Warmer Weather = Increased VOCs From Attached Garages

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Indoor air quality is more adversely affected by what is stored in an attached garage during the warmer months of the year. The vapor pressure of solvents increases as the outside temperature increases resulting in an increase of concentration of VOCs in the garage area. The VOCs diffuse and migrate through cracks in the walls, through unfinished drywall, and by opening the door to the adjoining home. In addition, the VOCs will adsorb onto occupant's clothing as they walk through the garage and thereby contaminate the indoor air further.

The best way to prevent the indoor air from being impacted by garage VOCs is to remove the source of the VOCs. An outdoor storage shed is the best place for storage of gasoline, solvents, pesticides, etc. If outdoor storage isn't available, then a well-sealed storage container can provide an effective alternative, though leakage of VOCs can still occur. Also, it is best to have finished walls in a garage to help reduce the diffusion and migration of VOCs into the living quarters.