

# From Green ... to Clean!

Need someone to purify the air within your school building? Hire a plant. It'll work overtime at cleansing the air of toxins and other pollutants!

**T**ightly shut, well-sealed doors and windows may help your budget, but they also trap in potentially harmful air pollutants. Studies by NASA have found that certain houseplants can help purify the air of the following common chemicals.

**Trichloroethylene (TCE)** - a commercial product found in a wide variety of industrial products: printing inks, paints, lacquers, varnishes, and adhesives.

**Benzene** - a commonly used solvent. Present in such items as gasoline, inks, oils, paints, plastics, and rubber.

**Formaldehyde** - found in virtually all indoor environments. Major sources include insulation (UFFI) and particle board or pressed wood products used in office furniture. Additionally, it is used in consumer paper products, including grocery bags, waxed papers, facial tissues, and paper towels. Many common household cleaning agents also contain formaldehyde.

## Choose Wisely

When selecting the right plant for the right part of the school, remember that some plants are more likely than others to trigger reactions among allergy and asthma sufferers. Do your research! Some plants are poisonous and should be avoided - especially if you have young students.

Additionally, choose plant locations wisely. Always keep plants out of the reach of young, curious hands. Space placement throughout the building, carefully noting individual growth needs.

## The Right Plant for the Job

A NASA study found that the following plants rated best in purifying air of formaldehyde, benzene, and carbon monoxide.

- Bamboo Palm
- Gerbera Daisy
- Marginata
- Spider Plant
- Peace Lily
- Aloe Vera
- Chinese Evergreen
- Janet Craig
- Mass Cane/ Corn Plant
- Pot Mum
- Warneckii
- Mother-in-Law's Tongue