

Understanding a PURPLEAIR MONITOR

How to get a reading from the website.

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PurpleAir monitors connect to the internet and are equipped with a laser particle counter to assess particulate matter. These monitors transmit real-time data to the PurpleAir website that is easily accessible. This is a guide on how to use the website.



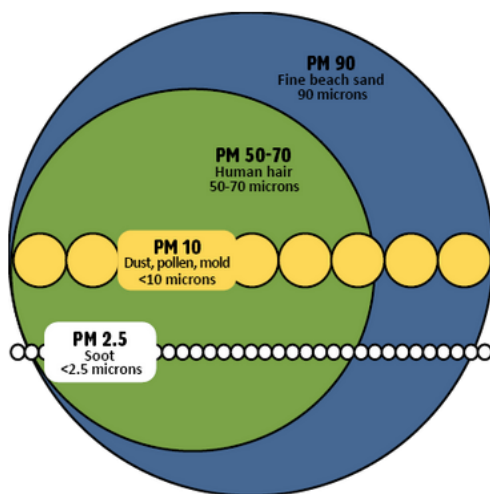
NOTE: The purple air user group is always making updates to their website.

Sometimes this requires updates to your computer. Please be patient!

Particulate Matters:

There are 2 sizes of particles of concern in our area. The length of particle is measured in micrometers, also called microns. The symbol for this is μm .

If this green circle were the size of a human hair, then ...



PM 10 is smaller.

PM10 = 10 millionths of a meter across
When referring to this size particle we refer to everything this size and smaller.

PM 2.5 is even smaller. PM2.5 = 2.5 millionths of a meter across
This is the size of soot, pollen, ash, smoke and more.

These sensors measure the amount of PM in our **outdoor** or ambient air. The annual Provincial air quality objective for PM2.5 is $8\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. PM

concentrations are expressed as micrograms per cubic metre or with the symbol $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The objective for a 24 hour average is $25\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ but this is not a good indicator for how the air quality will affect you.

When you see a measurement of PM10, this includes PM2.5.



High PM
a measure of 50 would mean many particles in our air

Low PM
a measure of 0 would mean none

No particulate is good air quality. Your exposure to poor air and the reactions you might experience are unique. Common symptoms of negative health effects include respiratory problems, a prolonged cough but no cold and more. These tiny particles are inhaled and make it deep into our lungs.

For more detailed help on this or anything air, or to make a donation contact us: coordinator@cleanairplan.ca, cleanairplan.ca/blog.

STEP 1 – Go to the website:

Today the direct link to your air sensor is:
<https://www.purpleair.com/map?opt=1/mPM25/a10/cC0#11.12/54.2358/-125.6556>

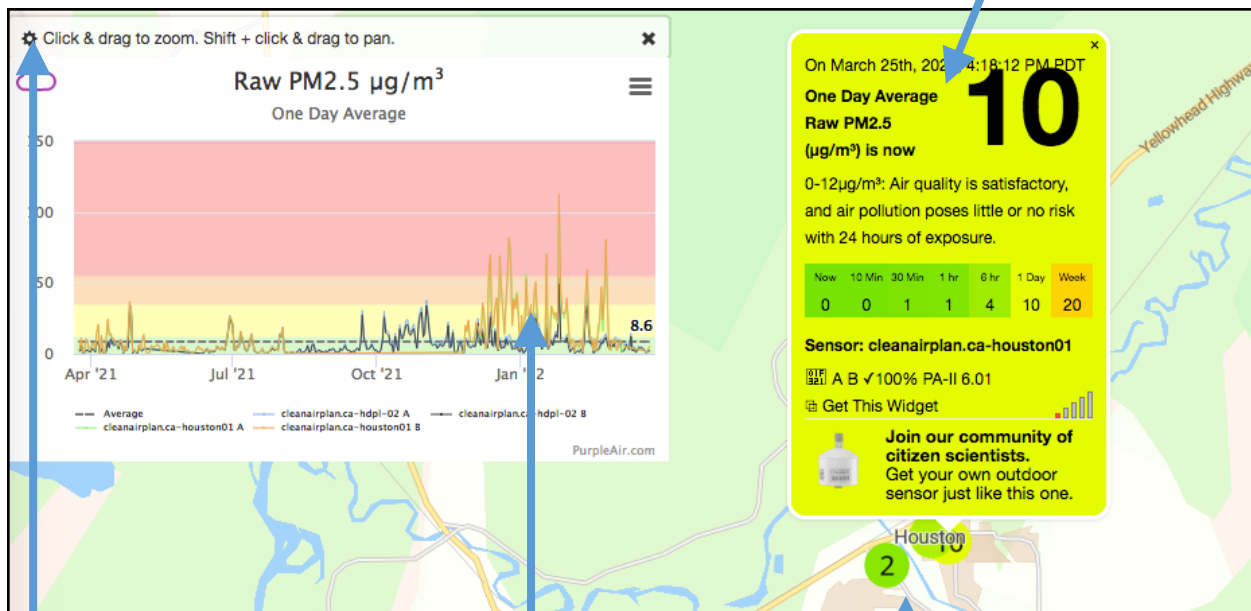
You may have to adjust the settings slightly depending on your computer.

