

## Indoor Air Quality

Indoor air quality, IAQ, covers a broad range of issues. Some of the items that commonly fall into IAQ may include; temperature extremes, elevated relative humidity, stuffy air, odors, sleepiness, headaches, congestion and dry air. If any of these conditions persist for more than two weeks or 25% of the occupants suffer from the same symptoms they may be related to the building. Individual sensitivities will cause each person to react differently.

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 or roofing repair odors or odors from construction work within the building. This is not to say that transient odors will not 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 & Compliance. The investigation usually includes measuring temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. Additional parameters may be added to an investigation depending on the specific complaint.

Recommendations for any corrective activities are communicated to the Department and to Facilities and Services for action as needed.

Additional information is available from the USEPA: An Office Occupants Guide to Indoor Air Quality (link to <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/occupgd.html> )

To report an indoor air quality problem contact Patricia Kerst at 333-1106 or [p-kerst@uiuc.edu](mailto:p-kerst@uiuc.edu).

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