

# Healthy Home Dos and Don'ts

## 1. Keep your home dry

- Do run exhaust fans in bathrooms and the kitchen
- Do fix water leaks quickly and dry out what got wet
- Do beware of storing "things" in damp basements
- Do drain rainwater away from the building
- Do beware of wallpaper, especially vinyl
- Do check drainage and for water leaks monthly
- Do keep humidity at 50% or below



## 2. Keep your home clean

- Do stop outside dirt at the door
- Do vacuum and clean well at least weekly
- Do avoid toxic cleaning products
- Do replace the furnace filter every three months
- Don't use ozone air cleaners
- Don't use air fresheners and room air deodorants



## 3. Keep your home well ventilated

- Do run exhaust fans or ventilation system
- Do open windows to allow fresh air in
- Do air out dry cleaned clothing and new household goods such as carpets and furniture

## 4. Keep your home free of flammable products

- Don't smoke inside
- Don't heat with a gas oven or stove
- Don't heat with a vent-less (un-vented) kerosene or propane heater
- Don't warm up a car in an attached garage
- Do burn candles less than 2 hours each time
- Do have a smoke detector on every level
- Do use a carbon monoxide (CO) detector



## 5. Keep your home pest free

- Do not allow plants or litter against the building
- Do block pest entry holes in walls
- Do use less toxic pest control practices



## 6. Keep your home free of toxic chemicals

- Do not use or store toxic chemicals or pesticides inside



## 7. Keep your home lead safe

- Do use lead-safe remodeling practices in homes built before 1978
- Do safely repair chipping and peeling lead painted surfaces
- Do wipe surfaces with a wet cloth to remove lead dust
- Do have children less than six years old tested for lead poisoning



## 8. Keep your home comfortable

- Do keep your blinds or shades up to capture heat from the sun in the winter
- Do shade your windows or lower blinds in the summer
- Don't turn off the air conditioner without opening windows



## 9. Test your home for radon gas

- Do test your home for radon

## 10. Know whom to contact for leaks, flooding, plumbing, heating, and electrical problems

- Do know how to shut off the water supply, gas supply and electrical power



## Find out "HOW?"

Call the **Healthy Homes Program** for more information.

**Phone: (614) 645-8191**



THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

COLUMBUS  
PUBLIC HEALTH

Adapted from "Ten Do's and Don'ts for a health home" from Healthy and Affordable Housing: Practical Recommendations for Building, Renovating, and Maintaining Housing. Building Sciences Corporation.