



What is Indoor Air Quality [IAQ] ?

"Indoor Air Quality" (IAQ) refers to the nature of air within an inhabited, enclosed space with particular relevance to suspended particulate matter, dust, harmful biological contaminants, chemical vapours and odours present in it.

In many large commercial conditioned spaces, the occupants have virtually no control over their environment, i.e. they cannot open windows if the room feels stuffy and unaired, turn on the exhaust fans, or leave the room, if the space is filled with dust, tobacco smoke, chemical vapour from paints, pesticide sprays, fine carbon dust from copying machines, etc. Actually because of the above pollutants, it has been observed that indoor air in a conditioned space can be upto 10 times more polluted than outdoor air and may pose a health risk due to their high concentration. Therefore, IAQ assumes importance in conditioned places where we work (or live).

Nowadays, most corporate offices are housed in elegant buildings, with a predominant use of glass, and have centralised air-conditioning systems. Such architecture gives the offices a bright, attractive look. But the indoor air circulation is often far from perfect, and could be harmful to the health of the people working in such buildings.

People all over the world have major health problems due to poor indoor air quality. These problems are associated with symptoms that are particularly brought about by contamination of the indoor environment, by the growth bacteria, fungi, mold, viruses and mildew (collectively termed micro-organisms) spread through the circulation of air exhaled, as well as from food material, etc. These problems prevail in hospitals, institutional buildings, hotels and canteens.

Therefore, the focus today is not only on our "Environment", but also our "Invironment".