

# Inspecting the Indoor Environment For Homes and Businesses

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The indoor environment, where we spend most of our time, is receiving more and more attention for possible unhealthy conditions. ***Nauset Environmental Services, Inc.*** can inspect and measure for an objective determination of the following indoor environmental issues of concern.

**Mold/Fungi-** Many news stories are reporting on homes and offices where mold colonies have developed and allergies or diseases are experienced by the occupants. You cannot tell by just looking what type mold is present. BUT, regardless of type, most mold spores are allergenic to sensitized individuals, their dominant health impact. **NES** has trained and Council-certified personnel who can determine *IF* sampling is needed; and then know how to sample for these organisms - air sampling for spores, wall cavity sampling for hidden mold growth, bulk sampling of contaminated material, “disturbed” sampling for settled spores, and post clean-up verification sampling. After the scientific analysis of what has been sampled, **NES** can tell what is in your space. **NES**’s detailed reports interpret the data – not just provide “check-off” tables that leave you confused.

**RADON -** Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that results from the natural decay of uranium and radium in rocks and sand. It can migrate into buildings and be inhaled. Long term exposure to elevated levels of radon is associated with increased lung cancer rates, second only to smoking. The Massachusetts Department of Health in 1988 determined that 15% (1 in 6 or 7) of Barnstable County/Cape Cod homes have radon levels above EPA’s “action level.” **NES** has EPA credentials dating back to 1988 to provide professional and timely screening of homes and offices for radon levels with results reported in hours NOT days. *“We know radon!”*

**Formaldehyde -** This chemical has been used in many consumer products. Its irritating vapors are emitted by these products and can affect the eyes and mucous membranes. To sensitive individuals it is more than just irritating, it can be debilitating. While it received some attention over 20 years ago because of **Urea Formaldehyde Foam Insulation**, it has not gone away. It is a possible human carcinogen and **NES** can inspect for the presence of UFFI and/or measure formaldehyde vapor levels to determine if they are elevated above regulatory guidelines.

**ASBESTOS** - Inhalation of asbestos fibers poses a risk to human health. These short, sharp fibers can become trapped in lung tissue and eventually cause a variety of diseases from lung impairment to cancers. Asbestos was used in a wide range of consumer products from insulation and adhesives to flooring and roofing. **NES** has EPA and Massachusetts credentials to inspect and/or sample to determine the presence of these hazardous fibers in materials or in the air.

**SPECIAL SITUATIONS** - Other components of the indoor environment that contribute to indoor air pollution and “sick building syndrome” are organic vapors from chemical usage or storage, carbon dioxide from inadequate ventilation, carbon monoxide from improper combustion, antigens and dander from pets or pests, bacteria - their colonies and their circulation in the air. **NES** has the know-how, experience and training to investigate and quantify these contaminants, cooperating with specialized laboratories to provide the data.

**Nauset Environmental Services’** Principal Scientist, William M. Vaughan, PhD, QEP (**Qualified Environmental Professional**) and CIEC (**Council-certified Indoor Environment Consultant**), has decades of professional experience with field sampling, evaluation, and reporting to investigate your problem situation. His staff includes Alex MacLellan, a Council-certified Residential Mold Inspector (**CRMI**) and also an EPA radon professional. By December 2013 they had completed inspections at over 3,000 locations for Cape clients, most since 2002. With objective facts on contaminant levels combined with on-site observations Dr. Vaughan and **NES** can focus on appropriate controls for you and/or remediation professionals to take to solve your problems.

<i><b>“NES is with you from the beginning to the end!”</b></i>
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