

The Healthy Housing Coalition presents:

## Top Ten Checklist for Healthier Public Buildings

### **Fragrance Free**

No candles, plug-in scents, fragrance bars or aerosols. No scented hand soap. Ask staff and patrons to be fragrance free.

### **Fresh and Filtered Air**

Openable windows, no smoking near doors, windows or air intakes. Use HEPA or charcoal air filters, and non-blooming, organically grown plants. Correct any plumbing problems that may be allowing infiltration of septic gases.

### **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.

### **Asthma Friendly**

No smoking, candles, or fragrance dispensers. No pesticides or harsh cleaners. No new carpet. Replace old carpet with hard flooring.

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

No new carpet, pressed wood, or glue. Use the least toxic paint and products available (no biocides). Provide adequate ventilation and curing time. Provide non-toxic, hard furniture. No flame retardants.

### **Low Mold**

Test for mold. Inspect plumbing, roofing, ducts, and a/c coils. Provide good ventilation, exterior drainage, and UV air filtration if necessary.

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

No cell phone towers, no WiFi. Use hardwired internet, phone, security systems, etc. No fluorescent lights. Provide seating and work areas away from computer banks, circuit panels, etc.

### **Non-toxic cleaners**

Use steam, hot water, baking soda, vinegar, or hydrogen peroxide. No aerosols. No chlorine, ammonia, or limonene based cleaners. No fragrances, CaviCide, or antimicrobials.  **Food and Latex Allergy Awareness**

No open displays of common allergens. Allow people to provide their own food and water.

### **Relaxing Atmosphere**

Friendly, accommodating staff. TV and music can be turned off. Limit cell phone use.

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)

Healthy Housing Coalition invites you to:

## Catch the Wave of the Future!

### **Join the team for healthier housing and public buildings.**

*Did you know?* – More and more employees, renters, patrons, and consumers are adopting non-toxic life-styles and demanding better indoor air quality and healthier environments for themselves and their children.

### **Follow the Experts.**

*Did you know?* – The national Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has an extensive pesticide free, fragrance free policy for its workplaces. It also recommends against the use of antimicrobial soap.

### **Help Prevent Cancer, Asthma, and Other Diseases**

*Did you know?* – Most fragrances, pesticides, cleaners and building materials contain multiple chemicals known to cause cancer, asthma and neurological problems.

### **Cut Costs.**

*Did you know?* – Organic, non-toxic building maintenance can actually save money. Baking soda is cheaper than brand name cleaners. Lawn care contracts are expensive and provide little or no return. And high quality, non-toxic building materials last longer, possibly saving money in the long run.

### **Become ADA Compliant**

*Did you know?* – The Americans with Disabilities Act requires public buildings and housing to be accessible to disabled people. Just as the ADA covers wheelchair accessibility, it also applies to people with asthma, chemical sensitivities, mold injury, etc.

**Get Started Today!** Participation is free. No initial testing is required, but you will be responsible to your renters, employees or customers to make an honest effort at improvements in the categories you select.

**Choose your own score.** Start with one or more checkmarks and keep adding checkmarks as improvements are made. Display the ToTop Ten Checklist in building lobby or entrances. Participation in the Top Ten Checklist is a great thing to advertise on you website or Facebook page. We don't expect perfection at first. What we want is open mindedness and an attitude of continual progress toward a health-promoting environment. Thank you!

You can find separate Top Ten Checklists for Housing and for Public Buildings at [canaryhousingcooperative.org](http://canaryhousingcooperative.org) or email: [healthyhousingstandards@yahoo.com](mailto:healthyhousingstandards@yahoo.com)