

ASPHALT PLANTS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT AIR QUALITY

The operation of an asphalt plant can negatively affect both public health and the environment. Key concerns include:

- **Air Pollution:** Asphalt production releases a range of harmful pollutants, including:
 - **Particulate Matter (PM):** Fine particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs, contributing to asthma, bronchitis, and other chronic respiratory conditions.
 - **Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):** Chemicals that can irritate the eyes, nose, and throat, and are linked to longer-term health effects such as liver or kidney damage and cancer.
 - **Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs):** Found in asphalt fumes and associated with increased cancer risk, particularly lung cancer, as well as ongoing respiratory issues with prolonged exposure.
 - **Noxious Odours:** Emissions from heated bitumen often produce strong smells—similar to sulfur, tar, or burnt rubber—caused by VOCs. These can lead to headaches, irritation, and breathing discomfort, and may travel significant distances depending on conditions.
- **Odour Impacts:**
Residents near existing asphalt plants frequently report persistent and intrusive petroleum odours. Depending on wind direction, these smells can extend into surrounding communities, affecting quality of life by limiting outdoor activities, use of open windows, and social gatherings.