

Secondhand Smoke Analysis

Everyone knows that smoking is harmful, but what many people don't realize is that secondhand smoke can also be extremely hazardous to health of non-smokers. There are over 4,000 identifiable chemicals in cigarette smoke, 200 of which are poisons and 40 carcinogens - chemicals which are known to cause cancer.

Here are just a few of the chemicals found in cigarette smoke:

Arsenic	Acetone	Hydrazine
Carbon	Hydrogen	Acetic Acid
Monoxide	Cyanide	Formaldehyde
Butane	Methane	Argon
Ammonia	Napthalene	Copper

Recent findings about the harmful effects of secondhand smoke:

- It is a Group A carcinogen -- a substance known to cause cancer in humans for which there is no safe level of exposure.
- It has over 4,000 chemical compounds -- more than 40 of which are Group A carcinogens, which cause cancer in humans or animals.
- At least 38,000 to 65,000 deaths annually in U.S. result from secondhand smoke-caused diseases. Thousands more people suffer from chronic & debilitating conditions caused by these diseases, including the effects of emphysema, cancer, heart disease, stroke, chronic bronchitis, and asthma.
- It causes lung and other cancers, heart disease, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (C.O.P.D.)
- It causes or exacerbates respiratory tract infections, such as pneumonia and bronchitis, especially in infants, children and older persons.
- It causes increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome and middle ear infections in children.
- It is a major health threat to persons with asthma -- sometimes fatal.
- It causes 30 times as many lung cancer deaths as all regulated air pollutants combined.
- Secondhand smoke cannot be controlled by ventilation, air cleaning or the separation of smokers from non-smokers. The only solution to this problem is to make buildings smoke-free.