

10 Ways to Improve Air Quality at School

- Replace chalkboards with whiteboards. Chalk particles release into the air and can cause allergies and respiratory symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, and asthma.
- Ensure that classrooms are dusted and vacuumed regularly, and that trash is removed daily.
- Prevent excess moisture from accumulating in the classroom which could lead to mold growth. Check for leaks from classroom sinks and in bathrooms and clean up any spills that occur.
- Properly store, label, and handle chemicals that are used for science projects. Develop and use clean-up procedures if a chemical spill occurs.
- Ventilate the classroom by opening doors and windows when possible. Indoor air is typically more polluted than outdoor air.
- Use an air purifier. Putting an air purifier in your classroom is one effective way to keep your air cleaner. You may want to opt for an air purifier with a high efficiency particulate absorbing (HEPA) filter since these tend to do the best job of removing harmful particles from the air.
- Properly maintain heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Change air filters.
- Weather permitting, allow students to do activities outside.
- Have your air quality tested. Experts in air quality have the tools to measure air quality offices including air flow, humidity, ventilation, odors, leaks, standing water, water damage, mold growth and more.
- Educate students about Air Action Days when the air quality index gets into an unhealthy range. Sign up for Air Action Day email notifications at enviroflash.info for up-to-date information on air quality forecasts.

For more info, visit <http://gcmpc.org/air-quality-awareness/>

