

# HOW DO TO A WALKTHROUGH

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Creating Asthma-Friendly Schools



# Finding problems before they find you

School conditions can change and affect the health of students and staff. It is important to identify signs of issues before they become a big problem.

A school walkthrough involves examining and noting observations about the inside and outside of the school building. They are usually brief and provide important information about the health and safety of a school. They also help start a conversation about learning/teaching conditions.

*If you don't look, you don't know*

# Pre-walkthrough

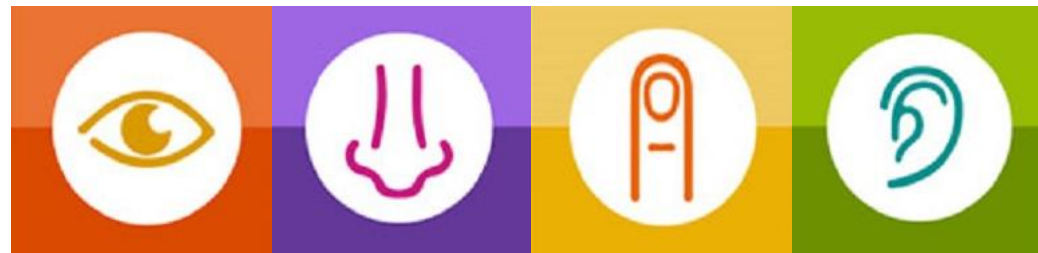
- Gather a team of 3-5 to do the walkthrough
  - Primary team should involve facilitates director, head custodian, and principal
  - School nurse, teachers, students can play a role
- Review inspection and compliant reports from the past
- Plan to discuss and verify what is observed
- Agree that action will be taken with appropriate timelines
- Provide advance notice to staff about the walkthrough
- Use a checklist, bring a flashlight and basic floor plan

# Benchmarks for a healthy building

- Dry
- Clean
- Comfortable
- Pollutants controlled
- Adequate ventilation

# Use your senses

- You do not need to be an expert to conduct a walkthrough
- You will mainly be using your 4 senses: sight, smell, touch, hearing
- If something is out of your scope, consult a specialist



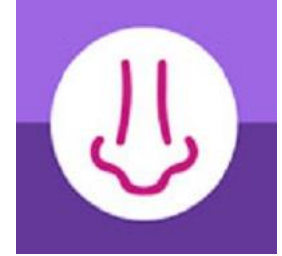
# Use your senses: Observe



- Scan the rooms and halls for general cleanliness and signs of pests
- Look inside and outside, top and bottom
- Are there sources of mold? Are there water stains?
- Are the vents clean?
- Are there any books or other objects blocking the vents?
- Is there a lot of clutter?



# Use your senses: Smell



- Are there unusual odours? Can you find the source?
- Is there adequate ventilation?
- Do you smell strong chemical fumes?

# Use your senses: Feel



- Are there uncomfortable air temperature changes?
- Do you feel very dry or humid conditions?
- Are the walls/ceilings damp?



# Use your senses: Listen

- Are there unusual equipment noises?
- Are there noisy vents?



# Post-walkthrough

Some problems may be resolved immediately, while some may require more time and response from the school department. The key is to be patient.

- Create an Action Plan with team
- Agree on priority issues
- Outline who will follow-up on each item and provide a timeline
- Use the data found to start a conversation/ make a case about conditions in the school