

Environmental Considerations when Choosing a Home

Our home is where we spend most of 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.



11 Home Recommendations To Consider:

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



2. 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.



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

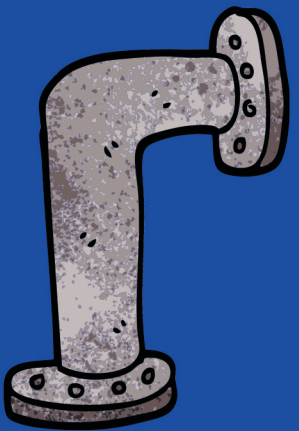




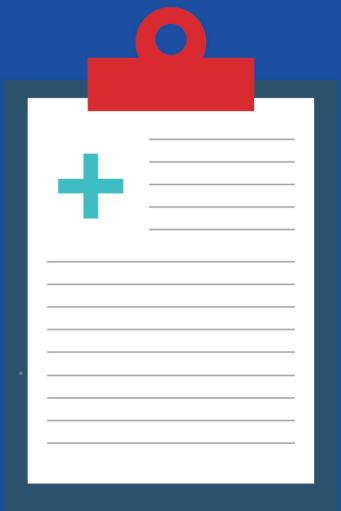
4. Location can impact the supply of utilities to the home. Make sure you know the source and quality of the water supply.



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



6. The condition of the home should be considered. Very old homes may contain asbestos, have lead pipes that can contaminate drinking water or be painted with lead paint, which can be hazardous to children.



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

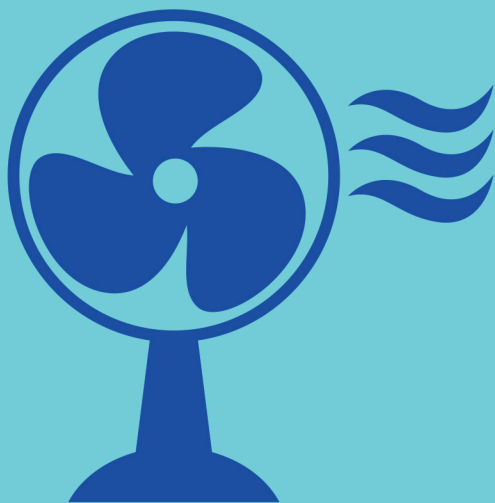




8. Signs of mold, including water damage or a musty odour, should be investigated as they could lead to poor indoor air quality.



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



10. In brand new and recently renovated homes, off-gassing of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) may temporarily contribute to poor air quality and unwanted odours which should be taken into consideration. Extra ventilation (fans, opening windows) during this time is recommended.



11. Families should consider the social characteristics of the neighbourhood including schools, walkability, green spaces, playgrounds, and community support.