

Indoor Air Quality Particle Testing (Customer Information)

What is Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Particle Testing?

Certified Indoor Air uses **IAQ Analytics** (part of Goldmorr System’s products and processes), which is a patented system designed to report on particulates in the air. This method does not determine mold species, as speciation is not valuable information because there are no standards for acceptable or unacceptable levels of mold(s). Instead, Certified’s technicians will take several *particle count* readings within your structure (and maybe even an outdoor reading), which are then referenced to an International Standards Organization (ISO) standard and in coordination with the World Health Organization (WHO)...because particle counts in the air actually have been given limits. (Furthermore, the instruments used to collect the data during testing have an ISO standard for calibration as well, much the same as speed cameras have calibration standards that must be met to validate your vehicle’s speed.)

Then, a comprehensive multi-page report is generated – complete with a chart showing each tested location’s designated IAQ level number (see actual result examples from real jobs below, left) as well as a reference chart explaining each numbered level and its pass/fail classification (see chart snippets to right of examples).

Example #1

Single Sample - particle counts per cubic meter and analysis				
Location	≥0.5 µm	≥5.0 µm	Time	IAQ Level
Living Room	13550176	394699	1m, 0s	9.5
Master Bedroom	14286572	397879	1m, 0s	9.5
Front Bedroom (2nd floor)	6958657	169611	1m, 0s	9
Back Bedroom (2nd floor)	5815547	126148	1m, 0s	9

Example #2

Single Sample - particle counts per cubic meter and analysis				
Location	≥0.5 µm	≥5.0 µm	Time	IAQ Level
Kitchen	1225441	6007	1m, 0s	7.5
Master Bedroom	996113	7067	1m, 0s	7.5
Master Bathroom	1373851	14134	1m, 0s	8
Outdoors	3448763	18021	1m, 0s	8

Reference Chart

Level	Pass/Fail	High/Low	Investigation Info
Level 9.5	Fail 9.5	Fail	Level 9.5 air quality requires improvement. Further investigation into source contamination is required.
Level 9	Alert 9	Alert, Conditional Status, Upper Range.	Level 9 counts indicate elevated levels of contaminant particles, which may include any of: dust, liquid microdroplets, pollens, possible indoor amplification of moulds, etc., though also may not be limited to these. Further investigation of potential contamination sources is required. The results reported may be affected by the degree of ventilation to outdoors, or by recent housekeeping, human activity, or work activity. Conditional means that contaminant levels can be interpreted based also on other indicators at the site, in addition to particle counts.
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Level 8	Pass 8	Pass	Level 8, particle counts are within the acceptable range.
Level 7.5	Still 7.5	Low counts.	Level 7.5, particles counts are in the lower range. Mechanically generated or windblown particles are at low levels, as these settle out in relatively still environments.

The 5-micron sized particles are most relevant to mold; so, when these counts are elevated, we know you have a mold problem. The goal of any effective mold and air quality remediation protocol is to return your indoor environment to ideal living conditions. As a part of that process, IAQ Analytics allows us to determine your current condition indoors.

Many daily activities like showering, cooking bacon, or getting ready for work using things like hairspray and perfumes (just to name a few) are not major concerns with air quality. However, they can temporarily affect testing. Since our goal is to ensure an accurate reading of your home, please comply with the below guidelines for best results.

Guidelines BEFORE testing:

1. Do NOT clean off any visible mold.
2. Keep doors and windows closed overnight and the morning of testing.
3. Avoid excessive humidity events (like showering) within an hour before the testing time.
4. Avoid spraying colognes, perfumes, hairsprays, etc., within an hour before the testing time.
5. Avoid cooking and running dishwasher, washing machine, or dryer within an hour before testing time.
6. Deactivate all air fresheners 24 hours before testing time.
7. Turn off all air purifiers, fans, and exhaust fans the morning of testing.
8. Do not smoke inside the home.
9. You may keep HVAC unit running as usual.

