

Cannabis odor control and air filtration plan – policy document

Purpose and scope

On November 9, 2024, new zoning regulations went into effect for the City of Minneapolis for cannabis businesses. The new regulations states that:

Cannabis cultivation, cannabis dispensary, cannabis wholesaler, and cannabis and lower-potency hemp edible manufacturing uses shall submit an odor control and air filtration plan. The odor control and air filtration plan shall be implemented prior to the issuance of final building inspection and/or throughout operation of the use, as applicable, as approved and inspected by the Commissioner of Health. Odor control and air filtration measures must comply with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 342, and rules adopted pursuant to the chapter, and all other applicable regulations.

This policy document provides the format and content for the odor control and air filtration plan that cannabis businesses shall submit to the Minneapolis Health Department. The odor control and air filtration plan is intended to prevent nuisance odors.

The rules and guidance provided in this document are subject to change.

Odor control and air filtration plan

The Odor Control and Air Filtration plan must include the following:

1. Business name
2. Business address
3. Contact information (name, phone, email)
4. A floor plan, specifying locations of odor-emitting activity(ies) and emissions. The floor plan shall include the following:
 - a. Confirmation that the building is enclosed (no open windows or doors during operation).
 - b. Location of the facility's exhaust
 - c. Location of furnace / HVAC equipment
 - d. Location of odor-mitigation equipment
 - e. Location of adjacent uses' intake. Adjacent uses should be labeled by use type (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial, etc.)
5. A description of the specific odor-emitting activity(ies) that will occur and operating hours. For retail-only dispensaries, are products sealed? What plans are in place if a package, seal, and/or wrapper is damaged?
6. A description and schedule of (e.g., frequency and length of each phase) of odor-emitting activity(ies).

7. A description of all equipment and methods to be used for reducing odors. Approved odor control systems may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Activated carbon filtration systems.
 - b. Vapor-phase systems. Vapor-phase systems must comply with the following:
 - i. The resulting odors must be odor-neutralizing, not odor-masking.
 - ii. The technology must not be utilized in excessive amounts to produce a differing scent (such as pine or citrus).
 - iii. Use of these systems must have supporting documentation to demonstrate that the systems meet United States Environmental Protection Agency's Acute Exposure Guideline Levels or similar public health threshold.
 - c. Other odor controls systems or project siting practices that demonstrate effectiveness in controlling odors. Approved odor control systems must be odor-neutralizing, not odor-masking.
8. The manufacturer's maintenance schedule for any equipment, and a plan from the facility for maintenance of said equipment. Equipment shall work properly at all times.
9. A description of the furnace / HVAC equipment. Include manufacturer's make and model. Note whether HVAC is shared with other users in the same building or if it is stand-alone.
10. Designation of an individual (local contact) who is available by telephone to respond within one (1) hour of a call during normal business hours and responsible for responding to odor complaints.
11. Acknowledgement that the applicant shall allow the Health Department access to the facility at all times, without notice, for the purpose of inspecting odor mitigation practices and odor source(s).

The Odor Control and Air Filtration plans for businesses with cultivation, extraction, and manufacturing activities must be developed and signed off by a licensed Professional Engineer or Certified Industrial Hygienist prior to submission to the Minneapolis Health Department. Include the following information with the signature: type of licensure, affiliated company, and PE stamp or Certified Industrial Hygienist license number. The submitted plan will be reviewed by Health Commissioner's designee.

Contact information

If you have questions about odor enforcement or the cannabis odor control and air filtration plan, please contact:

Minneapolis Health Department

Environmental Services

Email: envservicesinfo@minneapolismn.gov or Minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov

Phone: 311 or [612- 673-3000](tel:612-673-3000)

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact Minneapolis Health Department, health@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-2301. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850.

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