



Frank Wear Cleaners Site Evaluation of Indoor Air Results Buckle My Shoe Early Learning Center — Yakima, Washington

The Washington State Department of Health reviewed indoor air data from the Buckle My Shoe Early Learning Center to see if contaminants found in indoor air will harm people's health. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) collected the data between July 2012 and December 2013. The results show there are some contaminants in indoor air; however, our analysis determined breathing in the amounts found is not expected to cause health problems for children or workers at the childcare center. A detailed [health consultation report](http://www.doh.wa.gov/consults) (www.doh.wa.gov/consults) is posted on the Department of Health website.

Background

In the past, dry cleaning chemicals were released into the soil and groundwater from the former Frank Wear Cleaners. Tetrachloroethylene, commonly known as "Perc" or PCE, was the main chemical released. The contaminants in the groundwater travel from the former dry cleaner property to the south/southeast. They have been found under the building next door, which is currently used by the Buckle My Shoe Early Learning Center.

When Ecology learned in 2011 that the childcare center occupied the building, it began testing the indoor air and soil gas. Soil gas is gas or vapor that can collect in the open spaces between pieces of soil. The test results showed that vapors containing PCE could be moving into indoor air. The state health department looked at the 2011 indoor air results and concluded breathing the amount of contaminants found in the indoor air was not expected to harm the health of adults or children while Ecology took steps to eliminate the hazard. The assessment also recommended continued monitoring.

Ecology installed a system in July 2012 to capture and treat the underground contaminants and prevent vapors from entering the childcare center. Ecology took air samples between July 2012 and December 2013 after the system was installed, looking for chemicals in indoor and outdoor air and in soil gas.

What we found

The more recent sampling effort showed some contaminants in the indoor air and soil gas. The Department of Health looked at the new results to see if any of the contaminants were at levels that could cause health effects, including cancer.

After evaluating all the information, the Department of Health concludes that breathing the contaminants found in indoor air between July 2012 and December 2013 at the Buckle My Shoe Childcare Center is not expected to cause harmful health effects for children attending, or adults working at, the childcare center.

Recommendations

The Department of Health recommends continuing indoor air monitoring at the Buckle My Shoe Early Learning Center. Even though the contaminants found in indoor air are not expected to cause harmful health effects, monitoring will help make sure the contaminant levels don't increase in the future.

For information about human health, contact Washington Department of Health: 1-877-485-7316

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