

General IAQ

- Workers in developed countries spend more than 90 percent of their time indoors.
- Indoor air is typically 2-5 times more polluted, and can be as much as 100 times more, than outside air.
- According to *The World Health Report 2002* indoor air pollution is responsible for 2.7% of the global burden of disease.
- Health risks associated with poor indoor air quality include asthma, cancer, reproductive and developmental problems.
- U.S. companies could increase worker productivity by close to \$200 billion annually by creating offices with better indoor air.
- The average household of four adds between 3 and 6 gallons of water to the indoor air in a day.
- One of every 15 homes in the U.S. has radon levels above the US Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) recommended action level.

Sick Building Syndrome

- An USEPA report found that illness and lost productivity due to indoor air pollution, commonly called "sick building syndrome" (SBS), costs businesses \$60 billion annually.
- Occupants suffering from SBS complain of eye, nose and throat irritation, headaches, cough, dry or itchy skin, dizziness, nausea, difficulty in concentrating, fatigue and sensitivity to odors.
- Ventilation systems are a primary cause of the majority of SBS problems.

Health Effects Associated With IAQ

- Allergies, which affect about 20% of the population, affect approximately 40 million Americans.
- Asthma, a debilitating condition, is worsened by indoor air pollution. Asthma has increased 160% in the past 15 years.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 300 million people suffer from asthma and 255,000 people died from asthma in 2005.
- WHO estimates that asthma is the most common chronic disease among children – asthma deaths will increase by almost 20% in the next 10 years.
- Building Related Illnesses (BRI) include sinusitis, bronchitis, asthma, humidifier fever, dermatitis, Legionnaires' disease, and Pontiac Fever.
- An estimated 1,500 people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Legionnaires' disease affects 10,000 to 15,000 people each year.
- ETS (second-hand smoke) causes 3,000 lung cancer deaths in non-smoking Americans each year.
- Toxins from indoor mold and bacteria can result in effects ranging from short-term irritation to immunosuppression to cancer.
- Smoking is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States today.
- Numerous indoor contaminants are carcinogens (i.e. benzene, radon, certain pesticides, chlorinated solvents, and aldehydes).

For more information, please email: info@greenguard.org or
contact us at 1.800.427.9681.