

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.

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, fibreglass, 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

- 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

Common Causes

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



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>