

Wildfire smoke:

Protect your home and yourself from wildfire smoke and other air-quality emergencies.



Air-quality emergencies caused by wildfire smoke are becoming increasingly common. One of the best ways to stay safe and comfortable during smoke events is to protect the inside of your home from unhealthy air quality through weatherization and these tips.



REPLACE FILTERS. Replace or clean your filters more frequently during a smoke event. Temporarily replace your HVAC system's filters with high-efficiency filters, and immediately replace them with standard filters after the smoke is gone.



CLOSE IT DOWN. Close the damper in your fireplace, then stretch a plastic bag across the front and seal it with blue painter's tape.



LOCK IT UP. Place damp towels at the bottom of exterior doors and seal your mail slot.



CLEAN THE AIR. Run a portable air purifier with a HEPA filter if you have one, or tape a box fan to a high-efficiency furnace filter for a temporary solution.



SEAL YOUR HOME. Inspect external doors and windows for air leaks. Use caulk and weatherstripping to seal any drafty spots.



CHECK EVERYWHERE. Check for air leaks where plumbing, ducting or wiring come through walls or floors. Seal with caulk or spray foam.



RUN THE FAN. If you have an HVAC system, run the fan to filter the air continuously.



HYDRATE. Staying well-hydrated helps the kidneys and liver to remove toxins, which can reduce any systemic inflammation caused by wildfire smoke exposure.



KEEP YOUR COOL. Run the air conditioner and close all windows and doors to help keep the air fresh indoors. However, make sure the system is set to recycle indoor air and ensure that the filter is clean.