

# Floor Covering Media

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## Indoor scent pollution?



Research reveals scented products such as wax melts and air fresheners could generate indoor air pollution at levels comparable to vehicle emissions. These startling findings may challenge the popular perception that these mood setting products are harmless. It's likely to raise concerns about them as indoor scent pollution hazards, which are not without potential health risks.



Scented household products release terpenes, which react with indoor ozone, which form nanoparticles as small as one nanometer rapidly accumulating in the respiratory system especially with exposure to these scented products; potentially depositing 100 billion to 10 trillion nanoparticles in just 20 minutes. The particle formation occurs through a process called new particle formation, when those terpenes from scented products interact with atmospheric ozone. This phenomenon could challenge the notion that flame-free alternatives like wax melts are safer; as it still contains high concentrations of fragrance oils, which could contribute significantly to indoor air pollution in your safe spaces.

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Wax melts, frequently marketed as a safer alternative to traditional candles, generate nanoparticle pollution at levels comparable to combustion-based candles, gas stoves, and even diesel engines. This [revelation](#) from Purdue University's research challenges the common perception of these flame-free options as harmless. The study, conducted in Purdue's specialized [zEDGE lab](#) (a [tiny house](#) equipped with advanced air quality monitoring instruments) utilized high-resolution particle size magnifiers and mass spectrometers to document how these everyday products actively alter indoor air chemistry.



Nanoparticles, generated by scented products, pose significant health risks; as they penetrate deep into the respiratory system and potentially spread to other organs. These particles, measuring as small as one nanometer, could easily bypass the body's natural defenses and then enter the bloodstream. Despite marketing claims of being "non-toxic," the long-term health effects of exposure to all these nanoparticles remain unknown and require further

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investigation. There is this emphasis on the need for improved ventilation in safe spaces and in public spaces in order to mitigate the unacceptable risks associated with all the indoor air pollution; caused by these scented products.



How does one go about mitigating risks associated with indoor air pollution? Increase ventilation, open windows, use air purifiers with HEPA filters, limit use of scented products, especially in the poorly ventilated areas. Purchase unscented (or naturally scented) alternatives; green or natural labels do not necessarily mean that a product is safer for indoor air quality; indoor plants have natural air-purifying properties. These measures should help reduce exposure to potentially harmful nanoparticles and improve overall indoor air quality, which is often more polluted than outdoor air in urban environments.



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