

Air Permit & Registration Required

Is air pollution from businesses regulated?

Yes. Actually, businesses, industries, institutions and municipalities that cause – or have the potential to cause – air pollution are required to possess a valid Air Permit and annually Register with the local air pollution control agency. These are requirements of Washington’s Clean Air Act and apply state-wide (Chapter 70.94 RCW). Businesses located within Thurston, Mason, Grays Harbor, Pacific, Clallam or Jefferson counties are regulated by Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA). ORCAA is one of seven regional air pollution control agencies in the state that implement and enforce Washington’s Clean Air Act.

What equipment and operations are regulated?

The attached list titled “Air Permit and Registration Required” identifies many of the equipment types and operations that emit air pollution and are regulated as air pollution sources. In general, your business emits air pollution and requires an Air Permit and Annual Registration if it involves or relies on any of the following:

- Combustion of a fuel even if for emergency power generation.
- Chemical reactions including biochemical reactions such as fermentation and composting.
- Gasoline refining and distribution.
- Volatile organic compound such as auto body painting.
- Handling or transport of materials that contain or generate dust.
- Drying operations that generate odors or other air pollutants.

Are there exemptions?

Exemptions specific to each category of equipment may apply. These are listed in the attached sheets titled “Exempt Equipment.” There is also an exemption for equipment and operations that result in very minor emissions of air pollution. ORCAA highly recommends calling the agency to discuss your business with one of the agency’s air regulatory experts to confirm applicability of any categorical or emissions-based exemption that may apply.

When is an Air Permit required?

An approved Air Permit is required prior to constructing, installing, establishing or modifying any equipment or operations that may emit air pollution. Most often, this means before ground is broken or foundations poured. Therefore, it is important for businesses to plan ahead and allow at least sixty days for the air permitting process. It is also important to remember that replacing existing equipment or an air pollution control device triggers the requirement for an air permit. Failure to obtain an Air Permit when required is in violation of the State Clean Air Act.

What is the application process?

The process begins by submitting a Permit Application to ORCAA. Application forms are available from the “Business Forms” sub-page of our website at orcaa.org or by calling ORCAA directly and requesting them. The purpose of the application is to describe the nature of your project, equipment and operations that may emit air pollution, and pollution control equipment. Once we receive your complete application, we post a notice on our website for 15 days and concurrently start our review. For small to medium sized projects, final approvals are usually issued within ninety days from the date an application is received,

unless the application requires a public notice and comment period. A thirty day public notice and comment period and opportunity for a public hearing is required for projects that either may result in a substantial emission increase, or that cause significant public interest during the 15-day application noticing period.

Are air permit approvals conditional?

Yes. With all final approvals the agency issues a Final Determination and Approval Order. The Final Determination explains the air implications of the project and the state, federal and local air regulations and standards that apply. The Approval Order contains the conditions of approval determined necessary by ORCAA for assuring compliance.

Can air permits be appealed?

Yes. Notices of Final Determinations are posted on ORCAA's website and sent directly to any person who submitted comments on a proposed project. Final Determinations can be appealed to the Washington State Pollution Control Hearings Board within 30 days of the notice by the applicant or the public.

What about permit fees?

ORCAA's costs for reviewing and approving air permit applications are recovered through permit application fees. Fees are assessed according to Rule 3.3 of ORCAA's regulations and range from \$300 to \$2,600 for moderately sized projects. Larger or more complex projects are assessed fees that recover cost based on the number of hours spent on the project and an hourly rate.

Am I required to annually register with ORCAA?

Any non-exempt business, industry, institution or municipality that emits or has the potential to emit air pollutants as explained above is required to annually register with ORCAA. ORCAA registers businesses that emit air pollution in order to regulate and enforce compliance with applicable air regulations and standards. Registration involves submitting air-related information to ORCAA on an annual basis and cooperating during periodic air inspections. Information gathered through annual registration is used to verify compliance and to compile an air pollutant emissions inventory for ORCAA's region.

Does ORCAA conduct site inspections?

Yes. ORCAA air quality specialists and engineers conduct periodic site inspections of registered businesses. Through inspections, ORCAA's experts determine whether compliance with state, federal and local air regulations and standards is being maintained. In addition, ORCAA's air experts respond to and investigate air quality complaints including nuisance dust and odor complaints.

