

## House Plants that Clean the Air

While researching how to keep the air clean within a space station, NASA scientists discovered that many common houseplants filter indoor pollutants. They're reportedly able to scrub significant amounts of harmful gases out of the air through the everyday processes of photosynthesis. Some pollutants are also absorbed and rendered harmless in the soil.

Common pollutants found in newer homes and office buildings may include: Benzene (oil, ink, paint, rubber, plastic, detergent); formaldehyde (pressed wood, fiberboard, carpeting, paneling, cleaning solvents, sprays); trichloroethylene and carbon monoxide.

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Light Requirements</b>
Aglaonema species	Chinese Evergreen	low - medium
Aloe Vera	Medicine Plant	medium - high
Chamaedorea sefritzii	Bamboo Palm	low - medium
Chlorophytum comosum	Spider Plant	medium
Dracaena deremensis	Janet Craig	low - medium
Dracaena fragrans `massangeana	Corn Plant	low - medium
Dracaena marginata	Dragon Tree	medium - high
Epipremnum aureum	Golden Pothos	low - medium
Ficus benjamina	Weeping Fig	medium - high
Hedera helix	English Ivy	low - medium
Musa	Banana	high
Nephrolepis exaltata	Boston Fern	medium
Nephrolepis obliterate	Kimberley Queen	
Peperomia		medium
Philodendron cordatum	Heartleaf Philod.	low - medium
Philodendron pertusum	Split leaf Philod.	low - medium
Sansevieria	Snake Plant	low - medium
Schefflera	Umbrella Plant	medium
Spathiphyllum	Peace Lily	low - medium
Syngonium	Arrowhead Plant	low - medium

It is recommended that you use at least 1 houseplant per 100 square feet of space. The more vigorously they grow, the better job they'll do for you.

# Top Green Cleaners

While researching how to keep the air clean within a space station, NASA scientists discovered that many common houseplants filter indoor pollutants.

**Formaldehyde** Commonly present in newer homes and office buildings in pressed wood, fiberboard, carpeting, paneling, foam insulation, cleaning solvents, and sprays. Also in heating and cooking fuels like natural gas, kerosene, and cigarette smoke.

**Trichloroethylene (TCE)** Over 90 percent of the TCE produced is used in the metal degreasing and dry cleaning industries. Used in printing inks, paints, lacquers, varnishes, and adhesives.

**Benzene** Commonly used solvent. Present in gasoline, inks, oils, paints, plastics, and rubber. In addition it is used in the manufacture of detergents, explosives, pharmaceuticals, and dyes.

**Chinese Evergreen** Attractive leaf patterns and good for low-light areas.

**Palms** Dwarf date palm, bamboo palm, areca palm, lady palm, or parlor palm.

**Snake Plant** Tough as nails and great architectural form.

**Dracaenas Janet Craig, Warneckii, Marginata and Masangeana** Nice tall leafy plant for medium to low light.

**Golden Pothos** Ideal beginner's plant for quick trailing.

**Green Spider Plant** Classic hanging basket plant.

**Kimberley Queen Fern** Better choice than Boston fern if you have particularly dry indoor air, thanks to a high transpiration rate.

**English Ivy (Hedera helix)** Good for hanging baskets and easier to grown than ferns.

**Peace Lily (Spathiphyllum)** Good for low-light conditions and has a high transpiration rate that will humidify your air.

**Florists' mum and Gerbera daisies** Good flowering plants that do the job and look pretty too!



Bamboo Palm



Rubber Plant



Dracaena  
"Janet Craig"



English Ivy



Pothos



Ficus Alii



Boston Fern



Peace Lily

It is recommended that you use at least 1 houseplant (6" container or larger) per 100 square feet of space. The more vigorously they grow, the better job they'll do for you.