



Get the Facts!

about

Indoor Air Quality



Spring, 2001

Indoor Air Quality in Your School

Poor indoor air quality (IAQ) has been shown to be a leading cause of asthma and other respiratory problems in both children and adults. Asthma attacks alone account for over 10 million missed schools days a year, nationwide. A lack of attention to IAQ can also accelerate deterioration and reduce efficiency of heating/cooling equipment, strain relationships between school administrators, parents, and staff, and lead to liability issues.

What steps can you take right now to improve Indoor Air Quality in your school?

- Obtain a copy of the IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit and videos (info below)
- Ensure that an adequate amount of outdoor air is being supplied to classrooms and offices
- Test for radon
- Reduce use of products that require ventilation e.g., adhesives, floor-care products, pesticides, art supplies, and other chemicals
- Maintain relative humidity at a level below 60% indoors
- Clean up mold and control moisture and leaks
- Control other possible asthma triggers, including animals, pests, and dust mites

How can EPA help you improve the Indoor Air Quality in your school?

EPA's "IAQ Tools for Schools" program works with school staff to:

- Resolve existing IAQ problems and prevent new ones
- Identify practical, low cost solutions to fixing IAQ problems.

Participation in the program is FREE!

How much will it cost to improve IAQ in your school?

The majority of the activities promoted in the Tools for Schools program have been designed to be either low cost or no cost. While some fixes, such as major leaks or problems with ventilation systems can be more expensive to repair, school districts make their own decisions about which course of action to follow after discovering a problem.

Do schools have to follow this guidance?

The guidance is voluntary, and can be followed or modified, depending on your school's needs. EPA does not regulate general indoor air quality in schools.

How can You get an IAQ Tools for Schools Kit and Video?

The IAQ Tools for Schools Kit, IAQ Problem Solving Wheels, and "Taking Action" and "Ventilation Basics" videos are available free of charge and can be obtained by calling the IAQ Information Clearinghouse at 1-800-438-4318.

The entire Kit (except for the videos and the IAQ Problem Solving Wheel) can be downloaded in PDF or HTML from EPA's website at www.epa.gov/iaq/schools

More Questions?

For general information on Indoor Air Quality, call **EPA's IAQ INFO Hotline** at **(800) 438-4318**.

For information on receiving technical assistance in implementing the Tools for Schools program in your school, call **Ann Wawrukiewicz** at **206-553-2589** or toll free at **1-800-424-4372 x2589**.