



Hill AFB Needs to Test Your Air



La base aerea de Hill necesita analizar su aire (mira atrás)

Your home is located near an area of shallow groundwater contamination from historic activities at Hill Air Force Base. Chemical vapors can migrate through the soil and enter buildings — a process known as vapor intrusion. **The only way to know if this is happening in your home is to test the air inside.**

The Air Force is offering **free indoor air sampling** as part of its 2026–2027 program. Testing is simple and convenient, with two sampling placement options: a technician can place the sampling device inside your home, or you can choose a contact-free, resident-placed option.



Results are provided directly to you. If vapors are found above safe levels, the Air Force can install a mitigation system — **at no cost to you.**

While chemical vapors from the groundwater are found in less than 5% of homes, testing gives you peace of mind. Help us check your home off our annual list - once your home tests clear, our yearly outreach stops and we will only check in every five years.

Help us protect your home and family — sign up for a free test today.

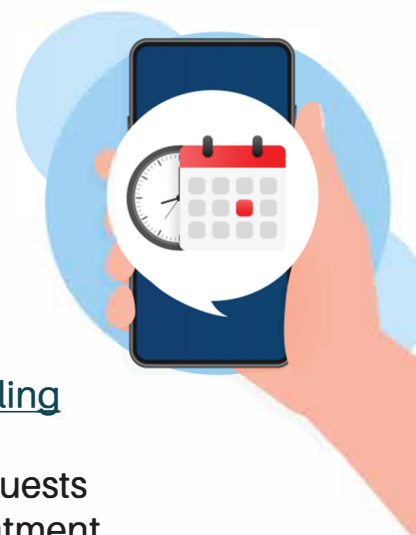
Now Scheduling Online!
Ahora programando citas en línea

You can now sign up & book an appointment on a mobile phone or computer.



Online Scheduling Link

1. Go to our website (or scan QR code)
<https://calendly.com/hafb-indoor-air/air-sampling>
2. Select your preferred date & time, click "Next"
3. Fill out the details & note any questions or requests
4. Click "Schedule Event" to reserve your appointment



Sign Up for Sampling Today!

If you prefer to sign up for sampling over the phone, or if you have any questions about the Indoor Air Sampling Program (IAP), please contact:

Julie McNeill, IAP Project Manager

Phone: 801-586-2194

Email: julie.mcneill.1@us.af.mil

Environmental Restoration
AFCEC/CZOM Hill Section
7290 Weiner St., Bldg. 383
Hill AFB, UT 84056-5003

Hill AFB's Indoor Air Sampling Program Kicks Off This Fall!

El muestreo comienza este otoño



Testing involves placing a small, pencil-sized device in your home for 24–26 days. There are two placement options (technician-placed or self-placed), and flexible scheduling options.

All costs associated with testing and mitigation are paid for by the Air Force. If vapors are found, the Air Force can install a system to prevent them from entering your home or building—free of charge.

More information available online at:

Más información disponible en línea
www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP

- Maps of sampling areas
- Air sampling fact sheet
- Resident-placed sampling details
- Material disponible en español



IAP Website Link

Indoor Air Testing is Easy - And Free!
Schedule Online Today!

Material disponible en español

La información sobre el muestreo del aire interior también está disponible en español en línea en el enlace anterior. Si tiene preguntas, por favor llame a Nate Nelson al 801-775-6232.

Indoor Air Sampling Program

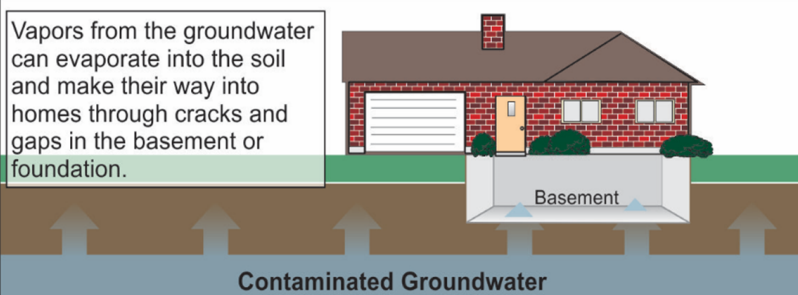
Hill Air Force Base, Utah



August 2026

Why is the Air Force testing the air inside homes?

If you received this information, your home or business is located above or very near an area of groundwater contaminated with chemicals from Hill AFB. As shown in the diagram below, these chemicals can evaporate into the soil and into buildings through a process known as vapor intrusion. The Air Force is testing in these areas to see if vapors are entering homes at potentially harmful levels.



