diesel).
- The release of fumes and odours from industrial processes (e.g. welding, oxyacetylene cutting and the use of solvents, paints and cleaning fluids).
- Dust emissions from mechanical processes (e.g. sandblasting, woodworking, metal grinding and cutting).

Air quality standards

- The *Environmental Protection Act 1986* deals with pollutants and air quality.
- Burning certain materials that cause visible smoke is prohibited (e.g. burning paint, cables, rubber, plastic or tyres).
- The Department of Health and the Department of Environment and Conservation monitor air quality on a routine basis and also in response to pollution reports and incidents.

What can you do to minimise air pollution?

- Investigate the availability of less toxic materials to replace those currently used.
- Ensure an appropriate extraction and filtration system is installed (e.g. spray booth, dust extractor, fume hoods, cyclone, etc).
- Regularly check and service the extraction and filtration system.
- Keep solvent containers sealed to prevent evaporation and odour emission.

Spray Booths need to comply with

- *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 and Occupational Safety and Health Regs 1996*. See Work Safe WA Spray Painting Code of Practice and Aust Std 4114.

Air quality complaints

Complaints regarding poor air quality are mainly dealt with by Local Government Environmental Health Officers. Licensed industrial premises are regulated by the Department of Environment.

For more information:

- Your Local Government – Environmental Health Section
- Department of Environment and Conservation – 6467 5000
- Yellow Pages under:
 - Air pollution control equipment
 - Dust and fume control equipment

Check out other Information Sheets in this series.

These information sheets have been produced by Perth Region NRM in consultation with our partners.
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