

WHAT ARE VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS ?



What's your poison?

Benzene, Toluene,

Aldehydes, Ethylbenzene,

Xylenes, Hexane's

Styrene, Heptane,

Ehanol, Acetone,

Keytones, Octane's

Etc.....



VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND'S — AKA V.O.C'S

**“CARBON-BASED COMPOUNDS THAT
EASILY TURN INTO A VAPOR (GAS) AT
ROOM TEMPERATURE”**

VOC's Defined as:

“CARBON-BASED COMPOUNDS THAT EASILY TURN INTO VAPOR (GAS) AT ROOM TEMPERATURE, FOUND IN MANY HOUSEHOLD AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.”

If you can smell it, its a VOC. - But not all VOCs have an odor.

Not all VOCs have an odor; many of the most hazardous ones are odorless even at high concentrations.

Examples:

Benzene (Sweet odor only at high levels)

Carbon Tetrachloride, Vinyl Tetrachloride, Vinyl Chloride, 1,3 Butadiene, Formaldehyde

Some VOC's Smell "Normal" or "Pleasant"

**Certain VOCs have odors associated with cleanliness
or new materials: (*Think of that "New Car" smell*)**

Limonene - Clean Citrus Odor

Pine terpenes - fresh "woody" odor

Ethyl acetate - Sweet - solvent-like

Styrene - Plastic - new construction

Odor Fatigue (olfactory adaptation)

Continuous exposure:

- **The brain stops registering the smell**
- **Occupants think the problem went away)**
- **VOC levels may be unchanged or even worse.**

Typical in smoke-damaged homes.

Spray foam or coating failures.

Long - term neighbor smoke intrusion.

Post Fire VOC's are Espically Deceptive

Many combustion-related VOCs are:

Odorless or masked by soot, "smoke smell," or fragrances.

High Risk Post - Fire VOCs not reliably smelled:

**Benzene, 1,3-Butadiene, Acrylonitrile,
Formaldehyde and Acrolein**

Key Takeaway.....

**Smell is not a reliable indicator of safety when it comes to
VOC's**

**“Some of the most dangerous VOC's
Cannot be smelled at the level that can
affect your health.”**

Professional Testing Matters

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It is critical to professionally test every living environment, especially after a fire or smoke event, and to notify authorities if you notice someone in your home or office reacting to or reporting an odor or “mysterious” health issue indoors.

**Volunteer PPE Environmental is here to help. Call for a free phone consultation today.
865- 369-3575**

