



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Outdoor Hydronic Heater Rule

[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

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### Overview:

- Rule 326 IAC 4-3, effective May 18, 2011, 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 is available at [www.IN.gov/legislative/iac/T03260/A00040.PDF](http://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.
- Smoke from the stack is limited to less than 20% opacity (the amount of light blocked by particulates). Good combustion practices and proper maintenance of the unit should lead to compliance with the 20% limit.
- 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 to meet Phase 2 limit:

- 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. The compliance date is November 30, 2011.
- 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 a Phase 2 unit (0.32 lbs/mmBtu heat output particulate matter emission limit with white hang tag) qualified through U.S. EPA's voluntary outdoor hydronic heater program. Commercial size units (> 350,000 mmBTU/ hr heat output) do not need to be Phase 2 qualified.
- Non-Phase 2 units in a dealer's inventory as of May 18, 2011, can be sold and installed after May 18, 2011
- 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 Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) within seven days of delivering the unit to the buyer or lessee. The form is available at [www.IN.gov/idem/6507.htm](http://www.IN.gov/idem/6507.htm).



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

Available Phase 2 Units:

- Visit U.S. EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/owhlist.html>.

**IDEM's Role:**

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (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, 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/6507.htm](http://www.IN.gov/IDEM/6507.htm).
- For more information on how to file a complaint, please visit IDEM's website at [www.IN.gov/idem/5274.htm](http://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 1-800-451-6027.