

Odour Nuisance – Home Cooking

Odour can occur from many sources for example, home cooking including BBQ's, garden activities like composting, rotting vegetation, the use of fertilisers, inappropriate storage of waste and sewage overflows.

The perception of odour from some activities can be subjective and it is important to note that not all odour nuisances cause an environmental or health impact. In most cases, odour nuisance will have to be resolved civilly between neighbours.

What to do if odour from home cooking becomes a nuisance?

We live in a community with diverse cultures. In some cultures, home cooking is an important way of life. However, the use of spices and ingredients may not be easily recognised or accepted by others, as the odour can be overwhelming or intense.



In most cases odour generated from home cooking is not detrimental to our health and is not controlled by legislation. Therefore, it is important that neighbours communicate with each other to negotiate a mutual resolution.

The following is recommended to assist in odour nuisance from home cooking:

- Talk to your neighbour as they may not be

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aware that odour coming from their cooking is causing you concern.

- Consider and negotiate ways to resolve the problem such as the re-positioning of the kitchen vent, increasing the height of the exhaust flue or cleaning the stove filter.
- If you cannot approach your neighbour in person write to them respectfully.
- If you live in a strata building talk to your strata management to assist with a resolution.

“I’ve tried communicating with my neighbour but the odour persists”

If you are unable to negotiate a mutual resolution with your neighbour and the odour nuisance continues, you may consider utilising the services of the Community Justice Centre (CJC).

CJC offers free services and specialises in settling the differences between neighbours without entering complicated legal proceedings. The CJC will carry out a mediation process to negotiate a fair outcome. Contact the CJC via:

Phone: 1800 990 777

E-mail: cjc_sydney@agd.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.cjc.nsw.gov.au

Address: Level 5, Parramatta Justice Precinct,
160 Marsden Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

Tips in preventing other odours around the home

- BBQ or Pizza Oven
 - Use the appropriate coal or wood for your BBQ or pizza oven.
 - Use seasoned wood to reduce the amount of smoke generated.



- Waste Bins
 - Keep waste bin lids fully closed
 - Put waste in bags then place bags in the bin to prevent leakage.
 - Clean waste bins after each collection day.
- Compost
 - Keep the compost bins well aerated regularly by turning the compost or putting a pipe through the heap to allow air flow.
- Fertiliser
 - Spray water onto fertilised soil on application to increase absorption into the soil.

For further information

Further information regarding odour nuisance, please contact Council's Environmental Health Officer on:

Phone: 02 9330 6400

E-mail: mail@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au