



America Comes Clean on Home and Air

A new survey shows most people don't think of house cleaning as a chore. Eighty –eight percent of those surveyed by the Soap and Detergent Association (SDA) say house cleaning keeps their families happy and healthy, and provides a sense of satisfaction. Brian Sansoni of the Soap and Detergent Association says spring cleaning should target dust, dirt and bacteria.

However, according to the SDA, people are optimistic about the level of cleanliness in their homes. "We can see dust and dirt, but germs and harmful bacteria that build up on countertops, door knobs and other areas are not apparent to the eye," said Brian Sansoni, VP of Communications. "In addition to spring cleaning, it is important to take measures to clean target areas regularly."

The "Three Ds" of spring cleaning are **Disinfect, Deodorize, and De-clutter**. De-clutter means get rid of things that just collect dust. Use an electrostatic dust sheet or dust mitt to pick up the dust. Disinfecting bathrooms and trash pails can kill germs and bacteria before they make you sick.

Remember, if you are trying to decrease the amount of dust particles that collect in a living space it is crucial to decrease the amount of surface on which the particles can collect. So, use spring cleaning as a time to eliminate as much clutter as you can and try to store knick-knacks and mementos inside curio cabinets.

Home owners should be aware that thorough cleaning should include not only vacuuming and dusting, but also cleaning the indoor air. This is especially true because cleaning in itself tends to "kick up" clouds of pollutants and allergens which are present in our home. According to Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM), a portable air cleaner may significantly reduce the level of pollutants in a home. In an AHAM study, 57% of all air cleaner owners say that their air cleaners have had a large impact on the quality of indoor air, and 32% admit that their air cleaner has led to a large improvement in their health and/or the health of other household members.

Before purchasing an air cleaner, know the square footage of the room you want to treat. You'll want to select an air cleaner that's large enough for the room you're treating. Also, consider air filtering efficiency. Look for the CADR seal on the product packaging. The seal shows how well an air cleaner reduces pollutants such as tobacco smoke, pollen and dust. And, it also lists the unit's recommended room size.

From air cleaner to air cleaner, compare the CADR numbers. First look at suggested room size. Then refer to the dust, tobacco smoke and pollen CADR numbers. The higher the numbers, the faster the unit filters the air. If from one unit to the other the ratings are the same, their air filtering performance is similar. You can then weigh the importance of product features to find an air cleaner that fits your needs.

There are resources that can help you to select an appropriate air cleaner. Log onto www.cadr.org or call 800-267-3138 to obtain a Consumers Guide to Selecting an Air Cleaner.