



News

Why indoor plants are important for indoor air quality

Most people spend about 90% of their time indoors. In 1970, the Arab oil embargo led building designers and operators to reduce ventilation rates to improve their energy efficiency. This reduced ventilation ultimately led to widespread health issues among indoor workers, and instigated numerous investigations into what became known as Sick Building Syndrome. More recent EPA studies have found that pollutant levels are generally two to five times higher indoors than outdoors – and in some instances even 100 times higher than outdoors.....[Read more...](#)

Date: 11 May 2017

Source: <http://thewrightgardner.com/>

New waste plant piles on pollution in SW Detroit

Plant that converts human waste to fertilizer is adding harmful emissions to an area that already has most polluted air in metro Detroit. As a \$143-million facility to convert human waste from the Detroit Wastewater Treatment Plant into marketable fertilizer prepared for start-up last year, Great Lakes Water Authority CEO Sue McCormick touted it as "environmentally sound, proven technology." But that biosolids dryer facility — operated by a private, for-profit company in partnership with the water authority — has exceeded its permitted emission levels of harmful sulfur dioxide since it began operating last April...[Read more...](#)

Date: 09 May 2017

Source: <http://www.freep.com/>

Clear the air with house plants

Breathing is given remarkably little air time. But a comprehensive report on outdoor air quality worldwide from the World Health Organisation links 3 million deaths a year to air pollution. It's enough to keep you indoors. Unfortunately, there's declining air quality inside, too, particularly from concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). This chemical class includes formaldehyde and toluene and leads to so called "sick building syndrome". Symptoms include dizziness, asthma and allergies. Dr Vadoud Niri, a US chemist and campaigner for eliminating VOCs, has one prescription: potted plants. He particularly wants them installed in nail salons, where you can smell the VOCs in the air. His research showed the everyday house plant to be pretty effective at eliminating VOCs from the air, particularly the 1970s macrame basket stalwart: the spider plant....[Read more...](#)

Date: 12 May 2017

Source: <https://www.odt.co.nz/>

A study of interior landscape plants for indoor air pollution abatement

This NASA technical paper (1989) describes a two year study of plant phytoremediation to clean air from harmful substances. The motivation was to find a promising approach to reduce trace levels of air pollutants inside future space habitats is the use of higher plants and their associated soil microorganisms. Even without existence of hundreds of synthetic organic chemicals off-gassing into tightly sealed environments, man's own products would cause indoor air pollution problems. In this study, the leaves, roots, soil, and associated microorganisms of plants were evaluated as possible means of reducing indoor air pollutants.....[Read more...](#)

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Source: <https://www.naava.io/>

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