



Danger: Indoor pollution

While the roadside air in Hong Kong is so polluted that people avoid going to crowded places, the air at home may not really be safer.

According to a recent report on air pollution in Hong Kong, the air in some apartments is more polluted than the air outdoors, and this situation appears mostly after renovation or the purchase of new furniture.

You may wonder why this happens. Actually when producing panel boards which are the core materials for most wooden furniture, an adhesive that releases a common pollutant, formaldehyde, is often used. The International

Agency for Research on Cancer has already classified formaldehyde as carcinogenic to humans. Another severe pollutant, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) from adhesive, paints and floorboards, may also damage the liver, kidneys and the nervous system in severe cases.

Usually when choosing furniture, most customers only focus on the price and quality of the product, but tend to ignore whether the materials are safe for use or if the production process affects the environment. In fact, when we are considering renovation or purchasing new furnishing, we must be aware of these harmful pollutants that may affect our health.

From materials to production, I&D Home Concept emphasizes creating a home that is healthy and environment-friendly, and at the same time elegant and practical.



The materials which I&D uses are carefully selected. High-quality timbers including solid wood, walnut and oak wood veneer need to undergo eight processes from cutting to adhering to pick out imperfect and flawed solid wood and veneer. Only 50 per cent of the wood can be used and grains and colors are also picked before the wood is used on I&D furnishings.

Besides, panel boards are divided into three classes including E1, E2 and E3. E1 class means that the release of free formaldehyde does not affect human health. E2 class indicates that the long-term use of the panel boards can severely affect human health. E3 class means that the panel boards are too toxic and not suitable for use.

I&D has always adopted E1 class honeycomb panels while at the same time, all panel

boards are approved by International Panel Board Quality Supervision and Testing Center with only 8mg/100g free formaldehyde released. It is even lower than one of the strictest E1 standards in the world (the standard in Germany) of 20 per cent.

The advantage of using honeycomb panels is that it can greatly reduce the consumption of forests, saving the ecological environment. It will not affect human health.

Tips for choosing home renovations

1. Pay attention to indoor ventilation and leave space for air circulation.
2. Tell your designers to use natural and non-toxic materials, including low-formaldehyde panels, floor boards and low-VOC paints.
3. Use low-formaldehyde adhesive
4. Choose tiles that fulfill the standard of radiation
5. Keep windows opened for ventilation for as long as possible during and after renovation to release chemical pollutants (the release of formaldehyde can continue for three years or more).
6. When decorating the room, choose Aloe or Cordyline fruticosa 'Ti' to help absorb formaldehyde and organic compounds.

