

HOUSEHOLD PLANNING FOR WILDFIRE SMOKE SAFETY

Preparing for Wildfire Smoke

- **Monitor air quality:** to monitor current or forecasted air quality near you, useful resources include:
 - Weather forecast apps, available on most mobile devices.
 - [WeatherCan App](#) for real-time updates and alerts.
 - [FireSmoke Canada](#) for smoke forecasts.
 - [Purple Air Monitor Maps](#) for localised, real-time air quality readings.
 - [BC Air Quality Warning Alerts](#) to subscribe to notifications during times of degraded air quality.



Please note: forecasts may not always accurately reflect local conditions. Trust your instincts! If smoke is visibly hazy and/or can be smelled, it is best to take precautions.

- **Set up a dedicated clean air room** like a bedroom or basement with intended protection from smoke.
 - Seal and close all windows and doors.
 - Block drafts with towels, tape, or plastic sheeting.
 - Use a HEPA air purifier or, if one is not accessible, consider building a [DIY box fan filter](#).
 - Use activated carbon filters to reduce gaseous pollutants.
 - Install MERV 13+ air filter to capture particulate matter.



Staying Safe During Smoke Events

- Spend time in cool & clean air spaces whenever possible.
- Avoid outdoor exercise or strenuous activity when the air is smoky, especially for children, older adults, or people with pre-existing health conditions.
- Use a well-fitted N95 or KN95 mask when going outside during heavy smoke to reduce inhalation of fine particles (PM2.5).