



Indoor Air Quality Fact Sheet

Indoor air quality (IAQ) covers a broad range of issues in buildings. Some of the conditions that commonly fall into IAQ may include temperature extremes, elevated relative humidity, stuffy air, odors, sleepiness, headaches, congestion, and dry air. Individual sensitivities will cause each person to react differently, and often the source of symptoms people experience is something other than building conditions. If any of the above conditions persist for more than two weeks, or if 25% of the occupants suffer from the same symptoms, the issue may be related to the building.

The presence of transient odors does not necessarily constitute poor indoor air quality. Examples of transient odors are smells pulled in with outside air, such as vehicle exhaust, roofing repair odors, or odors from construction work within the building. Although transient odors can cause effects like headaches or mucous membrane irritation, generally these odors are short-lived and do not present a long-term health hazard.

Indoor air complaints are investigated by Safety and Compliance. The investigation usually includes measuring temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide. Additional testing may be added to the investigation depending on the specific complaint.

Recommendations for any corrective actions are communicated to the Department and to Facilities and Services for repairs if needed.

To report an indoor air quality problem, please call (217) 265-9828, or oshs@uiuc.edu.