

Name:

Measuring particles in the air

All around the country, regional governments take measurements at **air quality monitoring stations**. Towns and cities around the country usually have at least one monitoring station.

Air gets drawn through filters in the top to get rid of any large dust particles. The air then gets sucked through a very fine filter paper, where the smaller particles are trapped. The more particles that get trapped, the darker the spot appears on the paper. The filter is kept as a long tape, and every 24 hours gets moved along, so a fresh piece of the filter is exposed. This way we can see how polluted the air was on one day compared with another.

This data is available on **LAWA, Land Air Water Aotearoa**, where you can see what the particulate levels have been in the past.

You can also see if the monitoring site has observed any days that have measured over the **National Environmental Standard**, the law that says what the maximum amount of pollution is over 24 hours.

Key Points to Take Away

- There are lots of air quality monitoring stations around the country
- You can see the data on LAWA, Land Air Water Aotearoa

More to Read

[LAWA - How is air quality measured?](#)

1. Where do regional governments take air quality measurements?

2. Describe how the air quality monitoring systems work.

3. Look back in your notes and write down what the PM10 rating means.

Go to the **Land Air Water Aotearoa website** and search for your town.

4. Look at the graph and fill in the PM 10 ratings for 2019.

Month	PM10 Rating for your town
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	