

Tools for Schools



Do a quick inventory

Now that everyone is back into the classrooms, it's a good time to check the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) of our daytime living space...remember we are here six to eight hours of the day.

- **Is the UHV providing adequate ventilation?**
- **Don't use the top as a shelf it blocks the air flow.**
- **Locate your source of fresh air, be it a window, unit-ventilator, air supply vents.**
- **Is there an odor in the room or around the sink area?**
- **Look for areas (under sinks or ceilings) where leaks may have occurred. Is there mold growing, do the ceiling tile need replaced?**
- **Keeping clutter to a minimum reduces dust.**
- **Are there missing floor tiles which could cause a tripping hazard?**

Examine places used to store minor cleaning items; determine if these products are safe for children with asthma.

If you use air fresheners (which we do not recommend), keep a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) in the classroom (MSDS can be found online). Does it contain chemicals you want to breath every day; are they harmful to children with asthma?

Is your room pest free? Reduce risk of pests by keeping food in a sealed container

Improve your school and home environment with Indoor Air Quality practices recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency's Tools for Schools Program used here at HCPS. You may think "It's just another complicated Washington program," but it's really just common sense, but organized.

The IAQ Tools for Schools Program is a comprehensive resource to help maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting, and preventing IndoorAirQuality problems. Poor indoor air quality can impact the comfort, if schools fail to respond promptly to poor IAQ, students and staff can be at an increased risk of short-term health problems, such as fatigue and nausea, as well as long-term problems like asthma.