



Stirling Technology, Inc.

Chemical Air Pollution Hazards Fact Sheet

- **Organic chemicals** are common ingredients in household products such as paint, varnishes, and wax. The ability of organic compounds to cause health effects varies greatly. The effects of organic chemicals on humans can take years to manifest themselves.
- **Formaldehyde** is widely used in the manufacture of building materials (such as particle board and paneling) and household products. (It's also a byproduct of combustion and certain other natural processes.) Formaldehyde emissions decrease over time, but health effects may linger. Formaldehyde can cause watery eyes, burning in the eyes and throat, nausea, and difficulty breathing, and can also trigger asthma attacks. Some people develop a sensitivity to formaldehyde.
- Seventy-five percent of U.S. households used at least one **pesticide** product indoors each year. In fact, one study suggests that 80% of most people's exposure to pesticides occurs indoors. Pesticides can remain active for many years indoors. In 1990, the American association of Poison Control Centers reported 79,000 cases of household pesticide poisoning in children.
- **Apartments can have the same indoor air problems as single-family homes** because many of the pollution sources, such as the interior building materials, are similar. Indoor air problems similar to those in offices are caused by such sources as contaminated ventilation systems, improperly placed outdoor air intakes, or maintenance activities.
- Solutions to air quality problems in apartments, homes, and offices, involve such actions as eliminating or controlling the sources of pollution, **increasing ventilation**, and installing air cleaning devices.

For more information about chemical contaminants and ventilation, call us at 1.800.535.3448 or visit healthyairpeople.com

Source: "The Inside Story: A Guide to Indoor Air Quality," United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (6604J), EPA Document # 402-K-93-007, April 1995.

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*Stirling Technology is home of the RecoupAerator® home air cleaning system,
the #1-rated energy recovery ventilator.*