



Outdoor Hydronic Heater Rule

Office of Air Quality

(317) 232-3861 • (800) 451-6027

www.idem.IN.gov

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Overview:

- Rule 326 IAC 4-3 regulates the purchase and use of outdoor hydronic heaters (also referred to as outdoor wood boilers or outdoor wood furnaces).
- The rule applies to outdoor hydronic heaters designed to burn wood or other approved renewable solid fuels. The rule does not include outdoor forced air furnaces, indoor wood stoves or fireplaces, or units designed and sold only to burn coal. Outdoor hydronic heaters heat building space or water by the distribution of water heated by the device. They are intended for outdoor installation or installation in structures not normally occupied by humans.
- 326 IAC 4-3 establishes emission limits for new outdoor hydronic heaters. In addition, the rule includes a fuel use restriction, stack height requirements, and a limited summertime operating ban for existing units.
- A copy of the rule, 326 IAC 4-3, is available at www.IN.gov/legislative/iac/T03260/A00040.PDF.

Requirements:

All outdoor hydronic heaters (units) must meet the following requirements:

- Only burn clean wood or other approved renewable fuel.
- Emission of a smoke plume from an outdoor hydronic heater shall not exceed an average of twenty percent (20%) opacity, a measure of the amount of light obscured by particulate pollution, for six (6) consecutive minutes in any one (1) hour period.
- Comply with all applicable state and federal laws and local ordinances.

Existing units not qualified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) program certified to meet New Performance Standard at 40 CFR 60, Subpart QQQQ:

- Must have a stack five feet higher than the peak of the roof of any occupied building not located on the same property and within 150 feet of the unit. The maximum height required by the rule is 22 feet from the ground. This requirement does not apply if the unit is located more than 150 feet from an occupied building.
- Cannot operate May 1 through September 30. This requirement does not apply if the unit is located more than 300 feet from an occupied building that is not located on the same property on which the unit is installed.

Newly installed units:

- Must be certified to meet the emission limits for hydronic heaters in the New Source Performance Standard at 40 CFR 60, Subpart QQQQ, as incorporated by reference 326 IAC 12.
- Seller/dealer must provide a copy of the rule (326 IAC 4-3) to the buyer or lessee, and the buyer or lessee must sign a notice confirming receipt of rule.
- A copy of the signed notice must be provided to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) within seven days of delivering the unit to the buyer or lessee. The form (Outdoor Hydronic Heater Dealer Notice to Buyers, State Form 53597) is available at www.forms.in.gov/Download.aspx?id=9710.

Send notices confirming buyer's receipt of rule to IDEM at:

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Air Quality
Compliance & Enforcement Branch
100 N. Senate Avenue
MC 61-53 IGCN 1003
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

IDEM's Role:

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's Office of Air Quality is responsible for protecting air quality in Indiana through the implementation of federal, regional, and/or state:
 - Control measures.
 - Regulations.
 - Ambient monitoring requirements.
- Inspectors from IDEM's Office of Air Quality will respond to citizen complaints and verify compliance with 326 IAC 4-3.

Outdoor Hydronic Heater Owner's Role:

Tips to reduce air pollution and nuisance smoke emissions from outdoor hydronic heaters:

- Review the outdoor hydronic heater rule (326 IAC 4-3) to ensure compliance with the rule's requirements.
- Review operator's manual for best operating practices and follow manufacturer's recommendations for operation and maintenance of the units.
- Use only clean hardwoods. Never use treated woods, green wood, tires, lawn clippings, waste petroleum products, materials containing plastic, discarded construction materials, or residential trash.
- Inspect flues, chimneys, seams, and gaskets regularly. Repair and replace them, as necessary.
- Keep the combustion level high to enable the cleanest burning fire.
- Avoid overfeeding the boiler and letting the wood "smolder" for long periods of time.
- Raise stack above surrounding building's roof lines to direct smoke up above adjacent areas and give the smoke more room to disperse.
- When placing an outdoor hydronic heater, consider prevailing winds, the contours of the land, and how close the unit will be to neighboring residences.

Additional Information:

- For more information, please visit IDEM's website at www.IN.gov/idem/airquality/2558.htm.
- For more information on how to file a complaint, please visit IDEM's website at www.IN.gov/idem/5274.htm.
- For questions and concerns, please call IDEM's Office of Air Quality at (317) 233-3861 or toll free (within Indiana) at (800) 451-6027.