



7 COMMON RESIDENTIAL VOC SOURCES AND RECOMMENDED CONTROLS

Source #1 : Paints, varnishes, sealants, adhesives, etc.

- A. Ventilate work area during use.
- B. Open windows, install fans to exhaust air outdoors.
- C. Isolate work area during use; install plastic sheeting to separate work area from remainder of home.
- D. Properly dispose of renovation materials (cans, brushes, cloths, etc.).
- E. Store unused products in original containers with lids in-place in an unattached storage shed or garage.

Source #2: Gasoline powered equipment, containers and automotive products.

- A. Store gasoline in approved gas cans.
- B. Store equipment and automotive supplies in an unattached storage shed or garage.
- C. Properly cleanup any spills associated with equipment or supplies.
- D. Avoid aerosol can purchase/use.

Source #3: Household cleaning products

- A. Properly dispose of cleaning supplies, cloths, rags, etc. after use.
- B. Keep products in their original containers with lids secured.
- C. Store infrequently used products in closed air tight containers preferably in an unattached shed or garage.

Source #4: Personal care products

- A. Soaps, deodorants, lotions, perfumes, hair care supplies, oral hygiene products etc. disburse VOC's.
- B. Minimize use; keep products in closed containers when not in use. Dispose of partially used or no longer used products. Operate exhaust fan or open windows when using these products.

Source #5: Odorants and Fragrances

- A. Scented candles, potpourri, air fresheners, etc. will release VOC's when used.
- B. Minimize or eliminate use to control odors. Odors can better be controlled by removal at the source and increased ventilation.

Source #6: Dry cleaning solvents

- A. Perchloroethylene used for dry cleaning is a suspect carcinogen. Dry cleaned articles should be allowed to vent outside, without plastic bags, before being placed inside.
- B. Dry cleaned articles can be ventilated using your dryer at low heat provided the dryer is vented to the outdoors.

Source #7: Hobbies

- A. Arts and crafts and other hobbies release VOC's during use or improper storage.
- B. Read the label on the products; request Safety Data Sheets for better explanation.
- C. Follow label instructions and use products in well ventilated areas.

Note: AET's experience indicates VOC levels in many IAQ/Odor complaint homes exceed the US Green Building Councils recommended upper limit of 500 ug/L for a residential setting. Significant VOC reductions have been achieved where the homeowner is informed and implements common sense control practices. VOC's can linger for several months after use or improper storage. According to the EPA, VOCs in indoor air can cause adverse are related to health effects including nose and throat discomfort, headache, nausea and fatigue (see [www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html#health effects](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html#health_effects), 7/9/12).

About our organization: AET has 29 years of contracting/consulting experience assisting our clients in facility planning, renovations, demolition, redevelopment and site restoration. AET routinely prepares project work plans and performs project oversight to minimize the cost and contingent liabilities associated with new construction, renovations and demolition projects. Make AET your first point of contact for your consulting/contracting needs. Call us now at 610-891-0114 or 1-800-9696-AET.

Need more Industrial Hygiene information, Email Alan Sutherland, CIH, CHMM at a.sutherland@aetinc.biz. We provide nationwide services; phone consultations are free. Check out the full range of environmental contracting/consulting services we provide at our website at www.aetinc.biz.