

What are VOCs?

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are a contaminant found in air pollution, contaminated environmental spaces (brownfield sites) and in common household products. VOCs emit gasses that can be harmful to human health.

Get a free VOC test for your home



Created by Fik Rahmadani from Noun Project

Sign up to partake in CLEAR's neighborhood VOC research

Participants will receive \$50 in gift cards to compensate for their time.

To learn more, and to receive a free VOC test please email:

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Stay connected with us



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CLEAR is funded by the National Institute for Environmental Health Research (NIEHS) grant #P42ES030991

rev. 7-30-24

Is air pollution getting into your home?



CLEAR Community Engagement

The Center for Leadership in Environmental Awareness Research (CLEAR) is researching the impacts of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

We want to work with you to:

- 1) Provide a free household VOC test &
- 2) Learn about your experiences in navigating VOC contamination in Detroit.

Participants will receive \$50 in gift cards to compensate for their time.



Why Detroit?

Detroit has a large number of unremediated sites that emit VOCs. Detroit also has a high preterm birth rate. CLEAR is studying whether there is a connection between these facts, while researching the everyday impact of VOC exposure on Detroit households.

Resource Links

StoryMap

How does CLEAR impact you?



Henry Ford Health System
Primary Care Resources



EPA VOC
Health Impacts



Henry Ford Health System
Mental Health Resources



VOCs that CLEAR studies

There are many types of VOCs. CLEAR tests for the following during home visits because of their potential prevalence in Detroit.

Benzene

Cigarettes, gasoline, some deodorants and detergents

Toluene

Present in gasoline

Ethyl-Benzene

Solvent, in paints, inks and carpet glues

O-Xylene & M,p-Xylenes

Paint solvent and thinner, used to remove stains

TCE (Trichloroethylene)

Glues, adhesives, paint removers

PCE (Perchloroethylene)

Dry cleaning solvents, lubricants, adhesives, sealants

About the CEC

The Community Engagement Core (CEC) is a part of the larger CLEAR grant. While our colleagues research how to identify and clean-up VOCs, and their health impacts in the lab, we're researching VOC presence and impact in real time in Detroit neighborhoods. All of these different components are essential to fully understand how VOCs impact human populations.

What does the CEC do?

COMMUNITY FORUMS

Community presentations about CLEAR research and overview of VOCs in Detroit.



HOME VISITS

Visiting homes to provide free VOC tests, and discussion of results with homeowner.



FOCUS GROUPS

Group discussions with participants about VOCs, results, and experiences.

Reducing VOCs in your home

VOCs are present in certain household cleaning, maintenance, and personal care products.

Get an Air Monitor

Buy an air monitor that measures VOCs. The air monitor will advise of high VOC levels, and when you need to open a window or use an air purifier.

Ventilate

Open windows when cleaning. Use the hood fan when using stovetop. Change furnace and air conditioner filters regularly. Make sure vents in your home are not blocked off.

Wear a mask

Use masks while doing activities with products that have VOCs. This includes cleaning, painting, pumping gas, or mowing the grass.

Use natural cleaning products

Read labels and choose products with all-natural ingredients, when possible. Always wear a mask while cleaning. Avoid using air fresheners.

Store products outside house

Keep bleach bottles, paint cans, paint thinners in an area away from the house, such as a garage or storage unit.

PSA: Health Anxiety

As environmental health researchers, we know learning about pollution issues, like VOCs, is stressful. CLEAR is here to learn about *potential* VOC presence. Our research does not mean there is an immediate danger to you or your family, and we are committed to walking through results with you. The best way to know about your personal or familial health is to set up an appointment with a primary care physician or mental health professional.