Are there annual registration fees?

Yes. Businesses registered with ORCAA are assessed an annual fee to cover the cost of the program. Annual registration fees are specified by ORCAA Rule 3.1. Annual fees start at \$185 and may range up to \$500 for typical small businesses.

What do I do if my business emits air pollution, but is not presently registered with ORCAA?

Call ORCAA to start the permitting process. In most cases, businesses that take proactive and diligent steps to comply with the requirement to register will be offered assistance by ORCAA and excused from penalties.

Air Permit and Registration Required

Olympic Region Clean Air Agency

An Air Permit and Registration through Olympic Region Clean Air Agency is required for the following industries, equipment types and operations:

Abrasive Blasting	Log Debarking Operations
Aerospace Industries	Logyards
Aluminum-Sweat Furnaces	Lumber Dry Kilns
Asbestos Abatement/Removal Projects	Lumber Mills
Asphalt Batch Plants	Metal Fabricators
Autobody Shops	Metal Foundries
Baghouses	Metal Plating
Barge Loading	Metal Scrap Furnaces
Boat Manufacturing/Repair Businesses	Nutritional Yeast Manufacturing
Boilers (non-electric)	Odor Sources
Breweries	Paint dip tanks
Cabinet Shops	Paint/Other Finishes Spray Coating
Cardboard Box Manufacturing	Paint/Other Finishes Stripping
Chemical Manufacturing	Paper Mills
Chipping/Grinding (woody biomass)	Plastics Manufacturing
Chromium Electroplating	Plywood Manufacturing
Coffee Roasters	Polystyrene Cup Manufacturing
Commercial Sterilizers	Powder Coating
Composting (non-residential)	Printing/Publishing
Concrete & Sand Bagging	Pulp Mill Thermo-Mechanic
Concrete Batch Plants	Refiners - Thermo-mechanical
Cooling Towers	Reformers - Hydrogen Plants
Crematories	Rock Crushers
Cyclones	Sawmills - Lumber Production
Degreasers (halogenated, commercial)	Seafood Processing Plants
Demolition/Remodeling	Shake Manufacturing
Digesters	Ship Building/Repair
Drying Kilns	Smelters
Drycleaning	Smokers - Commercial
ETO Sterilizers	Softwood Veneer & Plywood Production
Fiberglass Products Manufacturing	Soil Remediation Projects
Fish Drying/Processing	Solid Waste Incinerators
Flares	Solvent Cleaning
Foam Cushion Manufacturing	Spray Booths
Food Processing Plants	Spray Coating
Foundries	Spray Dryers
Fuel Burning Equipment (non-mobile)	Storage Tanks
Furnaces – Metal Melting	Tire Manufacturing
Gas Turbines	Tire Retreading
Gasoline Bulk Plants	Transfer Stations
Gasoline Dispensing	Truck Bins - Loadout
Gasoline Terminals	Vapor Extraction Systems
Groundwater Remediation Projects	Veneer Dryers
Hot Mix Asphalt Plants	Wastewater Treatment Plants
Incinerators	Woodworking Shops
Internal Combustion Engines (stationary)	Wood Pellet Manufacturing
Industrial Belts Manufacturing	Wood Products – Sanding
Laboratories	Wood Residuals Transport Systems
Landfills	
Loadout Bins - Woodwaste Chips	

Exempt Equipment and Operations

Olympic Region Clean Air Agency

Maintenance/construction:

- (1) Cleaning and sweeping of streets and paved surfaces;
- (2) Concrete application, and installation;
- (3) Dredging wet spoils handling and placement;
- (4) Paving application and maintenance, excluding asphalt plants;
- (5) Plant maintenance and upkeep activities (grounds keeping, general repairs, routine house keeping, routine plant painting, welding, cutting, brazing, soldering, plumbing, retarring roofs, etc.);
- (6) Plumbing installation and plumbing protective coating application associated with plant maintenance activities;
- (7) Roofing application;
- (8) Insulation application and maintenance, excluding products for resale;
- (9) Janitorial services and consumer use of janitorial products;
- (10) Asphalt laying equipment including asphalt-roofing operations (not including manufacturing or storage);
- (11) Blast cleaning equipment that uses a suspension of abrasive in liquid water;
- (12) Spray painting or blasting equipment used at temporary locations to clean or paint bridges, water towers, buildings, or similar structures.

