

Environmental Considerations

When Choosing a Home

- Our home is where we spend most our time especially during childhood, it's important to think about the environmental factors that may affect the health of our family when purchasing or renting a property.



Be aware of the land history where the house is built. Ask about contaminated agricultural fields, radon in soil, or former industrial sites.



Geographic location can impact our health, especially respiratory health. The distance from major roadways, busy traffic, and industrial facilities, farms, parks and golf courses can impact local air and soil quality.



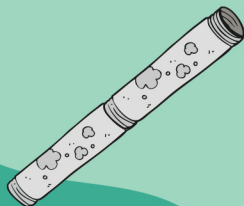
Potential renters/owners should be aware of signs of pest infestation.



Location can impact the provision of utilities to the home. Ensure the property meets your needs and that you know the source and quality of the water supply.



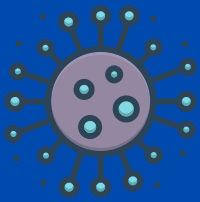
The structure of the home should be evaluated by a certified home inspector to ensure its safety.



The condition of the home should be considered. Some building materials may contain toxicants which can reduce the air quality. Very old homes may contain asbestos, have lead pipes or lead paint which can contaminate drinking water and can be hazardous to children.



Potential renters/owners should inquire about past public health issues or orders.



In older homes signs of mold, including water damage or a musty odor should be investigated as they could contribute to poor indoor air quality.



Previous smokers and pets in the home may reduce air quality, especially if the home has carpet, which traps dust and allergens.



In brand new and recently renovated homes, off-gassing of VOCs may temporarily (several weeks) contribute to poor air quality and unwanted odors. Extra fans and opening windows during this time is recommended.



Families should consider the social characteristics of the neighborhood, including schools, walkability, green spaces, playgrounds, and community support. Also consider environmental allergens (e.g. pollen) and nearby areas that may use chemical herbicides such as golf courses.

Sources

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