



UNDERSTANDING & MITIGATING INDOOR AIR POLLUTION

TYPES OF POLLUTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified 188 toxic air pollutants and established national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for six of the most common air pollutants.

OUTDOOR

6 Criteria Air Pollutants

- ground-level ozone
- particulate matter
- carbon monoxide
- nitrogen dioxide
- sulfur dioxide
- lead

INDOOR

- volatile organic compounds
- tobacco & other smoke
- carbon monoxide
- particulate matter
- nitrogen dioxide
- carbon dioxide
- formaldehyde
- asbestos
- radon
- mold
- dust

WHAT FACTORS IMPACT INDOOR AIR QUALITY?

Human Behavior
Outdoor Sources
Housing Conditions
Socioeconomic Factors

POLICIES & PROGRAMS

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

Salt Lake County Regional Development

Lead Safe Housing Program

Salt Lake County Regional Development

Radon Program

Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Waste Management & Radiation Control

Asbestos Program

Utah Department of Air Quality

Lead-Based Paint Program

Utah Department of Air Quality

Utah Fit Premises Act

Utah Code: To protect the physical health and safety of the ordinary renter.

Salt Lake City Existing Residential Housing Ordinance: Chapter 18.50

To provide for the health, safety, comfort, convenience and aesthetics of Salt Lake City and its present and future inhabitants.

HUMAN BEHAVIOR & ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

COOKING

Turning on a range hood while cooking is one way to improve IAQ.

INDOOR COMBUSTION

Burning firewood, candles or incense, and smoking releases toxic chemicals such as carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, particulate matter, and nitrogen oxides.

CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Indoor use of chemical or scented products such as cleaning supplies, diffusers, and hygiene products can adversely affect IAQ by releasing high concentrations and mixtures of substances into the air.

VENTILATION

Depending on outdoor air quality, opening a window can be an effective indoor ventilation strategy to decrease the longevity and number of indoor pollutants.

OUTDOOR SOURCES

PARTICULATE MATTER POLLUTION

Metropolitan areas in Utah are in proximity to the lake bed of ancient Lake Bonneville. As a result, the Great Basin is a significant source of PM pollution. The chemical composition of dust and soil emitted from the Great Basin has elevated levels of potentially hazardous elements including lead, arsenic, nickel, and chromium.

HUMAN EMISSIONS

Atmospheric conditions called inversions occur in valleys surrounded by mountains and exacerbate air quality problems associated with transportation and industrial emissions in Utah.

WILDFIRE SMOKE

Wildfire smoke from California and other parts of the region are transported to Utah by air currents.

HOUSING CONDITIONS & SOLUTIONS

Use monitoring and testing to locate sources of pollution (if you are able).

Keep humidity between 30% - 50% and keep things clean and dry.

Use exhaust fans and outdoor circulation when using cleaning chemicals or cooking with natural gas.

Check your house for Radon.

Contact professionals for any complex indoor air quality concerns (like asbestos).

*High Efficiency Particulate Air Filters
Use HEPA filters; check to change filters regularly and clean moist or dusty areas.*