

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 Especially 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



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