

## Workplace AIR QUALITY



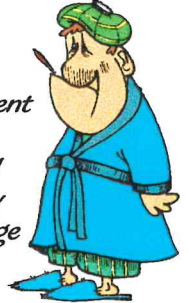
We have all heard the terms "Indoor Air Quality" or "Sick Building Syndrome" but what does it really mean to us. More often than not, we feel these are problems that other building operators experience, and not something that could happen to us.

Issues of Indoor Air Quality come down to a matter of degree and the type of problem. Some air contaminants pose serious health risks, while others can run the range of being a nuisance to merely a distinct fragrance in the air. Noticeable odors, when entering a building, whether pleasant or foul are the first indicators of an air quality issue. I'm sure we have all entered a store, building or complex where we immediately noticed a "smell in the air". Be it the pleasant smell of baking bread or cooking food from a cafeteria, or the less inviting odor of solvents when picking up our family car at the auto body shop. All these and much more fall into the classification of indoor air quality.

Most problematic air quality issues involve more serious airborne contaminants such as mold spores, fungus, asbestos and similar particulate. Volatile organic solvents and petroleum products also create serious issues in recirculatory air systems. The final group

of air contaminants relate to contained gases. Increases in carbon dioxide and reduced oxygen from insufficient fresh air make-up has become a serious issue in today's tighter sealed building. Accidental introduction of carbon monoxide from faulty fuel burning equipment has resulted in some real tragedies.

"Sick Building Syndrome" has resulted in thousands of hours of lost time annually due to employees stricken with a wide range of health and respiratory problems. Many more workers quietly suffer on the job causing their output and effectiveness to diminish due to air quality issues.



Although our newsletter is far too short to adequately cover this topic, information and help is available. The EPA has published a no nonsense, easy to read document entitled **BUILDING AIR QUALITY, A Guide for Building Owners and Facility Managers**. This 228 page guide is available free on the internet as a downloadable ACROBAT file at [www.epa.gov-iaq-base-graphics-iaq.pdf](http://www.epa.gov-iaq-base-graphics-iaq.pdf) or if you would like a hard copy, just give our office a call and we'll be glad to provide one for you.

Typically most building owners, operators and facility managers are familiar with their own respective systems, however it's still easy to overlook a potential air quality problem. There is no substitute for good design, quality installation and regular maintenance to minimize problems. If we can be of help to you, let us know.

If you know the answer to the following question you could

## WIN Dinner for 2

Take the word **LONER**, add one letter 4 times and rearrange, and you'll get the full name of a well-known political figure. Who is he?

Call or send in the correct answer and win dinner for two. If more than one correct entry is received, a winner will be selected at random. Enter as often as you like.

The **WHITE HOUSE PLUMBING QUIZ** was correctly answered by 4 people. (Andrew Jackson in 1833)  
Congratulations to...

**Ron Howe** at SVG Ridgefield

**Lou DiCostanza** at SVG Wilton

**John Moore** of Real Time Publications

**Frank Zamecnik** of Speigel, Zamecnik & Shah

We'll throw all four names into a hat and draw for the final winner. Good Luck to all.

## COMING SOON! TO A COMPUTER NEAR YOU

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## The Laws of CONSTRUCTION

- Parts and supplies unloaded in error will not fit back on the same truck.
- Wherever a truck is unloaded is the wrong place.
- One estimator will know how much the job costs, two aren't sure.
- A machine will not be needed again until it is shipped to another job site.
- More than enough of anything will be insufficient.
- It does not rain on water resistant materials.
- It always costs more to do a job in the field, off the ground, under water, in traffic, as designed, with changes according to code, quickly, now, later or ever.



**We're HOME at last!** August marked the completion of the relocation to our new office, fabrication facility and shop in Danbury. Although some work still remains to completely settle in, we're all happy to be here. The facility has been designed and equipped to better respond to a wider range of client and customer needs.



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