

IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE

Some of the building materials in this camper or mobile home may emit formaldehyde. Eye, nose, and throat irritation, headache, nausea, and a variety of asthma-like symptoms, including shortness of breath, have been reported as a result of formaldehyde exposure. Elderly persons and young children, as well as anyone with a history of asthma, allergies, or lung problems, may be at greater risk. Research is continuing on the possible long-term effects of exposure to formaldehyde.

*****Reduced ventilation, high temperatures, and high humidity can raise formaldehyde levels.**

FEMA has conducted a recent investigation and concluded that ventilating the units can significantly reduce the levels of formaldehyde emissions. The study was completed during the fall of 2006 by the Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in Atlanta, GA. According to the report's conclusions, 75% of the formaldehyde emissions were eliminated by four (4) days of open window ventilation.

Donees are urged to take the following steps:

1. **BEFORE USE – Fresh air flooding.** Open the windows and doors of the unit and use fans to force stale air out and bring fresh air in, for a minimum of four (4) days. Opening cabinet doors, drawers, closets, etc to maximize exposed surfaces is strongly recommended.
2. **IN USE – Increase ventilation.** Open the windows and doors of the unit and use fans to force stale air out and bring fresh air in, particularly for high-risk individuals listed above.
3. **IN USE – Keep indoor temperatures cool.** Heat causes increased out-gassing of formaldehyde. Air conditioning after, or in conjunction, with enhanced ventilation will help.
4. **IN USE – Keep the humidity low.** Humidity causes formaldehyde to release more fumes. Relative humidity of about 40%-50% is considering optimum.
5. **IN USE – Encapsulate (for extremely sensitive occupants).** Sealing unfinished particleboard and plywood surfaces with water-based polyurethane may help to reduce exposures for ultra-sensitive individuals.
6. **IN USE – Do not smoke inside.** Tobacco smoking releases formaldehyde and other toxic chemicals.
7. **IN USE – Wash certain textiles.** Formaldehyde is used to maintain durable-press fabrics. Washing them, while causing wrinkles, may eliminate another source of out-gassing.

You can obtain the full study at:

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=36010>

For additional information, contact your physician or local EPA office.