An AWE Solutions, Inc. White Paper



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An Advanced Biological Air Cleaning System for the Residential Market

Summary AWE biological air cleaning systems are ideal for homes in dealing with **mold**, pathogens, and Volatile Organic Compounds such as formaldehyde.



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Introduction

Indoor air pollution has been linked to asthma, allergies, autoimmune disease and a variety of health related issues. The most common pollutants that affect occupants of residential properties are volatile organic compounds or VOCs, and **mold**. The source of VOCs are variable and often related to a home's age. For example, new construction contains many building materials that off-gas VOCs, like carpet, paint, and flooring. Older homes are most affected by chemicals stored and used in the home like cleaners, pesticides and fuels.

All homes will have some **mold** present in the air. However, the **mold spores** in a healthy home are in low concentrations and the types of **mold** present are similar to those occurring immediately outside the home. Some of the spores enter the home through normal heating and air conditioning. Others enter through open windows and doors. **Mold** becomes an issue for home owners if a water intrusion event occurs, like a leaking pipe or roof, or if the humidity levels in the home become elevated above 65%. If leaks are not stopped and wet surfaces dried completely, **mold spores** will germinate, colonize surfaces, and replicate rapidly, producing copious amounts of airborne spores. Elevated airborne **mold spores**, in the home, lead to a variety of health issues that may be as mild as spring allergies or severe as a lung infection. Children, adults over 55, and immunocompromised individuals are most susceptible. Although, continuous exposure to elevated indoor **mold** may sensitize healthy adults who have never had a previous **mold** allergy.

Problem Statement

Current residential air cleaning technologies require expensive, specialized filters to remove airborne **mold** and VOCs from a home. Depending on the level of indoor pollution filters must be changed every 1-3 months. The cost of replacement filters is high and increases with the size of the air cleaning system. A small 10' x 10' bedroom air cleaner may cost a home owner \$300 to \$500 per year to maintain. The larger the air cleaning system the more costly the filters.

Previous Options

HEPA filtration has been the most common method used to remove **mold** and bacteria and some viruses from indoor air. However, HEPA filters cannot remove VOCs. Activated carbon or charcoal filters are required to remove VOCs. To remove both **mold** and VOCs, current home air cleaning technology requires 3 filters. The first filter is a pre-filter that catches large particles like fibers and large dust particles. Directly in-line, behind the pre-filter, is an activated carbon or charcoal filter for VOC's, followed by a HEPA filter for **mold**, microbes and small particles like smoke. The filters are placed in a mechanical box that pulls indoor air through the filters in order to clean the air. Frequent pre-filter changes are required to increase the life of the HEPA filter, which is the costliest of the filters. The frequency of charcoal filter changes depends directly on the amount of VOCs in the air. A room off-gassing new paint may require 2-3 changes per month until the off-gassing subsides. HEPA filters are changed too many times per year on average.

AWE Solution

AWE has developed a filterless biological air cleansing systems that captures and destroys VOCs and noxious microbes and **mold** from residential homes. Two models are currently available for residential market. The AWE-100B and the AWE-85M. Each model is a self-contained, filterless unit that may be placed throughout the home. Inside every AWE system, natural ionization technology is combined with the recycling power of beneficial bacteria and enzymes. A water flow system, similar to a natural waterfall, creates an ionization zone that scrubs contaminants from the air. The trapped contaminants



flow into a digestion reservoir. Inside the digestion reservoir, **BioAiRx**[®] rapidly degrades **mold** and VOCs into harmless end products. **BioAiRx**[®] is AWE's patented beneficial bacteria and enzyme mixture. **BioAiRx**[®] contains environmentally friendly bacteria that function in nature to degrade complex biological and chemicals substrates into simple elements and nutrients.



A variety of testing has been conducted on the AWE system and **BioAiRx**[®] by third party laboratories. VOC testing has shown that the system captures and degrades many household chemicals including formaldehyde, which is common in many building materials and furniture. **BioAiRx**[®] has been shown to break down a variety of household pesticides like Ethion and Diazinon. Testing has also shown that **BioAiRx**[®] degrades carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide gas.

The AWE technology is **extremely efficient** at capturing and destroying harmful **molds**, bacteria and viruses. The system efficiently removed high concentrations Aspergillus and Penicillium **mold** spores from the air. Laboratory tests with contagious flu viruses and infectious bacteria like MRSA and tuberculosis bacteria (Mycobacterium) were destroyed within hours by the **BioAiRx**[®] solution. **BioAiRx**[®] not only kills **mold** and microbes, but does so by degrading the microbes' DNA.

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Laboratory tests confirm BioAiRx[®] kill microbes by destroying their DNA.



Citations

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