

INDOOR AIR QUALITY (IAQ)



INDOOR AIR QUALITY (IAQ) in commercial and academic buildings has become a growing concern. Complaints and discomfort can arise from a number of factors including:

- Environmental Contaminants
- Biological Contaminants
- HVAC Performance & Design
- Physical Agents & Other Factors

Environmental contaminants may include unusual odors, mild irritants (such as tobacco smoke), or off-gassing of new construction products. Biological contaminants may include the presence of molds or bacteria. Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) factors consist of temperature, air flow, and relative humidity. Physical factors may include lighting, noise or stress. IAQ issues are typically not directly related to only one issue, but are frequently multifaceted.

IAQ complaints can have a major detrimental impact on worker productivity, increase absences, and result in higher workers' compensation and medical costs. Increasing regulatory requirements, particularly those related to environmental tobacco smoke, and the potential risk of legal liability are serious issues to building owners and managers. Prompt response to occupant concerns and establishing a proactive program of air quality enhancement can minimize negative impacts and provide for a productive and healthy environment.

Since 1978, Jurgiel & Associates has investigated and resolved numerous indoor air quality concerns in commercial, hospital, educational and other institutional settings. Our qualified staff specializes in understanding all IAQ factors that effect buildings and their occupants.

The use of new, state-of-the-art IAQ monitoring equipment allows for a quick and accurate diagnosis of the building. Various IAQ parameters can be measured and tracked with a direct reading, multi-gas monitor to provide an evaluation of the HVAC system and identify potential contamination sources. Specific contaminants can be targeted as needed. Potential biological contamination can be evaluated using a variety of methods including, airborne mold spore impaction (non-viable), cultured samples (viable), and surface wipe samples. Evaluation techniques vary, depending upon the specific complaint and nature of the problem.

Employee health and performance, psychogenic illnesses, and undue expense related to poor IAQ are serious concerns requiring experienced professional assessments and recommendations by qualified investigators.

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