



Ventilation Systems:

Will they protect your workers and patrons from tobacco smoke?

Several establishments are looking into using air cleaners and ventilation systems to relieve indoor tobacco smoke pollution. Unfortunately, many of the gas molecules and chemicals in tobacco smoke cannot effectively be removed through today's ventilation systems, according to leading health and ventilation experts.

GASP of Colorado (the Group to Alleviate Smoking Pollution) is a statewide nonprofit organization that promotes smoke-free policies, educates the public about the dangers of secondhand smoke, and publishes the *Colorado Guide to Smoke-Free Dining*.

Sources:

- ¹ www.pmoptions.com/options.asp?topic=AboutOptions
- ² Honeywell correspondence, June 12, 2000.
- ³ U.S. Surgeon General. *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Smoking*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1986.
- ⁴ Repace, James, *Report for the California Dept. of Health Services*, Repace Associates, Inc., June 2000.

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When It Comes to Clearing the Air, There Is Only One Option.

Several tobacco companies are promoting various ventilation systems as a way to counter the growing trend toward creating smoke-free work places and public places. For example, Philip Morris is promoting a ventilation program called "Options" which was first created in the late 1980s. Philip Morris is partnering with various ventilation consultants, manufacturers, and hospitality-industry organizations in an effort to create the perception that ventilation can address the issue of secondhand smoke.

Here in Colorado Philip Morris is funding a group called Colorado Indoor Air Coalition, which includes the Colorado Restaurant Association and the Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association as members.

The ventilation "solutions" touted by the tobacco industry are nothing more than a public-relations effort to sidetrack sound public health policy. **Ventilation systems cannot eliminate the health risks attributed to secondhand smoke.**

Leading technical, scientific and medical experts, and even the very companies touting these ventilation systems, agree that these systems cannot eliminate health risks due to secondhand smoke.

- Philip Morris has a disclaimer on its "Options" web site, "Options, Philip Morris, USA does not purport to address health effects attributed to environmental tobacco smoke."¹
- Honeywell, a Philip Morris "Options" partner, states that, "Honeywell has not in the past and does not make health hazard claims." Also, the company states in a letter, "Honeywell has no data to support health hazard claims."²
- In 1996 the U.S. Surgeon General concluded that, "the simple separation of smokers and nonsmokers within the same airspace may reduce, but does not eliminate, the exposure of nonsmokers to environmental tobacco smoke."³
- Ventilation expert and physicist James Repace says, "It is clear that dilution ventilation, air cleaning, or displacement ventilation technology even under moderate smoking conditions cannot control environmental tobacco smoke risk to safe levels for workers or patrons in hospitality venues without massively impractical increases in ventilation. Smoking bans remain the only viable control measure to ensure that workers and patrons of the hospitality industry are protected from exposure to the toxic wastes from tobacco combustion."⁴

The best solution — and the most economical solution to the problem — is to eliminate smoking in confined spaces.

For more information on ventilation systems and tobacco smoke contact GASP, at 303/444-9799, or visit www.GASPforair.org on the Internet.

Information about the tobacco industry's accommodation program, peaceful-coexistence campaign, and other tactics can be found at www.no-smoke.org.

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Clearing the Air About Ventilation Systems

Ventilation systems and air filtration devices may help clear some tobacco smoke, but none can effectively clear all the toxic gases and poisons in secondhand smoke.

These devices may pose a hidden danger by creating a false sense of security for businesses seeking to reduce the health risk of secondhand smoke and potential lawsuits stemming from exposure to secondhand smoke.

The U.S. Surgeon General, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Cancer Institute, and other agencies agree that the technology for the cost-effective filtration of tobacco smoke from the air is currently not available.

**The best solution – and the most economical solution to the problem –
is to eliminate smoking in confined spaces.**