

## Safety Tip Sheet – Indoor Air Quality

Faculty, staff or students may have concerns about the quality of the air in their offices, work areas, classes or living spaces. The University has adopted a standardized approach that uses a team of experts from the Facilities Departments on the two main campuses and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) to assess and address these concerns. Information on the process can be found at the [EH&S Indoor Air Quality \(IAQ\)](#) web site. Please review this [information](#) at this information and contact [EH&S](#) if you have any IAQ questions or concerns.

Additional points to consider include:

1. Facilities and EH&S will ensure through air monitoring that workplace air quality does not exceed any OSHA action levels and is within generally accepted standards for temperature, humidity, particulate, mold, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and contaminate levels.
2. People have varying sensitivities to different contaminants and while Washington University will make every reasonable accommodation, sometimes there will be nuisance odors that do not trigger any regulatory health and safety response requirements.
3. Please contact the [Office of Human Resources](#) or the [Student Office of Disabilities](#) if you have any disabilities associated with indoor air contaminants.
4. IAQ calls are most frequent during the spring and fall time periods, when pollen, mold spores and dust counts tend to be high, and allergists note their patients have the most complaints. As part of our IAQ reviews, EH&S will gather outdoor mold counts for comparison to indoor counts.
5. For environments where nuisance odors and particulates are within OSHA-allowable and industry standard accepted limits, individuals with hypersensitive reactions may want to purchase their own portable combination HEPA and activated charcoal filtration units to put by their workstations. Some individuals have reported this has helped their situation.
6. Employees working with research animals should follow the [Division of Comparative Medicine's Occupational Health Program](#) requirements.