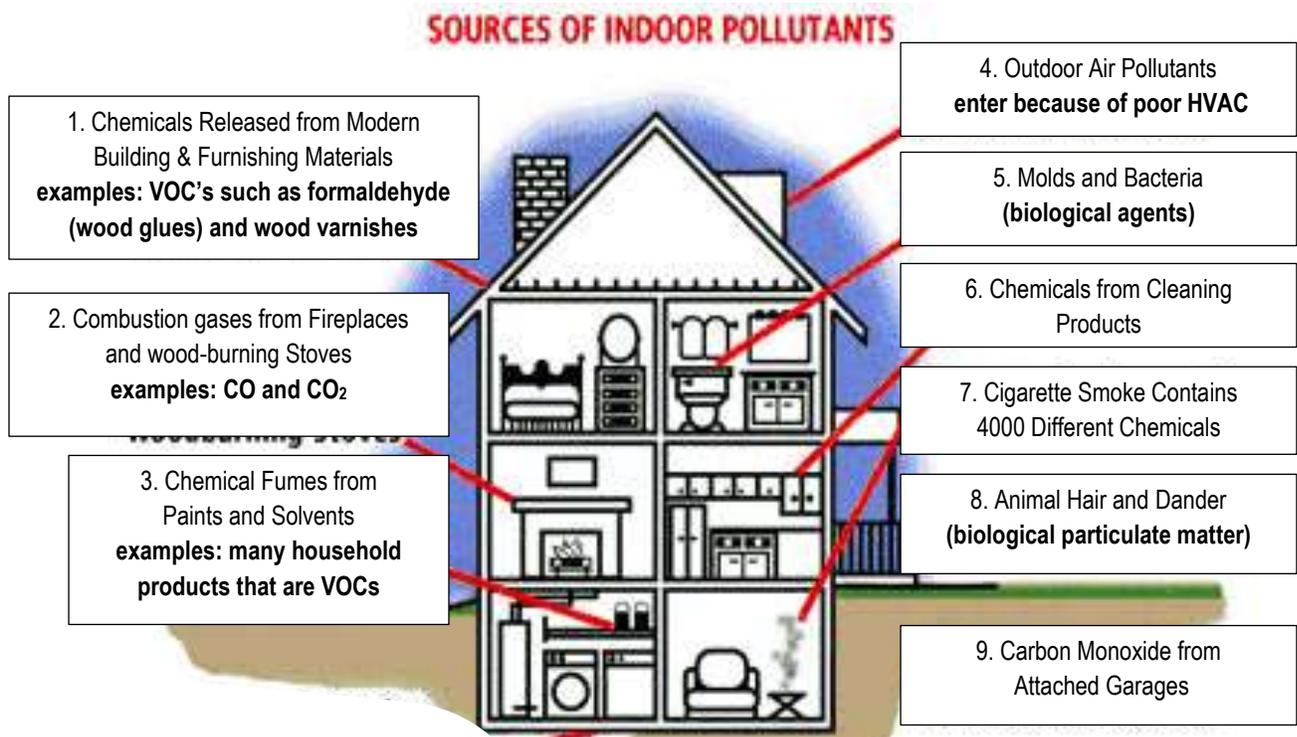


AIM: What are the causes/effects of indoor air pollution (IAP)?



10! - Radon Gas – radioactive gas produced by the natural decay of Uranium-238 that exists in the bedrock below buildings

can enter a building in many ways (ex. crack in foundation) – appropriate insulation must be installed to guard against entrance of radon and to prevent it from being contained within the structure

2nd leading cause of lung cancer

And ... in older construction:

Lead – used in old paint, piping, and in plumbing solder

Asbestos – fibrous mineral used because of its insulation and fire-resistant properties (pipes, ceilings, floors, exterior siding)

When rendered airborne, can get into lungs and cause mesothelioma (a type of lung cancer) and asbestosis (fibers scar lung tissue and affect breathing and cause a greater risk for mesothelioma).

Sick Building Syndrome

Definition: - condition caused by being in a building or other type of enclosed space with poor air quality
 - HUGE range of symptoms affecting just about any part of the body
 - symptoms improve after leaving location

Causes: ** - flawed HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning systems – especially in enclosed areas without windows) **
 - outgassing of VOCs (sometimes worse in newer construction because of newly manufactured materials)
 - biological contaminants: mold, bacteria, pollen (again linked to poor HVAC or water penetration or bad insulation)