

Subject: Ozone generators/air cleaners

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To: aircleaners@listserv.arb.ca.gov

I am writing because I am concerned about the adverse health effects of the ozone type air cleaners, especially on children.

My brother owns one of these manufactured by Ecoquest and after staying at his house (which is very small, approx. 800 square feet) for 3 days, I developed a severe sore throat and chronic cough. My 2 1/2 year old nephew also had a chronic cough for 3 weeks and my brother has chronic colds and sinus problems, red eyes and a cranky disposition since using this air filter. He believes that it removes the smell of dirty diapers and fried foods, since their house is so small, they can smell everything.

After I left his house and got on the plane, I felt better and realized that I wasn't getting a cold after all. I have also experienced this feeling after staying in hotel rooms where I saw little machines being moved around to different rooms.

After doing some research on this matter, I believe that these types of air filters should be banned or highly regulated (not allowed to be used with people in the vicinity). Hotels should be legally required to inform their customers that their room might be filled with a toxic gas (ozone) because many unsuspecting people are unaware of what goes on in the hotel industry.

I grew up in Southern California where 2nd stage smog alerts were common, and I remember the uncomfortable feeling of the burning eyes, sore throat and tightness in the chest after exercising outdoors. I had the same feeling around the Ecoquest air filter.

--Deborah Simmons
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