

Does the outdoor air pollute in classrooms?

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Pollution sources

Pollution from road traffic, wood smoke, diesel trains, cruise ships, etc. that occur close to the school or educational institution can significantly pollute the indoor environment when windows are open or if the school has mechanical ventilation that sucks the pollution into the classroom. Closed, newer windows and doors are usually tight and often keep pollution out.

Solutions

If the school is right next to a trafficked road, keep windows and doors facing the road closed during rush hour. Keep windows and doors closed if you smell wood smoke or diesel. If the windows are not tight, replace the windows or buy and install sealing strips.

If the school has mechanical ventilation, replace the filter with a better filter (HEPA or EPA filters) and, if necessary, have an activated carbon filter installed in the ventilation system, if technically possible. Note that the filters must be changed regularly. Change the carbon filter when the ventilation intake starts smelling like wood smoke, etc., again.

Talk to your neighbours about finding a good solution if you can smell the neighbour's wood smoke. If that does not help, or if the air outside or in the ventilation intake smells like wood smoke, diesel oil, slurry, etc., contact the municipality.

Have measurements made

We can help with measurements and assessments of the indoor environment, and solution options to get a better indoor environment. Contact the Head of secretariat Kaare Press-Kristensen: kaare@godtindeklima.nu / tel. (+45) 22 81 10 27.

More on indoor air pollution and solutions:

www.healthyindoorenvironment.org