

Airborne Challenges

Application Note ITI-096

The air that we breathe is comprised of more than just nitrogen and oxygen. For the sake of the health and safety of building occupants as well as quality control in processes adversely affected by airborne contamination, other airborne substances can cause concern. These gases and tiny solid or liquid particles need to be monitored and controlled. Pollutants can come from a variety of sources both inside and outside a building. They include dust, dirt, vehicle emissions, animal dander, plant fragments, spores, pollen, bacteria, viruses, smoke, fumes, and a wide range of cleaners, pesticides and herbicides.



A human hair is typically only about 100 microns in diameter. We lose sight of particles at about 25 to 30 microns in aerodynamic diameter. Often the airborne particles that cause concern are the ones we cannot see, even those reaching nanoparticle levels, thousands of times smaller than a human hair.

Particle counters are one tool that can help quantify airborne particle counts and size ranges. They are also valuable tools to help track particles to their source where remediative action can be taken to control them.



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