

Compiled from Guelph University Master Gardeners Course binder and NASA Plant Study website

To see the complete report go to:

http://ntrs.nasa.gov/archive/nasa/casi.ntrs.nasa.gov/19930073077_1993073077.pdf

Chemical	Potential Health Effects	Plants to Filter the Chemical
<p>BENZENE</p> <p>It is a commonly used solvent and is also present in many basic items including gasoline, inks, oils, paints, plastics and rubber.</p> <p>It is used in the manufacture of detergents, explosives, dyes, and pharmaceuticals.</p>	<p>It has long been known to irritate the skin and eyes. It may be a contributing factor to chromosomal aberrations and leukemia in humans.</p> <p>Chronic exposure causes headaches, appetite loss, drowsiness, nervousness, psychological disturbances, anemia, and bone marrow disease.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bamboo Palm • English Ivy • Gerbera Daisy • <i>Dracaena warneckeii</i> • <i>Dracaena Janet Craig</i> • Snake Plant • Peace Lily • Pot Mum • Silver Queen (Chinese Evergreen) • <i>Dracaena marginata</i>
<p>TRICHLOROETHYLENE</p> <p>It is primarily used in the metal degreasing and dry-cleaning industries.</p> <p>It is also used in printing inks, paints, lacquers, varnishes and adhesives.</p>	<p>The National Cancer Institute (USA) considers it to be a potent liver carcinogen.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dracaena warneckeii</i> • English Ivy • Gerbera Daisy • Peace Lily • Pot Mum • Green Spider Plant • <i>Dracaena Janet Craig</i> • Philodendron • Bamboo Palm
<p>FORMALDEHYDE</p> <p>It is found in urea-formaldehyde foam insulation (now banned), plywood, particleboard, pressed wood products, water repellents, fire retardants, adhesive binders in floor coverings, and carpet backing.</p> <p>Another common source is cigarette smoke.</p>	<p>It irritates the mucous membranes of the eye, nose, and throat; it can cause allergic contact dermatitis.</p> <p>Exposure to high levels causes Irritation of upper respiratory tract and eyes, and headaches</p> <p>It can cause asthma and is suspected of causing a rare type of throat cancer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Ivy • Gerbera Daisy • Snake Plant • Green Spider Plant • <i>Dracaena Janet Craig</i> • Bamboo Palms • Boston Ferns • Philodendron • Aloe Vera • <i>Dracaena marginata</i>