

The Healthy Housing Coalition presents:

## Top Ten Checklist for Healthier Housing

### **Organic Landscaping and Pest Control**

Use traps, physical barriers, and habitat removal for rodents, ants, wasps, etc. No fumigation, pesticide, herbicide, or synthetic fertilizer. Reduce lawn space in favor of low maintenance or edible landscaping.

### **Smoke Free**

Entire buildings and environs should be non-smoking. No candles or incense.

### **Low Mold**

Test for mold. Inspect for leaks – plumbing, roofing, windows, etc. Inspect a/c and ducts. Ventilate – especially basements, crawl spaces, bathrooms. Good exterior drainage. Check under siding and vapor barrier for condensation.

### **Asthma Friendly**

Transition away from carpet and vinyl flooring. No pesticides or barbeques. Entire building free of smoking, candles, plug-in fragrances. Provide for filtering chlorine out of tap and shower water.

### **VOC and Formaldehyde-Free Remodeling Products**

No new carpet, pressed wood or glue. Don't always paint vacant units. Remodel units when vacant and/or allow renters to find non-toxic material substitutes. Focus on air quality improvements and long-life materials.

### **Electric Appliances**

Electric range and water heater. Transition from gas to electric heat. No oil heat.

### **Fragrance Free**

No fragranced products in common areas. No plug-in fragrances in building. No scented laundry soap or fabric softeners in clothes washer or dryer. Use rubber or wool balls, or re-useable static eliminator cloths.

### **Low EMF (Electro-magnetic Fields)**

No cell towers or WiFi. Provide hardwired internet and TV cables. Allow wiring inspection and mitigation for EMF. Consider TV and computer curfew at night.

### **Organic Gardening Available**

Provide gardens or raised beds in unsprayed areas. Encourage planting of fruit and nut trees.

### **Non-toxic Cleaners in Halls and Common Areas**

Use steam, hot water, baking soda, vinegar, or hydrogen peroxide. No ammonia, aerosols, fragranced cleaners or antimicrobials.

Resources and info for going non-toxic: <http://www.green-talk.com>  
pest control [www.stephentvedten.com](http://www.stephentvedten.com)

The HHC does not currently test, certify or guarantee non-toxicity of participating buildings. For questions or comments email: [healthyhousingstandards@yahoo.com](mailto:healthyhousingstandards@yahoo.com)