Hill's Indoor Air Sampling Program

In 2003, Hill began a systematic investigation to find where vapor intrusion is occurring. Over the course of the program, the Air Force has tested the air in more than 3,100 locations.

As the program has developed, much has been learned about vapor intrusion. In some cases, vapor detections are not associated with the groundwater contamination, but from sources inside the home. In other cases, vapor intrusion may have been missed because the testing occurred on a day when conditions were not favorable for vapor intrusion. The testing method has been refined to take into account different factors that could affect the validity of the test.

Testing the air

Because not all homes near groundwater contamination are affected by vapor intrusion, the only way to know for sure is through testing.

Since 2016, Hill has used a passive diffusion sampler, approximately the size of a pencil, to collect indoor air samples over a 26-day period. This longer sampling window accounts for changing conditions—such as temperature, barometric pressure, and furnace use—which can influence whether vapor intrusion occurs. As a result, this method provides a much more reliable assessment than earlier techniques.

If your home was tested before 2016 using the older 24-hour sampling method, we encourage you to schedule new testing with the 26-day passive sampler for a more accurate evaluation.



Passive Sampling Device

How did the chemicals get into the groundwater?

When Hill AFB was established in 1940, it became home to one of the nation's largest aircraft maintenance operations. This work required solvents to clean and degrease parts. Before environmental laws were enacted in the 1970s, there were no regulations for disposing of waste solvents. As was common practice at the time, most were dumped in landfills and disposal pits.



Over time, these solvents seeped into shallow groundwater and migrated off base beneath nearby communities. While drinking water has not been affected, scientists discovered that chemical vapors were evaporating up through the soil and entering some homes. Vapor intrusion is now recognized as the primary potential route of exposure to these groundwater contaminants from Hill AFB.

Why should I have my home tested?

The goal of the Air Force's indoor air sampling program is to test every home that could be affected by contaminants from Hill AFB. Reasons to have your home tested:

■ Peace of mind

If chemical vapors from Hill AFB are not detected in your indoor air test, you can be certain the air you and your family are breathing does not contain the chemical vapors linked to Hill AFB. In most cases, no further sampling will be required unless conditions at the site change. The Air Force will follow up every five years to confirm that the footprint of your home hasn't changed, as structural changes can affect the potential for vapor intrusion.

■ Identify and eliminate a potential hazard

If vapors are found above the action level and are determined to be linked to Hill AFB contamination, the Air Force can take steps to eliminate the threat. The Air Force has a number of proven tools available to prevent vapors from entering your home—at no cost to you.

Even if your home was tested in the past, the Air Force recommends retesting with the updated sampling method. A previous "non-detect" result from the older 24-hour testing method does not guarantee that vapor intrusion is not occurring. Until your home is tested with the new method, you will continue to receive annual reminders.



More Information Available Online:
www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP

- Maps of sampling areas
- Resident-placed sampling method details

Hill AFB Indoor Air Sampling Program Manager:

Julie McNeill 801-586-2194
or julie.mcneill.1@us.af.mil

How to Sign Up For Sampling

Now Scheduling Online

You can now sign up and schedule an appointment using your mobile phone or computer. Scan the QR code or visit: <https://calendly.com/hafb-indoor-air/air-sampling>

Or, Sign Up By Phone:

If you prefer to sign up by phone, call:
Julie McNeill, Project Manager
Phone: 801-586-2194
Email: julie.mcneill.1@us.af.mil



Online Scheduling Link

What is the testing process?

Sampling is most effective during the winter heating season (October through March), when homes are closed up and the potential for vapor intrusion is highest.

Preparing for Your Appointment

Before your scheduled test, you will receive a postcard reminder with general instructions, including a list of household chemicals that must be removed from your home—including attached garages—at least one week prior to sampling. (Visit www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental for list.) These items can interfere with results. If they are not removed, testing will need to be rescheduled. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sampling Placement Options

■ Technician-Placed Sampling (Approx. 30 minutes):

A technician will visit your home, conduct a brief survey to ensure interfering chemicals have been removed, and place the sampling device in the lowest livable space—typically the basement.

■ Resident-Placed Sampling (Approx. 10 minutes):

If you prefer, a technician can drop off the device at your door along with easy-to-follow instructions. The technician will not need to enter your home. Please indicate this option when scheduling.

After Sampling

The sampling device remains in your home for approximately 26 days. After that, a technician will return to retrieve it, and the sample will be sent to a laboratory for analysis. If the results show a detection of chemical vapors, you will be contacted directly. Otherwise, you'll receive your results by mail within eight weeks.

