

CITY INFECTION?

CITY AIR QUALITY AND YOUR HOME

To the average person, the most obvious source of air pollution within any U.S. city is caused by vehicle exhaust. For someone environmentally minded, other sources come to mind. What can be done? Is there something we the consumer can do to solve this problem. No. Not now, possibly never. Alternatives to the internal combustion engine are not attracting consumers or the motor vehicle industry to change. However, there are other major sources of air pollution which can be solved by a simple choice at your local paint store. Architectural paints contribute 9% of all volatile organic chemicals (VOC's) transmitted into the atmosphere. (EPA, 1999) Nearly 10 per-

cent of this pollution in our air is coming from the very paint on our walls!

Those not concerned with the atmosphere or ozone depletion have other problems to worry about. Nearly 99 % of all water based paints have known carcinogens! There are no federal regulations forcing manufactures to tell the consumer of all cancer causing materials contained in their paint products. Who has the solution? California already requires manufactures to disclose whether or not a painting material contains cancer causing ingredients known to them. Simply put, the coatings industry can provide a cheap, cancer causing paint to the consumer, with no obligation to inform them of the hazards



to their health. The answer to this problem is to choose a different paint. The construction industry has taken great steps in using materials which are both more environmental and people friendly. Building "green" is a trend catching on strong in Scottsdale, and hopefully later in throughout the country. However, the need for cleaner, safer building materials has to be expressed by the consumer. We can cause change by hitting companies where it hurts, in their pocketbook. Choose a company which produces or specializes in the production of environmentally friendly paints, with no known hazardous materials.

Symptoms to Look For :

- Asthma
- Nose Bleeds
- Headaches
- Ashy Skin
- Exhaustion, Irritability
- Influenza
- Shortness of Breath, Gaspings for Air
- Itchy skin
- Blood in urine
- Blurry eye sight
- Nausea
- Allergic Reaction
- Skin Discoloration, Rashes



CHOOSING GREEN? SAVING GREEN!



There is a trend in many industries which is leading to the increase in product price for consumers. "Green" items, those that are environmentally friendly, often carry a heftier price tag than their hazardous counterparts. One

may ask, "Is it worth it?". The answer is absolutely. Many "green" items, including paint, although more expensive at the register, save big in the long run. The health benefits alone support an increased price tag. "Green" items are often produced using natural

or non-hazardous components. This prevents problems arising from toxic chemical exposure or problems for those who are chemically sensitive. In the day and age where health insurance costs have skyrocketed and a regular hospital visit is a monthly car pay-

ment, precaution can mean everything. The spare change it can cost to purchase a safer product may actually save you the debt of hospitalization. The wrong choice at your local home center could result in a lifelong debilitating disease or even death!

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