

Indoor Environmental Quality

(1) *The first approach to reducing indoor air pollution and improving the air quality inside a home is to control the sources of the potential pollutants.*

FEATURES

BENEFITS

- **Combustion equipment in conditioned space is either power vented or direct vented. E.g. your hot water heater and microwave**

Power vented or direct vented combustion equipment helps ensure occupants are not exposed to pollutants from the combustion process such as carbon monoxide.

- **Airflow between the garage and the home is effectively blocked**

Besides fumes from the car exhaust, garages often contain other hazardous chemicals such as paint thinner, gasoline, and pesticides that may migrate into the home. Separating the dwelling area with good air sealing will greatly reduce the possibility of pollutants from the garage contaminating the home's interior.

- **Use of carpeting, padding, hard surface flooring, wall coverings, kitchen cabinets, insulation, sealants and adhesives that have a low emissions of VOCs**

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are pollutants. Homes constructed with low VOC products limit emissions of those pollutants in the home and can contribute to improved indoor air quality.

(2) *The second approach to reducing indoor air pollution and improving air quality inside the home is to provide adequate fresh air ventilation to remove or dilute unavoidable pollutants inside the home.*

- **Ventilation is provided in those areas of the home where it can be particularly beneficial, such as in bathrooms, kitchens, and near clothes dryers. One Energy Star fan is installed in each home to move air multiple times throughout the day**

Fans remove indoor air pollutants, such as excess moisture and cooking vapors, to help improve the indoor air quality.

- **Radon control measures are installed**

Radon is a naturally occurring gas found in soil and rock that is believed to cause health issues. Homes built to resist radon from entering can protect the occupants from the effects of radon in the home.

- **HVAC system protection measures are taken during construction**

Protecting a home's air handling equipment and ducts from construction pollutants, such as drywall dust, helps ensure that the equipment will operate efficiently without spreading those pollutants once the occupants move in.

(3) *Moisture Management*

- **Plumbing lines are not installed in exterior wall cavities to minimize the risk of freezing and bursting**

Frozen water pipes can burst causing water damage and leading to mold, which can be costly and time-consuming to repair. Homes with pipes within interior walls eliminate the risk that pipes will freeze and burst.