

CONTROL THE SOURCE

Scientists and engineers have known for a long time that the best way to improve the air in a building is to remove any objects or activities that could be a source of indoor air pollution. Max von Pettenkofer knew this in 1858:

"If there is a pile of dog poo in a room, don't try to get rid of the smell by opening a window. Take the dog poo outside"



Sometimes the activities are important, and we can't stop doing them, so instead we use ventilation to reduce the levels of pollutants inside. Ventilation is when clean air, usually from outside, is used to replace stale indoor air. This can be through natural ventilation, such as opening a window, or mechanical ventilation, where a fan is used to pump air in or out of a space.

Here are some common indoor sources of pollutants. For each of these activities would you remove the source and/or use ventilation to reduce the pollutant levels?



Cooking:

Remove Ventilate



Spraying perfume and deodorant:

Remove Ventilate



Spray air freshener:

Remove Ventilate



Someone else smoking:

Remove Ventilate



Burning food:

Remove Ventilate



Burning candles or incense:

Remove Ventilate



Drying clothes inside:

Remove Ventilate



Showering or bathing:

Remove Ventilate



New furniture:

Remove Ventilate



Repainting walls:

Remove Ventilate