Typical Sources of Indoor Air Pollutants

Outdoor Sources

Polluted Outdoor Air

- Pollen, dust, fungal spores
- Industrial emissions
- Vehicle emissions

Nearby Sources

- Loading docks
- Odors from dumpsters
- Unsanitary debris or building exhausts near outdoor air intake

Underground Sources

- Radon
- Pesticides
- Leakage from underground storage tanks

Building Equipment

HVAC Equipment

- Microbiological growth in drip pans, ductwork, coils, and humidifiers
- Improper venting of combustion products
- Duct or debris in ductwork

Other Equipment

- Emission from office equipment (volatile organic compounds, ozone)
- Emission from shop, lab, and cleaning equipment

Components & Furnishings

Components

- Microbiological growth on or in soiled or water-damaged materials
- Dry traps that allow the passage of sewer gas
- Materials containing volatile organic compounds, inorganic compounds, or damaged asbestos
- Materials that produce particles (dust)

Furnishings

- Emissions from new furnishings and floorings
- Microbiological growth on or in soiled or water damaged furnishings

Other Indoor Sources

- Copy/print areas
- Food prep areas
- Smoking lounges
- Cleaning materials
- Emission from trash
- Pesticides
- Odors and volatile organic compounds from paint
- Insects and other pests

Human

- Occupants with communicable disease
- Personal care products
- Skin, urine and excrement
- Poor personal hygiene