



Serving Small Businesses and the Environment

The Air Quality Bureau's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program offers assistance to small businesses throughout New Mexico, with the exception of Bernalillo County and tribal lands.

For businesses located within Bernalillo County, the City of Albuquerque and their Air Quality Assistance Program may be reached at (505)768-1972 or (505)769-1962.

All businesses located on tribal lands fall under tribal jurisdiction and/or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regions 6 and 9.



Contact Us

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Visit us on the web:

www.env.nm.gov/aqb/sbap/

Prompt responses by knowledgeable staff at no cost or obligation are just some of the benefits to using the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program!

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

Does My Business Need an Air Quality Permit?



A guide for businesses located outside of Bernalillo County.

121 Tijeras Avenue, N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87102

New Mexico Environment
Department



What is air pollution?

Air pollution is generally thought of as manmade gases and particles released into the air. Although it can be invisible to the eye, like paint solvent emissions, air pollution can also be seen as a brown haze over a city.

How much pollution release requires a permit?

You may need an air quality permit if outdoor air emissions are more than 10 pounds per hour or 25 tons per year for a single pollutant.

Or for Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs), 10 tons or more per year of one HAP, or 25 tons or more per year of all HAPs combined.

Some examples of HAPs:

- Benzene (gasoline)
- Perchloroethylene (dry cleaners)
- Styrene (cultured marble)
- Toluene (solvent)

What are common air pollutants?

- Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)
- Carbon Monoxide (CO)
- Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)
- Particulate Matter (PM) or "dust"

What are sources of common air pollutants?

Pollution Sources (equipment or processes)	Emissions (pollutant)
Exhaust from engines, generators, dryers, or boilers	NOx, CO, SO ₂
Rock crushers, shaker screens, and haul roads	PM
Baghouse, cyclone, or dust collector	PM
Dust from abrasive blasting	PM

What type of sources may need a permit?

- Sand and gravel plants
- Concrete batch plants
- Asphalt batch plants
- Other miscellaneous facilities

Business registration for HAPs.

Some small operations may not require a permit but may need to submit a cost-free notification to the Air Quality Bureau. These businesses are known as area sources and emit hazardous air pollutants in small amounts. Emissions can be limited by using recommended U.S. EPA management practices.

What are examples of some HAP area source businesses?

- Surface coating operations (such as auto body shops)
- Dry cleaners
- Gasoline dispensing facilities
- Metal fabrication and finishing

How long does it take to get a permit?

1. Construction Permits can take up to **90 days** to issue or deny after the application is deemed complete.
2. General Construction Permits for aggregate, asphalt, and concrete batch plants are issued or denied within **30 days**.

Potential delay

If there is significant public interest in a business obtaining a permit, a public hearing or meeting may be held and could delay a permit decision.

How much will a permit cost?

Air quality permit fees vary depending on the type of permit and complexity of the facility. Some small businesses may qualify for a reduced permit fee. The cost reduction is dependent on the number of employees and the amount of air emissions generated.

Do you still have questions about air quality?

Contact the Air Quality Bureau's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP). This program is designed to assist you with answering questions about air quality regulations.

