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Dust Mite Report

The Institute of Medicine reports microscopic dust mites inhabiting carpets and bedding can cause children with susceptibility to develop full-blown asthma. The number of cases of asthma, which leaves sufferers coughing, wheezing and gasping for breath, has risen about 75% since 1980. The increase among blacks and poor inner city populations has been the highest. However, the fact that dust mites are present in nearly everywhere eliminates them as the sole cause of asthma. But in children genetically susceptible to asthma, exposure to dust mites can lead to the disease. Secondhand smoke may prove to be a similar trigger for young children. The report suggests eliminating fabric upholstery, carpets, smoking and exterminating cockroaches as well as controlling humidity as preventive measures.

Wildfire Smoke Testing for Insurance

According to a recent announcement from EMSL Analytical, wildfires burn approximately 5 millions acres every year in the US, posing threat to people's life and property.

Those facing smoke damage in their homes from wildfires may find themselves needing to test their properties for proof of damage. EMSL Analytical, performs analysis of wildfires debris (soot, char, ash) using a combination of light and electron microscopy.

For more information on testing services regarding wildfires provided by EMSL please call Dr. Eugenia Mirica emirica@emsl.com at (800) 220-3675 ext. 1247 or Dr. Jerry Drapala ddrapala@lateesting.com located in our west coast laboratory (LA Testing at 1-800-303-0047).

CD Available

The US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has a CD available entitled "2008 ToxProfiles CD ROM". The ATSDR ToxFAQs™ is a series of summaries about hazardous substances developed by the ATSDR Division of Toxicology. Information for this series is excerpted from the ATSDR Toxicological Profiles and Public Health Statements. Each fact sheet serves as a quick and easy to understand guide. Answers are provided to the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) about exposure to hazardous substances. Go to: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaq.html>.

Featured Product



High Efficiency Air Cleaners

The most efficient holding capacity among other residential air cleaners. The AC24 and AC22 removes pollen, mold, dust, animal dander, grease, soot, and tobacco smoke for cleaner, fresher air in your home. The micro-fiber media replacement interval is every 12 months, versus cartridge media filters required at 6 months.

Business Opportunities

Foreclosed and abandoned houses can be prime for mold and mildew growth. This could obviously provide opportunities for the indoor air quality and remediation industries. Banks that now own these homes could be exposed to future liabilities. They should recognize their exposure and look for preventative or refurbishing measures.

Danger of Benzene

Benzene is considered a human carcinogen. Studies have shown that children of smokers die of leukemia at two or more times the rate of children of nonsmokers. The higher mortality rate is consistent with the measured elevated levels of benzene in the breath of smokers. Major sources of exposure to benzene appear to be active and passive smoking, driving and other personal activities associated with automobiles, use of attached garages, storing gasoline and kerosene, and the use of certain consumer products (marking pens, paints, glues, rubber products).

Death and Particulates

This question was submitted several years ago to an IAQ site. What would you recommend? Tell us your suggestions and the best will be published in next month's newsletter.

"We just got new cabinets from Ikea that are made mostly out of particle board and melamine. I am reacting to something in them, possibly formaldehyde from the particle board. It seems to be worst in the mornings after the house has been closed up all night with the heat on."

Specifications

- Very low pressure drop media characteristics allows for better heating & cooling equipment operation.
- Micro-fiber expandable media Meets MERV 11 test standard ANSI/ASHRAE 52.2-1999.
- 10-year cabinet warranty
- 97% efficient by weight of airborne particles ranging as low as 0.01 microns.