

DID YOU KNOW...?

NEWSLETTER - No.1 MAY 2007



DID YOU KNOW THAT INDOOR AIR POLLUTION IS OFTEN MUCH HIGHER THAN OUTDOOR LEVELS? INDOOR AIR QUALITY – FACTS & REMEDIES

Indoor air quality can be much worse than that of outdoor air. Many indoor spaces such as office spaces, restaurants & club venues contain furnishings and other appliances which can adversely affect indoor air quality; exposing us to potentially toxic air pollutants. A major component of indoor air pollution is volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which consist of a large number of organic substances that will volatilise at normal room temperatures. Sources of VOCs include carpets, paint, varnish, glues, furniture, wall coverings and partitions.

WHY WORRY ABOUT INDOOR AIR QUALITY?

Exposure to indoor air pollutants can cause numerous health hazards. Some health effects caused by poor indoor air quality are experienced soon after exposure, while others effects may take years to show symptoms. Some of the common health problems caused by indoor air pollution include headaches, lethargy, sore eyes and other

respiratory diseases such as asthma (Burchett et al, 2001). Many indoor workers are among the common sufferers of these health problems, which can greatly affect work place health and productivity.

WHAT CAN I DO TO IMPROVE INDOOR AIR QUALITY?

There are many simple ways to help improve indoor air quality. Windows should be opened regularly where possible to allow natural ventilation. If you are in a building where windows cannot be opened, you should check the air exchange rate in your building to ensure that fresh outdoor air replaces indoor air on a regular basis. Common biological pollutants such as mold, mildew, dust mites and cockroach are often developed as a result of excessive moisture. Moisture sources should be eliminated wherever possible. Air conditioner is another common source of biological pollutants; regularly empty and clean air

conditioner water tray will also help to maintain a healthy indoor environment.

THE BENEFITS OF INDOOR PLANTS

Other than its aesthetic values, indoor plants can also reduce indoor air pollution. Researches show that indoor plants can greatly improve indoor air quality by absorbing air pollutants and detoxifying them. Having live plants indoors can help to eliminate harmful volatile organic compounds commonly found in indoor spaces. Some plant species such as Kentia Palms and Peace Lily can remove up to 100% of volatile organic compounds from indoor air within a 24 hour period, providing you a healthier and more productive work place (Wood, R, 2003).

Sources:

Wood, R, Orwell, R, Tarran, J, Burchett, M, 2001, *Pot-plants really do clean indoor air*, Nursery Papers, NGIA
Wood, R, 2003, *Improving the Indoor Environment for Health, Well-being and Productivity*, UTS Sydney

1300 4 PLANTS (1300 4 75268)
www.rentokiltropicalplants.com.au



green building council australia
MEMBER



A 'WALL' OF INDOOR PLANTS FOR A DRAMATIC & HEALTHY EFFECT



Rentokil Tropical Plants' latest addition to its range is one of the most dramatic innovations in indoor plant use seen in the last decade.

The Vertical Garden has arrived and provides a wall of living plants to offer a spectacular effect with all the benefits that indoor plants make to indoor air quality.

The Vertical Garden really makes a statement and is perfect for corporate or hospitality locations. For entry foyers, large open space offices, or even to create spaces in a restaurant, it is a stunning and practical divider with a difference.

The Vertical Garden is a system that allows numerous plants to be stacked vertically in freestanding columns or walls - dramatically transforming any space. Two versions, The Tower and The Grid are available.

The grid system is modular so can be produced to a range of sizes to suit the space required, and as it is a

vertical structure, it takes very little floor space. The clever design is by installation artist, Joost Bakker of Melbourne.

There is a selection of three different plants and the grid in either raw, powder coated or galvanised finishes. The pots are terracotta which looks at home in any décor. Rentokil Tropical Plants also offers comprehensive maintenance service to keep all the plants healthy.

Rentokil Tropical Plants is the exclusive hire & maintenance supplier of Vertical Garden in Australia in partnership with the manufacturer, Schiavello, one of Australia's leading designers and manufacturers of office furniture.

For more information, please call 1300 4 PLANTS (1300 4 75268) or visit our website www.rentokiltropicalplants.com.au.



1300 4 PLANTS (1300 4 75268)
www.rentokiltropicalplants.com.au



green building council australia
MEMBER