

Addressing Marijuana Odors

Working Together on Odor Issues

The legalization of marijuana in Washington and other states has resulted in a new booming industry of marijuana production and processing.

Unfortunately, marijuana plants have a strong, distinctive odor at times, and that can be a nuisance to neighbors of the business.

While the process of growing marijuana does not require a permit from the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA), the businesses are required to register with ORCAA since they do have the potential to be sources of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), some which are odoriferous.

Residents who experience nuisance odors should contact ORCAA by visiting the agency's website – www.ORCAA.org – or by calling (360) 539-7610.

In order to respond and try to resolve problems, ORCAA staff needs details information from residents impacted by odors.

Individuals who experience nuisance odors at their residences and want to report them can help with enforcement by including specific, pertinent details in their reports.

The reports should include the following information:

- Your home address where you experienced the odor
- Location the odor source (specific address, or at least specific block);
- Specific time odor was FIRST noticed;
- Duration of odor event;
- Magnitude of odor. *Please rate the strength of the odor based on a rating of 0 to 4 using the following odor scale:*
 - ◇ **Level 0** – no odor detected.
 - ◇ **Level 1** – odor barely detected.
 - ◇ **Level 2** – odor is distinct/recognizable and consistent with characteristics described in complaints.
 - ◇ **Level 3** – odor is strong and consistent with characteristics described in complaints.
 - ◇ **Level 4** – odor is severe and causes physical reactions (feeling ill, eyes watering, or other physical reactions).

Enforcement actions may be initiated when odors are identified at Level 2 or above, a source is identified, and there is supporting evidence.

Evidence could be a declaration from the complainant showing that they have experienced air contaminant emissions in sufficient quantities, and of such characteristics and duration, that it unreasonably interfered with their enjoyment of life and property.

