

ALISO CANYON GAS LEAK

Returning Home after Indoor Environmental Testing



The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has directed SoCalGas to offer and implement a comprehensive indoor cleaning protocol at no cost to you. Public Health recommends professional comprehensive cleaning of all household surfaces to make sure residual contaminants in dust are removed. Here is a series of steps that you can take to improve environmental conditions in your home:

Step 1: Before You Start

Register with Public Health: Go to ph.lacounty.gov/media/gasleak to register your household. This will help us follow up with you to direct necessary services to your family and enable us to track community health during recovery. Registration is voluntary; Public Health will treat the information as confidential.

Step 2: Ventilate Your Home and Run Faucets

- Air out your home for a minimum of 12 hours: open all exterior doors, windows, interior doors, and large cabinets. This can be done for a few hours at a time over several days.
- Run all faucets for at least 30 seconds each, and flush all toilets, if home has been unoccupied.
- Do not run central fans or heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) units until you complete Step 3.

Step 3: Remove and Replace Air Filters

- Replace air filters on your HVAC systems with a medium or high efficiency particle filter (“MERV 8” or higher, available at most hardware and home improvement stores). Use a simple dust mask and dishwashing gloves to minimize contact with dusts that may loosen while removing old filters. Dispose of old filters by placing in plastic bags, and then placing bags into the trash. Make sure the new filter is the same size and dimensions as your old one.
- Replace filters on portable air purifiers or HVAC Air Scrubber, and follow all other manufacturer’s guidelines for these systems.
- Run central fans and HVAC units for a minimum of 12 hours with doors and windows open.

Step 4: Inspect Your Home for Oily Residue

- Check for oily residue on hard surfaces particularly around the outside of your home (e.g. patio surfaces and furniture). Avoid touching oily residue as it may cause skin irritation.
- Throw away fruits, vegetables, or other foods that appear with an oily residue. It is OK to eat new fruits or vegetables that may be growing in your gardens at this time.
- If you see any oily residue on food or other surfaces, call Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) to send staff to assess and clean as needed. You can call the SoCalGas Aliso Hotline at 818-435-7077 or email ResidueCleaning@socalgas.com to schedule assessment and cleanup services.



Step 5: Clothing and Food

- Residents may want to wash bedding and clothing as an extra measure of caution.
- Discard any food items that were not stored in airtight containers during your relocation.

Step 6: Clean-up

Again, Public Health strongly advises that you use a professional service to clean your home, and has directed SoCalGas to offer and implement a comprehensive indoor cleaning protocol, designed by Public Health. Cleaning is also important to remove pollen, mold, or other contaminants that also may have accumulated while homes were unoccupied. However, if you plan to begin the cleaning process on your own, here are some safety measures to follow:

- Safety first: Take precautions while cleaning, by wearing a respiratory dust mask. Choose masks that have the words “NIOSH” and either “N95” or “P100;” you can find them sold at hardware and home improvement stores. Standard dishwashing gloves are also recommended. Children; pregnant women; and people with asthma, mold allergies or other respiratory conditions; or people with weakened immune systems should not perform cleaning.
- Using a damp cloth, clean all walls, countertops, tables, air conditioning vents, and any other hard surfaces that can be safely wet-cleaned with kitchen soap and water. Allow all wet-cleaned surfaces to air dry completely.
- Soft materials such as upholstered furnishings, carpeting, and drapes should be professionally steam cleaned. Removable fabrics may be professionally dry-cleaned.
- Do not vacuum with a regular household vacuum cleaner, which can cause dust to recirculate the home and increase the possibility of exposures. Initial vacuuming of your home should be performed by a professional cleaning service.

Step 7: Clean Air Ducts

- Public Health is directing SoCalGas to provide ductwork cleaning for all HVAC systems as part of the comprehensive indoor cleaning protocol.
- You may wish to contact a professional company on your own to inspect and clean the ductwork. Qualified professional cleaning is required for in-duct cleaning, because improper cleaning may worsen indoor environmental conditions.

For more information:

Contact the **Los Angeles County Department of Public Health** at (213) 738-3220 or visit www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/gasleak