

From historic barbecue restaurants, to tailgating at local sporting events, to backyard barbecues; Kansas City is world renowned for its barbecue. However, many people fail to realize that barbecuing with charcoal lighter fluid can contribute to Kansas City's ground level ozone problem. Charcoal lighter fluid contains volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs are a precursor to ground level ozone formation. As soon as you douse your charcoal briquettes with charcoal lighter fluid, the charcoal lighter fluid begins evaporating into the atmosphere. The evaporation process is intensified as the fluid-soaked charcoal briquettes burn.



In an effort to reduce VOCs in the Kansas City area, the Public Health Department's Air Quality program will be giving away one free charcoal chimney in exchange for a bottle of charcoal lighter fluid from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm on June 20th, July 18th and August 15th at the Wyandotte County Household Hazardous Waste collection site located at 2443 S. 88th Street in Kansas City, KS. A charcoal chimney is a cylindrical metal device that allows you to stack your charcoal and light the entire stack with newspaper instead of toxic lighter fluid. The lighting process is as fast, if not faster than lighting charcoal with lighter fluid. Approximately 14,500 tons of VOCs are emitted from the 46,200 tons of lighter fluid used in the United States every year. Charcoal chimneys emit significantly reduced levels of air pollution when compared to charcoal barbecues started with lighter fluid. All of the lighter fluid that we collect will be processed into various usable byproducts by a local environmental firm. Proper disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) helps protect our air, water and soil.

The Public Health Department's Air Quality program encourages healthier barbecues through the use of charcoal chimneys. Summertime barbecues can be less polluting and better for your health by using charcoal chimneys instead of charcoal lighter fluid.

For additional information, [click here](#) or call 913-573-6700.