Storage Tanks:

- (13) Lubricating oil storage tanks except those facilities that are wholesale or retail distributors of lubricating oils;
- (14) Polymer tanks and storage devices and associated pumping and handling equipment, used for solids dewatering and flocculation;
- (15) Storage tanks, reservoirs, pumping and handling equipment of any size containing soaps, vegetable oil, grease, animal fat, and nonvolatile aqueous salt solutions;
- (16) Process and white water storage tanks;
- (17) Storage tanks and storage vessels, with lids or other appropriate closure and less than 260 gallon capacity (35 cft);
- (18) Storage tanks of a capacity of 10,000 gallons or less, with lids or other appropriate closure, and for the storage of materials containing organic compounds, but not for use with materials containing toxic air pollutants (as defined in chapter 173-460 WAC);
- (19) Storage tanks of a capacity of 40,000 gallons or less, with lids or other appropriate closure, used for the storage of organic compounds, but not for use with materials containing toxic air pollutants (as defined in chapter 173-460 WAC), with a true vapor pressure less than 0.01 kPa (0.002 psia) (0.0001 atm);
- (20) Storage tanks of a capacity of 40,000 gallons or less used for the storage of butane, propane, or liquefied petroleum gas;
- (21) Tanks, vessels and pumping equipment, with lids or other appropriate closure for storage or dispensing of aqueous solutions of inorganic salts, bases and acids.
- (22) Storage tanks used exclusively for storage of diesel fuel;
- (23) Loading and unloading equipment used exclusively for the storage tanks exempted under this rule.

Combustion:

- (24) Fuel burning equipment (not including incinerators) that:
 - (i) is used solely for a private dwelling serving five families or less; or
 - (ii) has a maximum heat input rate of 5 MMBtu/hr or less if burning natural gas, propane, or LPG; or
 - (iii) has a maximum heat input rate of 0.5 MMBtu/hr or less if burning waste-derived fuels; or
 - (iv) has a maximum heat input rate of 1 MMBtu/hr or less if burning recycled or used oil per the requirements of RCW 70.94.610; or
 - (v) has a maximum heat input rate of 1 MMBtu/hr or less if burning any other type of fuel and with less than or equal to 0.05% sulfur by weight.
- (25) All stationary gas turbines with a rated heat input <10 million Btu per hour.

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- (26) Stationary internal combustion engines having rated capacity:
 - (i) <50 horsepower output; or
 - (ii) <500 horsepower and used only for standby emergency power generation.
- (27) All nonroad engines subject to 40 CFR Part 89.

Material handling:

- (28) Storage and handling of water based lubricants for metal working where organic content of the lubricant is <10%;
- (29) Equipment used exclusively to pump, load, unload, or store high boiling point organic material in tanks less than one million gallons, material with initial atmospheric boiling point not less than 150EC or vapor pressure not more than 5 mm Hg @ 21EC, with lids or other appropriate closure.

Water treatment:

- (30) Septic sewer systems, not including active wastewater treatment facilities;
- (31) NPDES permitted ponds and lagoons used solely for the purpose of settling and suspended solids and skimming of oil and grease;
- (32) De-aeration (oxygen scavenging) of water where toxic air pollutants as defined in chapter 173-460 WAC are not emitted;
- (33) Process water filtration system and demineralizer vents;
- (34) Sewer manholes, junction boxes, sumps and lift stations associated with wastewater treatment systems;
- (35) Demineralizer tanks;
- (36) Alum tanks;
- (37) Clean water condensate tanks;
- (38) Oil/water separators, except those at petroleum refineries;
- (39) Equipment used exclusively to generate ozone and associated ozone destruction equipment for the treatment of cooling tower water or for water treatment processes.
- (40) Municipal sewer systems, including wastewater treatment plants and lagoons with a design capacity of one million gallons per day or less, provided that they do not use anaerobic digesters, chlorine disinfections or sewage sludge incinerators.

