

Evaluating Odor Complaints

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) evaluates outdoor odor-related complaints to determine if nuisance conditions exist. In order to better evaluate each occurrence, the information listed below is intended to partially standardize how information is provided.

If you wish to file a complaint regarding outdoor odors, the accompanying odor log may be submitted to the appropriate [TCEQ Region Office](#). **If an outdoor odor is creating a health effect, contact the appropriate TCEQ Region Office by phone at or near the time you're experiencing these effects.** The information you provide will be used in conjunction with information gathered by the investigator to evaluate your concerns. In addition, you may submit a signed written statement documenting how you are being impacted by the alleged odor. In the event nuisance conditions are confirmed by the investigator, a signed written statement or notarized affidavit is required to proceed with citing a nuisance odor violation. You will need to provide your name and contact information, including address, to the agency. If you do not wish to provide your name and contact information, we may still investigate your complaint but may be unable to issue a nuisance violation. Your contact information will be handled as confidential but please be advised that you must be willing to testify in any formal enforcement hearing in regards to your written statement. If you have additional evidence to submit, you may find information on the TCEQ's webpage for [Gathering and Preserving Information and Evidence Showing a Violation](#).

Documenting Odors on the Odor Log

This log is intended to document how often an outdoor odor occurs and how long it lasts. You may also provide additional details about the nature of the odor, impact of the odor and weather conditions. This will assist the investigator in scheduling their investigation and assessing nuisance conditions.

- List the date and time of each time you smell the odor of concern. Please note a.m. or p.m.
- State how long the odor lasted in hours and minutes, and note whether the odor was intermittent. For odors that lasted longer than you were outside, be sure to document whether the odor was constant each time you went outside.
- Describe the strength of the odor.
- Weather conditions such as temperature, wind direction, and wind speed may be estimated.
- Under comments, describe the nature of the odor. What does it smell like? You may also list where you think the odor may be coming from.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Odor Log

| Date | Time(s) (a.m. or p.m.) | How long did the odor last (hours and minutes)? | Was the odor constant or intermittent? | Weather Conditions | | | Effects/Comments/Concerns |
|------|------------------------|---|--|--------------------|------------|------------------|--|
| | | | | Wind direction | Rain (Y/N) | Temperature (°F) | |
| | | | | | | | Please provide additional information as necessary: What does the odor smell like? Describe the strength of the odor. Where do you think the odor is coming from? How is the odor impacting you? Where were you when you detected the odor? If multiple people in a household are completing this form, please indicate the individuals name next to each entry. |
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| | Person(s) Completing Log | Alleged Source of the Odor |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Name(s): | | |
| Contact Number(s): | | |
| Address: | | |