

## **Added Wx+H Definitions**

May 11, 2016

### **Air Filter/Purifier**

Care should be taken when deciding to provide air filters/purifiers. Depending on the application, air purifiers can have limited to no effectiveness. Some air purifiers can produce levels of ozone, which can be harmful to an occupant's health. For each Wx+H project an analysis should be conducted on the anticipated outcome for the cost of the air purifier.

### **CO Detector**

See **Policy 9.5, *Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors, & Fire Extinguishers***

### **Comprehensive Cleaning (one time)**

Single instance of comprehensive house cleaning including carpet shampooing, industrial vacuuming, and garbage removal. Other activities must be approved by the Matchmaker Program Manager.

### **Crawlspace Improvements**

Replacing or adding ground cover and installing crawlspace ventilation. Other installations or actions must be approved by the Matchmaker Program Manager.

### **Dust Mite Cover**

An allergy-proof bedding cover barriers with a mean pore size diameter below 10 microns. These covers are the most effective barriers against pet dander, dust mites, bed bugs, and other harmful allergens.

### **Flooring**

When replacing flooring install hard surface flooring. Conduct an analysis to how much of the home's flooring should be replaced to benefit the client. Non-hard surface flooring replacements must be approved by the Matchmaker Program Manager.

### **Green Cleaning Kit**

Local agencies must choose products that are biodegradable and non-toxic – this ensures that they'll break down into the soil and won't be hazardous. All products must be certified by Green Seal and have less than 10% VOC concentration.

### **HEPA Vacuum Cleaner**

Vacuum cleaners delivered in the Weatherization + Health program must be tested and approved under Carpet and rug Institute (CRI) Seal of Approval / Green Label program or deemed equivalent, with prior written Commerce approval. For example, many vacuums in the CRI SOA/GL program are not HEPA filter units, yet are very effective at dust

containment. HEPA filters may add additional cost to the overall operational cost of the vacuum.

### **HEPA/MEPA Furnace Filter**

Install only HVAC filters that are rated MERV 8 or higher according to ASHRAE 52.2-2007 (at approximately 295 fpm). True HEPA filters are typically rated MERV 17 to 19.

**From the EPA:** True HEPA filters normally are not installed in residential HVAC systems; installing a HEPA filter in an existing HVAC system would probably require professional modification of the system. A typical residential air-handling unit and the associated ductwork would not be able to accommodate such filters because of their size and increased airflow resistance. Some residential HVAC systems may not have enough fan or motor capacity to accommodate higher efficiency filters.

Do not install any air-cleaning equipment designed to produce ozone (i.e., ozone generators).

### **HVAC System Cleaning**

Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) System Cleaning includes HVAC equipment (furnace filter replacement-washable or disposable; clean and tune), woodstove and woodstove chimney, ventilation distribution and ductwork systems. Agencies should evaluate whether it is truly necessary to and beneficial to conduct a full duct cleaning by a National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA) certified firm.

### **Mechanical Ventilation (exhaust only)**

Follow specifications in ASHRAE 62.2.2013 and see **Policy 9.3, *Indoor Air Quality – Mechanical Ventilation***.

### **Mold and Moisture Reduction**

Local agencies may mitigate mold and moisture issues by installing a dehumidifier, dehumidistat, or perform incidental leak repair. Also see **Policy 9.6, *Biologicals and Unsanitary Conditions, including Mold and Moisture***

### **Pest Mitigation**

Commerce encourages the use of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. The goal of IPM is to control pests by the most economical long term means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. Local Agencies can refer to EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) for additional details. See also **Policy 9.11, *Pests***

### **Remove Toxic Household Chemicals**

Local agencies must have the owner/tenant approval to remove toxic chemicals from the home. Local agencies must also dispose of toxic chemicals properly.

## **Slip and Fall Prevention**

For clients with documented fall injuries, mobility issues, or slip or fall hazards that put them at risk for future injuries, local agencies may install handrails, grab bars, shower mat, or build ramps (limited) or fix irregular steps (limited).

## **Smoke Detector**

See **Policy 9.5, *Smoke Detectors, Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors, & Fire Extinguishers***

## **Walk-off Door Mat**

To reduce dirt in homes, use walk-off door mats at the entrance. The mat should be long enough so that you can walk across with both feet before entering the house, with the width no wider than the door itself. Outside mats are usually made of rubber. For extremely muddy areas, use metal, wire, or brushes to scrape boots. Avoid coco fiber mats as they shed and track loose fibers into the home. Also avoid rope or wood mats as they are a depository for microbes and pollutants.

## **Water heater Temperature Adjustment**

For Weatherization energy savings, hot water temperature must be set to no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit per Washington RCW 19.27A.060. For documented health conditions, the water heater temperature may be adjusted. Document action and justification in client file.

## **Wx+H Client Education**

Local agencies must deliver structured and consistent information for Wx+H client education that addresses at a minimum the following: Asthma and Allergies, Hazardous Household Products, Indoor Air Quality, Lead Poisoning, Mold & Moisture Control and Pest Management.