

Ozone-Generating Air “Cleaning” Devices

You may be getting more than you had wished for when you purchase an air cleaning machine for your home.

How can air “cleaning” devices be harmful?

Some machines designed to “clean” the air can actually produce ozone, a chemical that is a known lung irritant. These machines can be legally sold in Minnesota, however, the State of California has passed legislation requiring these types of machines to be tested to ensure that the amount of ozone produced by air cleaners is “safe” for those who choose to use air cleaning devices. Populations that may be especially vulnerable to exposures to ozone include: children, elderly, and people with respiratory diseases, such as asthma, emphysema, or bronchitis.

How can I improve my indoor air quality?

To keep your indoor air healthy, it is good general practice to keep the sources of pollutants out of your home. Minimize the use of chemicals and other items, such as air fresheners and candles that can add harmful particles and gases into the air. Utilize ventilation systems to maximize the amount of

fresh air brought into your home. Regularly change filters on home appliances and replace them with good quality filters when necessary.

Finally, if you do choose to use an air cleaner, carefully consider the type best for your home. To assist you in your decision, check out the information on the websites provided.

Resources

Environmental Protection Agency Guide to Air Cleaners in the Home:

<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/airclean.html>

Ozone Generators that are Sold as Air Cleaners:

<http://www.epa.gov/iedweb00/pubs/ozonegen.html>

California Air Resources Board

Additional resources, including a list of air cleaners that potentially emit hazardous concentrations of ozone, and Consumer Reports articles that can help you choose an air cleaner:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/indoor/ozone.htm>



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