



2-2005

SP555-Indoor Air Hazards

The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service

Follow this and additional works at: http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_agexenvi

Recommended Citation

"SP555-Indoor Air Hazards," The University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, SP555-2.5M-2/05(REP)
R12-5350-001-001-05 05-0117, http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_agexenvi/3

The publications in this collection represent the historical publishing record of the UT Agricultural Experiment Station and do not necessarily reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations. Current information about UT Ag Research can be found at the [UT Ag Research website](#). This Indoor Environmental Concerns - Indoor Air Quality is brought to you for free and open access by the UT Extension Publications at Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Environment (Indoor & Outdoor) by an authorized administrator of Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.



Indoor Air Hazards

**Every
Household
Should
Know
About**

Have More Questions?

Here are some sources for information on Home Indoor Air Quality.

- UT County Extension Office
Check your local phone book
- EPA Indoor Air Quality Information Clearing House
1-800-438-4318
- National Lead Information Center
1-800-424-5323
- Consumer Product Safety Commission
1-800-638-CPSC
- Tennessee Radon Program
1-800-232-1139

Healthy Indoor Air for Tennessee's Homes is part of the national program, *Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes*. These programs form a collaborative, interagency effort to increase the knowledge and understanding of residential indoor air quality issues by the general public. The goal is to protect the public health by reducing risks associated with indoor air contamination. Funding for these programs is provided by the USDA-CSREES and the US EPA.

For more information on Healthy Indoor Air for Tennessee's homes, contact:

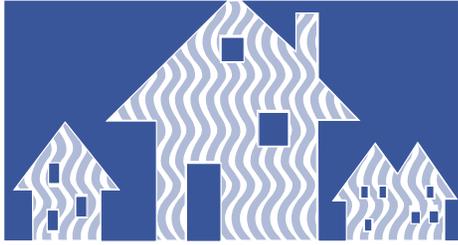
Check the Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes Web site at
www.montana.edu/wwwcxair/default.htm

Martha W. Keel, Ph.D., Professor
Family and Consumer Sciences
UT Extension
Housing and Environmental Health Specialist

Bobbi Clarke, Ph.D., Professor
Family and Consumer Sciences
UT Extension
Health Specialist

SP555-2.5M-2/05(REP) R12-5350-001-001-05 05-0117
Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

A Partnership Program of EPA, UT
and USDA/CSREES



If you are like most Americans, you spend much of your time indoors. Although air is taken for granted, the air you breathe at home may not be healthy. Research has found that in homes across America the quality of indoor air can be worse than outdoor air.

Why?

Improved construction techniques make homes being built and remodeled “tighter” than in the past. In addition, we are using more products and furnishings containing compounds to which some individuals are sensitive.

What Can I Do?

By understanding a few basics, you can manage your household and your family’s behavior to improve the air quality in your home.

Remember

a major hazard is
MISINFORMATION.
Be informed!

Indoor Air Hazards You Should Know About

Moisture and biologicals (molds, mildew and dust mites)



Sources include excessive humidity levels, poorly maintained humidifiers and air-conditioners, inadequate ventilation, and animal dander.

Combustion products including carbon monoxide

Sources include unvented fossil-fuel space heaters, unvented gas stoves and ovens, and “backdrafting” from furnaces and water heaters.



Formaldehyde



Sources include durable-press draperies and other textiles, particle-board products such as cabinets and furniture framing, and adhesives.

Radon

A radioactive gas that comes from the soil and rock beneath and around the foundation, ground water wells, and some building materials.



Household products and furnishings



These include volatile organic compounds from paints, solvents, air fresheners, hobby supplies, dry-cleaned clothing, aerosol sprays,

adhesives and fabric additives used in carpeting and furniture.

Asbestos

Most homes more than 20 years old are likely to have asbestos. Sources include deteriorating, damaged or disturbed pipe insulation, fireproofing or acoustical material and floor tiles.



Lead



Sources include lead-based paint dust from removing paint by sanding, scraping and burning.

Particulates

Sources include particles from fireplaces, woodstoves, kerosene heaters, unvented gas space heaters, tobacco smoke, dust and pollen.



Environmental tobacco smoke



Tobacco smoke produces particulates, combustion products and formaldehyde.

Remodeling activities

Remodeling can provide the disturbance that releases such materials as asbestos, lead, formaldehyde and other hazardous materials.