What are the chemicals of concern?

The primary chemical of concern is trichloroethene (TCE), a degreasing solvent widely used at Hill AFB in the 1960s and 1970s. Improper disposal at multiple locations led to TCE becoming the most common groundwater contaminant at Hill. Short-term exposure to TCE vapors during the first trimester of pregnancy may increase the risk of heart defects in babies, while long-term exposure may raise the risk of certain cancers.

1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA) is a similar solvent that was disposed of at a single location on-base and has impacted groundwater in parts of Layton. It is still used in manufacturing plastics, and is also believed to increase cancer risk.

For more health information on TCE and 1,2-DCA, visit: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs.

What are action levels?

Action levels are the concentrations at which the Air Force recommends steps to prevent chemical vapors from entering a home. These levels are based on health-risk data and have been reviewed and approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. They include multiple safety margins to protect even the most sensitive individuals.

Detections below the action level are not considered a significant health risk, so no immediate action is taken. However, the Air Force will offer follow-up testing the next year to ensure levels remain low. If a future test shows concentrations above the action level and vapor intrusion is confirmed, a mitigation system will be offered at no cost to the resident.

Can detections be a result of something other than vapor intrusion?

Some household products can contain TCE or 1,2-DCA—the two chemicals of concern associated with Hill AFB's Indoor Air Sampling Program. If present in the home, these chemicals may be detected during sampling.



HAPSITE

If a detection exceeds the action level, the sampling team will follow up to determine whether the source is inside the home. A specialized device called a HAPSITE is used to “sniff out” products or objects that could be the source of vapors.

Common indoor sources of TCE include degreasers, brake cleaners, electric-motor solvents, gun cleaners, and certain adhesives. 1,2-DCA can be found in items such as molded plastic figurines, home decor, and holiday ornaments.

If an indoor source is suspected as the cause of a detection, the item is removed and the home is retested. Depending on the results, further testing may be needed to confirm vapor intrusion is occurring.

For more information and examples of household items that could cause a detection, visit the Hill AFB Indoor Air Sampling Program website at: www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP.

Mitigation options

If vapor intrusion above an action level is confirmed in a home, the Air Force has several options available to reduce the vapor levels to below action levels. The most common option is to install a system that captures vapors from beneath the home before they can enter. Mitigation actions are done at no cost to the homeowner.

Regulatory Points of Contact

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8:

Julie Kinsey 303-312-7065 or kinsey.julie@epa.gov

Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality:

Kaleb VanArsdale 385-391-5925 or kvanarsdale@utah.gov
Dave Allison 385-391-8143 or dallison@utah.gov

Understanding Sewer Gas Vapor Intrusion in South Weber



August 2026

The Air Force has determined that the active measures taken to reduce chemical vapors within the sewer system have been effective in preventing those vapors from entering homes in South Weber.

Earlier investigations revealed that chemical vapors inside a few South Weber homes originated from the discharge of treated groundwater from Hill AFB into the Central Weber Sewer Improvement District (CWSID) system. Vapors accumulated in the sewer pipes and migrated into some homes located downstream of the base's connection point. However, the most recent round of indoor air testing showed concentrations of Hill AFB-related contaminants below action levels in these homes.

These action levels were developed as part of Hill AFB's Indoor Air Sampling Program and represent the lowest concentration at which the Air Force would take steps to protect residents from potential health effects associated with sewer gas chemicals.

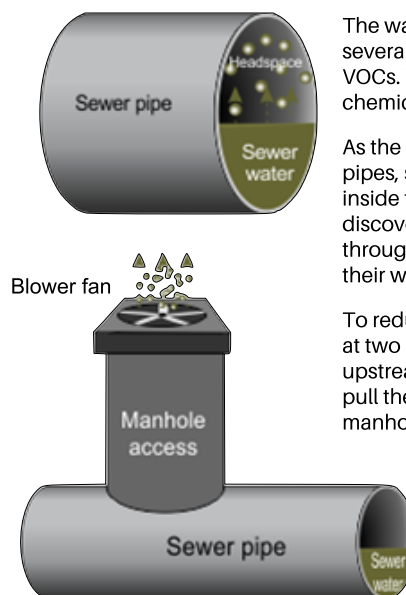
Background

Since 2003, the Air Force has conducted annual indoor air sampling in South Weber as part of its long-running monitoring program. During this work, a small number of homes were found to have chemical vapor concentrations above action levels. In these cases—and in similar situations around the base—the Air Force installed Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Systems (VIMS). These systems are designed to remove vapors from beneath the home's foundation before they can enter the living space. More than 125 of these systems have been installed in homes around the base with great success at preventing vapors from entering homes.