Environmental chambers and laboratory equipment:

- (41) Environmental chambers and humidity chambers not using toxic air pollutant gases, as regulated under chapter 173-460 WAC;
- (42) Gas cabinets using only gases that are not toxic air pollutants regulated under chapter 173-460 WAC;
- (43) Installation or modification of a single laboratory fume hood;
- (44) Laboratory calibration and maintenance equipment.

Monitoring/quality assurance/testing:

- (45) Equipment and instrumentation used for quality control/assurance or inspection purposes;
- (46) Hydraulic and hydrostatic testing equipment;
- (47) Sample gathering, preparation and management;
- (48) Vents from continuous emission monitors and other analyzers.

Miscellaneous:

- (49) Single-family residences and duplexes;
- (50) Plastic pipe welding;
- (51) Primary agricultural production activities including soil preparation, planting, fertilizing, weed and pest control, and harvesting;
- (52) Insecticide, pesticide, or fertilizer spray equipment;
- (53) Comfort air conditioning;
- (54) Flares used to indicate danger to the public;

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- (55) Natural and forced air vents and stacks for bathroom/toilet activities;
- (56) Personal care activities including establishments like beauty salons, beauty schools, and hair cutting establishments;
- (57) Recreational fireplaces including the use of barbecues, campfires, and ceremonial fires;
- (58) Tobacco smoking rooms and areas;
- (59) Noncommercial smokehouses;
- (60) Blacksmith forges for single forges;
- (61) Vehicle maintenance activities, not including vehicle surface coating;
- (62) Vehicle or equipment washing;
- (63) Wax application;
- (64) Oxygen, nitrogen, or rare gas extraction and liquefaction equipment not including internal and external combustion equipment;
- (65) Ozone generators and ozonation equipment;
- (66) Ultraviolet curing processes, to the extent that toxic air pollutant gases as defined in chapter 173-460 WAC are not emitted;
- (67) Electrical circuit breakers, transformers, or switching equipment installation or operation;
- (68) Pneumatically operated equipment, including tools and hand held applicator equipment for hot melt adhesives;
- (69) Fire fighting and similar safety equipment and equipment used to train fire fighters;
- (70) Production of foundry sand molds, unheated and using binders less than 0.25% free phenol by sand weight;
- (71) Natural gas pressure regulator vents, excluding venting at oil and gas production facilities and transportation marketing facilities;
- (72) Solvent cleaners less than 10 square feet air-vapor interface with solvent vapor pressure not more than 30 mm HG @21EC, and not containing toxic air pollutants (as defined in chapter 173-460 WAC);
- (73) Surface coating, aqueous solution or suspension containing <1% (by weight) VOCs, and/or toxic air pollutants as defined in chapter 173-460 WAC;
- (74) Cleaning and stripping activities and equipment using solutions having <1% VOCs (by weight); on metallic substances, acid solutions are not exempt;
- (75) Dip coating operations, using materials less than 1% VOCs (by weight) and/or toxic air pollutants as defined in chapter 173-460 WAC.
- (76) Laundry dryers, extractors or tumblers used exclusively for the removal of water from fabric;
- (77) Residential composting facilities;
- (78) Restaurants and other retail food preparing establishments;
- (79) Routing, turning, carving, cutting and drilling equipment used for metal, wood, plastics, rubber, leather or ceramics;
- (80) Steam cleaning equipment used exclusively for that purpose;
- (81) Vacuum cleaning systems used exclusively for office or residential housekeeping;
- (82) Vacuum producing devices used in laboratory operations and vacuum producing devices that do not remove or convey air contaminants from or to another source;
- (83) Vents used exclusively for:
 - (i) Sanitary or storm drainage systems; or
 - (ii) Safety valves
- (84) Washing or drying equipment used for products fabricated from metal or glass, if no volatile organic material is used in the process.
- (85) Welding, brazing or soldering equipment;
- (86) Coffee roasters with a design capacity less than 10 pounds per batch;
- (87) Bark and soil screening operations;
- (88) Portable sand and gravel plants and crushed stone plants with a cumulative rated capacity of all initial crushers less than or equal to 150 tons per hour;
- (89) Fixed sand and gravel plants and crushed stone plants with a cumulative rated capacity of all initial crushers less than or equal to 25 tons per hour.