

Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers

Exercise: Identify the Healthy Housing Problems

Instructions: This can be done as either a large group or in a small group format. If large group: put photos up on projector and go through each one with group. If small group: break up into small groups according to instructor's directions. Each group gets a set of photos. Identify healthy homes problems and their potential source. Avoid writing on the photos. After 15 minutes, the instructor will review the photos and the answers with the class.

#1 Stained drywall in basement	Drywall indicates water damage. Wood may have grey covering possibly indicating mold (or maybe dirt). Note basement floor and AC water drain to sewer.	Drywall may be touching concrete floor and absorbing moisture through it when groundwater high. Also AC drain (white tube may be cause. Sewer could back-up too. Drywall in basement is rarely good.
#2 Bedroom Wall	Cockroach frass on baseboard behind headboard on bed. Frass is urine and feces from cockroaches.	Cockroaches are probably hiding in the wall. They only travel 5 to 10 feet from nest unless disturbed.
#3 Dryer exhaust inside	Dryer exhaust vents into room. Very dangerous if gas dryer. But even if electric, the moisture and odors can be a major problem.	Someone may be trying to save energy by keeping heat inside home. Bad idea. May be allowed by codes if label on dryer allows it.
#4 Trash on Porch	Debris on a porch attracts rats, mice and cockroaches.	Cardboard is like an apartment complex for cockroaches.
#5 Downspout and Basement	The downspout is disconnected. The water makes the foundation wet. Look through the basement window and see the mold on the inner wall of the basement	Rain water becoming ground water
#6 Boric acid on floor	There is a small mouse hole in wall just above baseboard. Note how it is gnawed. The powder is boric acid that someone put down to kill the mouse.	Boric acid is ineffective in thick layers, even for cockroaches. Only a dusting works. Plus boric acid is dangerous to kids. A couple teaspoons of boric acid can kill a toddler.
#7 Stucco room on roof	Smoke from white stack can blow into house. Two vents on either side are low and appear to have cap on them.	Bad design. It was probably an add-on. Also note drainage problems
#8 Serving cart	Cart with pesticides (Garden Fogger), spray paint, cooking pans and cutting boards. Pesticide contamination is a possibility.	Pesticide – garden fogger
#9 Bathroom with loose tile	Four rows of tiles have separated from wall. New shower water will get behind wall in gap. Major damage below is likely. Note missing tile in lower left corner of photo.	Shower water. Once a problem starts, it is going to get very bad quickly.
#10 Exhaust in attic	Warm, moist air in bathroom is exhausted into attic. In winter, the moisture will condense on insulation ruining it. In summer, the attic will be covered with mold from condensate. Mold grows better in summer.	Bad installation. Vent exhaust outside not into attic.