

Indoor Air Quality Concerns



Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) refers to the environment within buildings and how it impacts the health, comfort, and safety of occupants. EH&S investigates all odor or air quality concerns to identify potential sources and determine if the issue is rooted in laboratory practices or stems from building infrastructure. In cases where the source is laboratory related, EH&S provides the necessary corrective guidance to personnel.

Air Quality Concerns Related to Building Infrastructure

A "nuisance odor" is an unpleasant smell that may not present a health hazard but affects comfort and may indicate a procedural or maintenance issue. Reports related to building infrastructure and maintenance, such as odors from painting, drilling, or roof work, as well as issues of thermal discomfort (e.g., rooms being too hot or too cold) should be routed directly to Facilities via the call center.



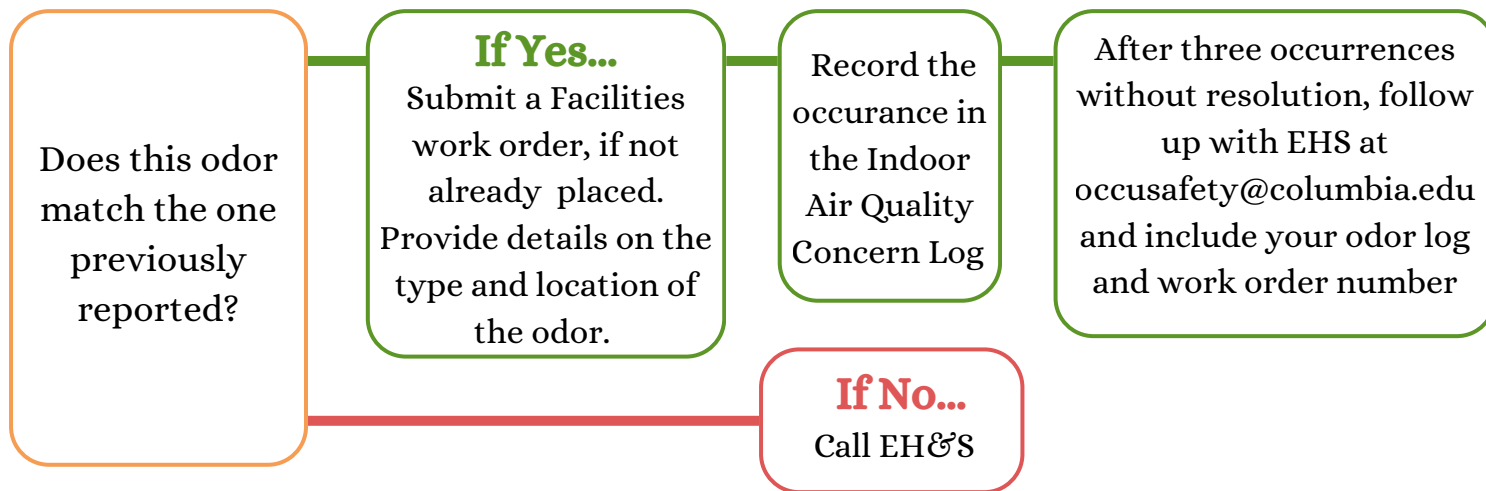
Fun FAQ!

The "ghost sniffer" in the original Ghostbusters was actually a HNu PI-101, a Photo-Ionization Detector. We use this same technology for our IAQ investigations.

What Should I Do if I Notice an Unusual Odor?

If you notice an unusual odor in your laboratory unrelated to building infrastructure and maintenance, do not ignore it; instead, ensure proper laboratory practices are being followed and contact EH&S to report the concern.

If EH&S establishes that the odor is not lab-related and/or that no hazardous conditions are present, contact Facilities to create a work order. If the odor is recurring, reference the graphic below for next steps.



A standardized [Indoor Air Quality Concern Log Template](#) is available to download via the QR Code Below.

Have more questions? Reach out to EH&S at Labsafety@columbia.edu or give us a call

CUIMC: (212) 305 - 6780

Manhattanville/Morningside: (212) 854 - 8749



@Columbiaehs



< IAQ Website

Indoor Air Quality
Concern Log Template >

