

Oh! That's Obvious

Many people often overlook the obvious when looking for VOCs in their home. They may expect locating VOC sources to be a daunting task. Generally speaking this is not the case. The places to look for VOCs and mold are as easy as some of the fixes. First, check cabinets and drawers. Do you store nail enamels and removers in the bathroom vanity or cleaning materials under the kitchen sink? If you do, store the VOC sources in an airtight container and you will reduce VOCs without needing to remove the products. The same can be done with sources that are stored in attached garages or basements. Storing products in airtight containers when not in use may significantly reduce the VOC level within the home. Also take note that items like left over paint cans and gasoline based tools stored in the garage or basement will produce VOCs that become part of the air you breathe in the living space.

Another often over looked source of VOCs is new furniture. People are excited to sleep on that new mattress! It is strongly recommended you let the new bed air out before sleeping with all those outgassing chemicals. New sofas, baby cribs, etc. should be opened and stored in the garage or on the deck if the weather permits to allow the chemicals to outgas before the item is put in use.

Dirty dishes and condensation can cause low levels of actively growing mold. This is often overlooked. Keeping dishes clean and dry is an easy way to reduce mold in the home. Wiping condensation in summer months from under sinks and around toilets will also reduce the possibility of mold growth. Always run the fan in the bathroom when showering or bathing to help keep the bathroom free from actively growing mold.

About Prism Analytical Technologies, Inc.

Prism Analytical Technologies, Inc. is a leading consultative air testing laboratory in the United States that is devoted to the chemical identification and analysis of contaminants in the air. We are a recognized leader in the development and deployment of ambient air testing methodologies for Fortune 100 and 500 companies, industrial hygienists, and environmental consultants. Prism's science-based technologies and wide range of air testing support help clients solve indoor air quality, process control, industrial, and environmental challenges.