In some South Weber homes, however, vapor detections persisted even after VIMS were installed—an unusual outcome. These detections were the first indicator that vapors in the homes might not be coming from beneath the home and pointed to an inside source.

To locate the source, the Air Force used specialized air sampling equipment that can detect vapors at specific locations throughout a home. If household items are releasing chemical vapors, this equipment can identify them. When identified, these items—often glues, engine degreasers, gun cleaners, solvents, or molded plastic materials—are removed and the home is retested.

How Vapors from the Sewer Get Into Homes



The water Hill AFB discharges into the sewer contains several chemicals called volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. Volatile doesn't mean explosive—it means these chemicals easily evaporate when exposed to air.

As the treated water flows and churns through the sewer pipes, some of the VOCs evaporate into the empty space inside the pipe—called the headspace. The Air Force discovered that these chemical vapors were traveling through the sewer system and, in some cases, making their way into homes through the plumbing.

To reduce this risk, the Air Force installed ventilation fans at two manholes along Hill's sewer connection, just upstream of where it joins the main sewer line. These fans pull the vapors from the headspace up through the manhole and release them into the air aboveground, where they quickly disperse to harmless levels or break down in sunlight.

Testing has shown that the fans are working effectively to remove vapors from inside the pipes and prevent them from entering homes.

Illustrations are conceptual and not to scale.

In South Weber, however, tests pointed not only to specific objects but also to locations connected to the home's sewer system, such as drains. This finding prompted further investigation.

The Air Force discovered that the affected homes were all connected to the same sewer line, which ties into the CWSID's main line. This is the same system that receives treated water from Hill AFB's on-base groundwater treatment systems, under a permit with CWSID.

As this treated water moves through the pipe, some chemicals can evaporate into the air space within the sewer. These vapors can then travel into connecting lines and reach residential plumbing systems.

While building codes require protective features like P-traps and vent pipes to block sewer gases, these features may not be completely effective at stopping all vapors—especially at concentrations too low for the human nose to detect. However, air sampling equipment used by the Air Force can detect chemicals at extremely low levels, down to parts per billion. (For reference, one part per billion is equivalent to one drop of water in an Olympic-sized pool.) *(Continued...)*

Points of Contact

Hill AFB Indoor Air Sampling Program Manager:

Julie McNeill 801-586-2194
or julie.mcneill.1@us.af.mil

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8:

Julie Kinsey 303-312-7065 or kinsey.julie@epa.gov

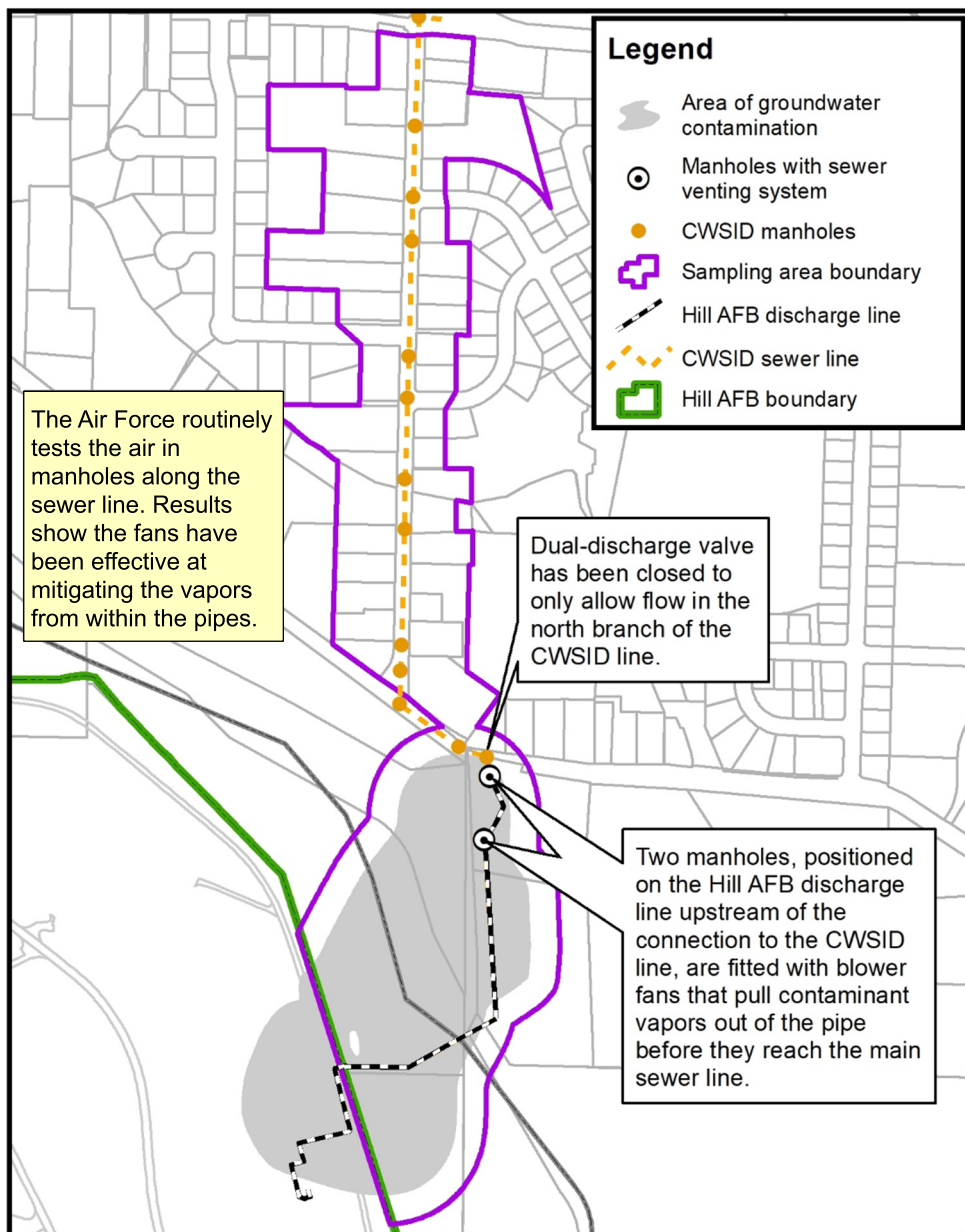
Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality:

Kaleb VanArsdale 385-391-5925 or kvanarsdale@utah.gov
Dave Allison 385-391-8143 or dallison@utah.gov

Understanding Sewer Gas Vapor Intrusion in South Weber (cont.)

To address the issue, Hill AFB engineers determined that the best solution was to capture vapors within the sewer pipes before they could enter the main CWSID line. To do this, two venting fans were installed at manholes located upstream of the Hill AFB connection point. These fans pull chemical vapors from the sewer lines and release them into the atmosphere, where they quickly disperse or break down in sunlight. (See the graphic on the front page.)

The Air Force will continue monitoring homes along 475 East to ensure the blower fans remain effective and to confirm that chemical vapor levels in indoor air stay well below action levels.



More Information Available Online:
www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP

NOW AVAILABLE:

Resident-Placed Sampling

The Air Force is happy to offer a resident-placed sampling option, providing you with added comfort & peace of mind.

Zero Intrusion: Our sampling technician won't step foot inside your home. Enjoy a contactless experience!

Simple & Secure: The sampling device will be hand-delivered to your door, along with easy-to-follow instructions.

How to Opt In: Indicate resident-placed sampling when signing up for sampling.

Experience hassle-free sampling today!

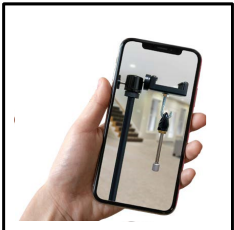
Enjoy the convenience while ensuring the Air Force continues their commitment to your safety & well-being.



Select the resident-placed sampling option today!



With the Resident-Placed Sampling Option, YOU'RE IN CONTROL



Source: Beacon Environmental

Resident-Placed Sampling Process

- At the appointed time, a sampling technician will deliver the sample equipment, provide instructions, & answer your questions.
- The sampling device should be placed in the lowest liveable space in the home, typically the basement, in a location that will be out of the way.
- The sampling device will need to remain in place for 24- to 26- days. Once in place, we ask that you do not touch or move the device.
- You will be asked to take a photo of the sampling device after placement in your selected location. You may e-mail or text the photo to the sampling technician.
- On the last day of sampling, the technician will arrive at a scheduled time to pick up the sampling device to send it to the lab for analysis.
- Rest assured that your sample will be handled with care, providing accurate & reliable data.

More information about Hill AFB's Indoor Air Sampling Program, including more details about the resident-placed sampling option, visit www.hill.af.mil/Home/Environmental/IAP.