Check out other pollution maps, updated links, news, reports here:
<https://cleanairplan.ca/pollution-maps/>

STEP 2 – What you see

You can click anywhere on the map and drag, push or scroll your way around the world. Up on the top left hand side somewhere there is also a place to enter a place name.

This is the reading for the monitor and filter you choose. Filters let you choose temperature, particles and more.



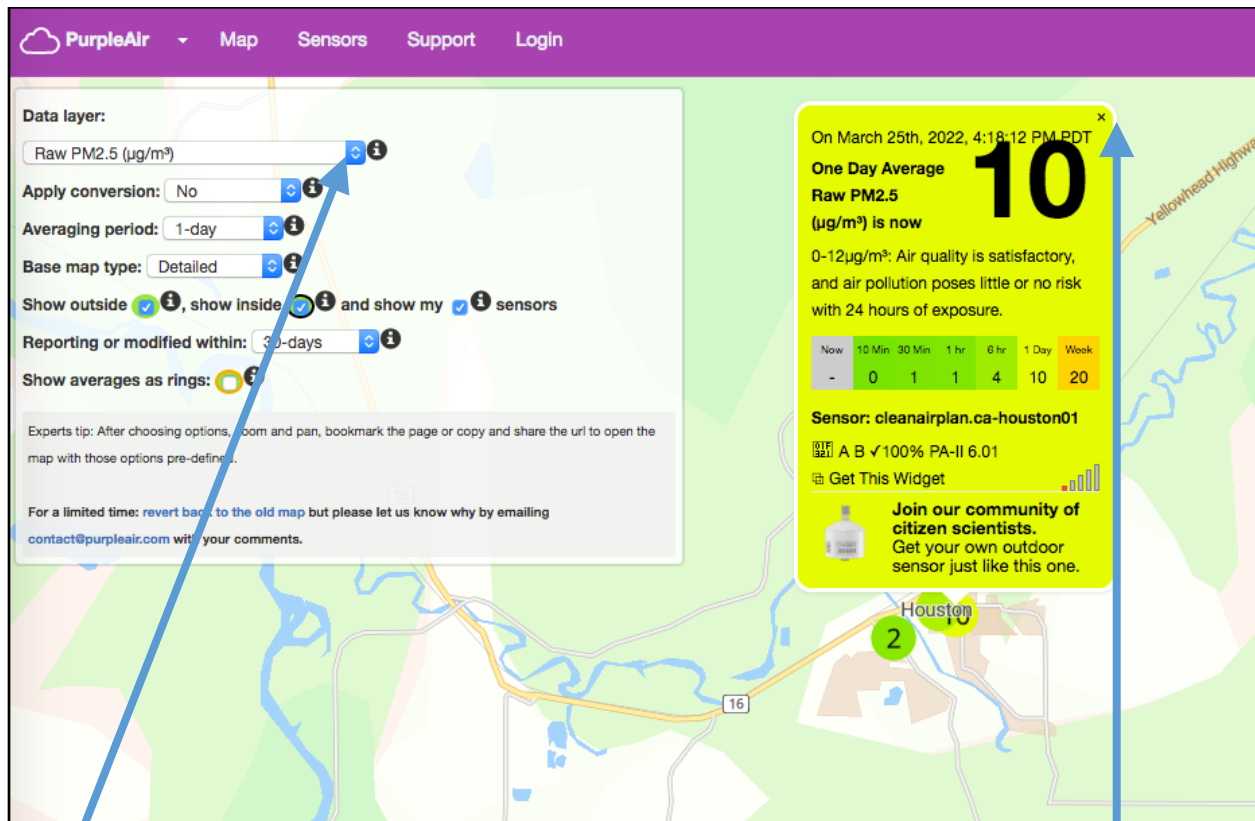
This chart shows the period according to the filters you chose. You can zoom in by pointing, clicking and expanding any section.

This gear symbol allows you to change your filters and your chart or number will update automatically. Point and Click.

Spots indicate sensors. Each sensor has a different reading. Zoom in to see better.

STEP 3 – Filters

!!! To change filters you need to use the scroll bar to see the list of options. This scroll bar is the only thing that reveals the choices in full.



Click here to see your choices. Move your cursor to the right hand side of that drop down menu to scroll up and down and see the full list!

Make the box disappear to just see the spots.

Raw PM2.5 Data. Use this filter often - it shows the smallest and most harmful particle size and it's not adjusted to fit some formula!

Averaging Period: a 24 hour average (1 day) is the best to assess day to day air quality. Otherwise you might want hourly or even more real time readings.

Real time readings of dust particles are also cool because you can see the dust and then look up the monitor to get a reading.

STEP 4 – React

Reduce your exposure to poor air quality and you will feel better. We recommend installing HEPA type filters or other cheap home air filters to reduce the particulate in your home. Plan outdoor events for periods of good air quality or in places where the air usually better. Seek out more info. on these topics.

That's it - send us your comments.



solutions for better air
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