

Air Fresheners – Guidance Document



According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), [A Guide to Indoor Air Quality \(epa.gov\)](#), air fresheners constantly release chemicals into the air and present an indoor air quality (IAQ) issue for sensitive populations. Some of these chemicals, known as volatile organic compounds or VOCs, easily evaporate at room temperature and can cause headaches, irritation and trigger allergies/asthma. Rather than purifying the air, air fresheners ‘mask’ or hide odors by adding more chemical pollutants to the indoor air.

MCPS prohibits the use of chemical products that have not been reviewed and approved for use in MCPS facilities, including “do-it-yourself” air fresheners, readily available in a variety of retail markets. More information can be found in the [“IAQ Tips for Teachers”](#) section of our Indoor Air Quality webpage.

If there are concerns about any types of odors, staff members are encouraged to complete the **MCPS Indoor Air Quality Complaint Form** ([MCPS Form 230-23](#)). Staff will investigate and identify the root cause that needs correction.

If you have any questions or seek further guidance on this issue, please email the Division of Sustainability and Compliance at Sustainability@mcpsmd.org or call 240-740-3210.