

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

Indoor air contaminants

Building occupants



Carbon dioxide, tobacco smoke, perfume, body odours

Building materials



Dust, fibreglass, asbestos, gases

Carpets, fabric, foam chair cushions



Dust mites

Off-gas emissions furniture, carpets, paints, workplace cleaners, solvents, pesticides, disinfectants and glues



Gases, vapours, odours, volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

Damp areas, stagnant water and condensate pans



Microbial contaminants, fungi, moulds, bacteria

Photocopiers, electric motors, electrostatic air cleaners



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.

CCOHS.ca
Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

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