

Indoor Air Quality – Hospitality Infographic



Conducting an IAQ investigation

- Treat IAQ concerns seriously and promptly.
- Collect health complaint data using a questionnaire specific for your workplace. You may need assistance from an expert.
- Look for patterns.
- Meet affected people to clarify your findings.
- Check the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) system with the building operator/engineer.

Indoor Air Quality

Take a preventative approach to IAQ

- Provide an adequate volume of outdoor air
- Ensure that air is properly distributed
- Prevent outdoor pollutants from entering the building
- Provide separate ventilation for special-use areas
- Promote the use of unscented products
- Choose building materials, paints and furniture with low emissions
- Discourage mould growth
- Follow standards and best practices for your building's ventilation, thermal comfort, and pollutant control

Sources

- Building occupants
- Building materials
- Carpets, fabric, foam chair cushions
- Off-gas emissions furniture, carpets, paints, workplace cleaners, solvents, pesticides, disinfectants and glues
- Damp areas, stagnant water and condensate pans
- Photocopiers, electric motors, electrostatic air cleaners

Indoor air contaminants

- Carbon dioxide, tobacco smoke, perfume, body odours
- Dust, fiberglass, asbestos, gases
- Dust mites
- Gases, vapours, odours, volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Microbial contaminants, fungi, moulds, bacteria
- Ozone

Symptoms

Dryness and irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, and skin
Headache
Fatigue
Shortness of breath
Hypersensitivity and allergies
Sinus congestion
Coughing and sneezing
Dizziness
Nausea

People generally notice their symptoms after several hours at work and feel better after they have been away from the building.

IAQ issues

Common Causes

- Lack of outdoor air for HVAC system
- Poorly designed or maintained HVAC system
- Pollutants from the outdoor air
- Emissions from inside sources
- Poor temperature and humidity control

What the law says:

All jurisdictions include the 'general duty clause' which requires employers to provide a healthy and safe workplace. This includes the provision of healthy indoor air. In addition, IAQ is implied in most building codes as design and operation criteria.

Source: <https://www.ccohs.ca>