

MechSE WELLness

A09 Pollution Infiltration Management

Intent: Minimize the introduction of pollutants into indoor air through the building envelope and at building entrances.

Exposure to high levels of coarse and fine particulate matter inadvertently introduced into the space can lead to respiratory irritation and has been associated with increases in lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, and mortality. Leaks and gaps in the exterior walls provide opportunity for mold growth and pests to infiltrate. Additionally, building users can introduce particulate matter via their clothes and shoes. There is a need to reduce or prevent the introduction of potentially harmful substances into our indoor spaces.

Impact: Minimizing or preventing the introduction of particulate matter and harmful toxins will positively impact human health, well-being, and performance.

Requirements for the Sidney Lu Mechanical Engineering Building:

1. All entrances to the building have entry mats or walk-off carpets, or combination, that are at least the width of the entrance and 10 feet long in the primary direction of travel. These are cleaned:
 - a. Walk-off mats are wet-cleaned at least once every two days.
 - b. Underside of mats are cleaned at least once per day.
 - c. Entry mats are vacuumed with a beater bar in both directions at least once per day.
2. Building entry vestibules are provided at each entrance to slow the movement of air from outdoors to indoors.

How do we accomplish these requirements? Our campus has its own cleaning crew, known as building service workers or BSWs. In addition to their regular duties, MechSE pays additional funds to meet the requirements outlined above. Regular communication with BSWs and daily review of work by our Facilities Manager ensures we are doing our best to reduce pollution infiltration. Each of us can help by cleaning our shoes often, taking time to wipe our shoes at the entry mats, and only using the ADA door openers when necessary for moving large items.



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