



Several factors can contribute to poor indoor air quality such as thermal conditions, air contaminants and biological contaminants. Air monitoring can be expensive and the results inconclusive. Several steps can be taken to improve air quality before testing it. The most important step is to ensure that the building ventilation is as effective as possible and is circulating uniformly. Neglect of proper ventilation is responsible for much of the drowsiness and dullness that affect the work of employees. Therefore, a continuous supply of fresh air must be provided through the room's heating and ventilation unit. The Facilities Department recommends keeping these units free of clutter and obstructions to ensure the movement of air.

Sources of poor IAQ in school facilities also come from cleaning agents. Cleaning chemicals can cause bigger problems for children because children are more vulnerable to toxic chemicals than adults. Children breathe more frequently and more deeply than adults, which means toxic chemicals and dust in the air are more likely to get into children's bodies. Children are also more likely to sit on floors, engage in repeated hand-to-mouth activities, and place their heads on surfaces - and so they are more likely to come into contact with toxic chemicals on surfaces.

Did you know HCPS uses green cleaning products? Green cleaning is using a combination of products, practices and equipment to clean effectively while protecting both the environment and the health of people in that environment.

- Green cleaning products and chemicals replace toxic chemicals that were used in the past. Green cleaning chemicals have significantly less impact on the indoor air quality as well as the outdoor environment.
- Green cleaning equipment such as vacuum cleaners equipped with High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters remove tiny dirt particles spread through the air. This promotes cleaner air for students who may suffer from allergies or asthma. Microfiber cleaning cloths and mops are used as they attract dust by static charge, thus eliminating the use of cleaning chemicals and high water consumption.
- Green cleaning uses paper products that meet EPA guidelines for post consumer fiber content.

Kudos to Norrsville Elementary School & C. Milton Wright High School! They were first to complete the fall Tools for Schools walkthrough.

'Tools for Schools' is an Indoor Air Quality program designed by the Environmental Protection Agency to provide practical guidance to help prevent IAQ issues in our schools.

