

Abstract for ASHRAE Fundamentals Handbook Chapter 11 *Air Contaminants*

Chapter 11, *Air Contaminants*, appears in the ASHRAE Fundamentals Handbook. Its intent is to help engineers understand air contaminants, both particulate and gaseous, and to provide information to help them deal with problems related to contaminant presence in buildings. The chapter contains mainly educational material.

The section on particles covers types, size ranges, units and measurement methods. It also deals with bioaerosols (mainly molds and bacteria).

The gaseous contaminant section includes basic information on chemical classes, properties such as volatility, sources, units, and measurement methods. Special attention is paid to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and important gaseous inorganic pollutants.

The chapter also addresses classes of contaminants that have some common characteristics such as a source or regulatory framework. These include outdoor air contaminants, industrial and non-industrial indoor air contaminants, flammable gases and vapors, combustible dusts, radioactive air contaminants, and soil gases.