

# Abatix Technical Questions And Answers

**Q1. What does a dehumidifier do?**

**ANS:**

Simply, it removes moisture from the air, floor, walls, or any materials in the room including your personal belongings by drawing air into the dehumidifier with its fan and cooling it so it can release the moisture in the form of water droplets.

**Q2. What is a low temperature dehumidifier?**

**ANS:**

It is designed to be able to operate at temperatures below 65 degrees. If the temperature drops below 65 degrees, the water can freeze on the evaporator coils in the dehumidifier at which continued build-up of ice could result in an interference with the air-flow and possibly fan motor burnout.

A low temperature dehumidifier will prevent ice build-up by using an intermittent defrost cycle, which will shut the compressor off when the coils become too cold. Once the coils warm up a bit the compressor can come on to resume dehumidifying.

**Q3. What are air scrubbers?**

**ANS:**

An air scrubber is a portable filtration system that removes particles, gasses, and/or chemicals from the air within a given area. These machines draw air in from the surrounding environment and pass it through a series of filters to remove contaminants.

The size and complexity of an air scrubber system will depend on the size of the space being serviced, as well as the range, type, and size of contaminants that must be removed from the area.

**Q4. What is the difference between negative air machine and air scrubber?**

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## **ANS:**

The terms air scrubber and negative air machine are often used interchangeably; however, the two terms refer to different applications.

An air scrubber stands alone in the center of a room with no ducting attached. The air is filtered and recirculated, greatly improving the general air quality. An air scrubber can be used as a negative air machine, but it requires ducting, a sealed housing, precise airflow adjustment, and a variable speed blower motor.

A negative air machine uses ducting to remove contaminated air from a sealed containment area. The filtered air is exhausted outside of the containment area. This creates negative air pressure (a vacuum effect), which helps limit the spread of contaminants to other areas inside the structure.

## **Q5. Whats the difference between negative and positive air scrubbing?**

## **ANS:**

Most often, contractors will use ducting and an air scrubber to create a negative pressure environment that will contain the hazardous particles within a workspace. Air will always flow from high pressure to low pressure. So, creating and maintaining a negative pressure environment will create a constant inward flow towards the air scrubber, preventing airborne contaminants and odors from escaping the workspace through any leaks or openings.

Positive air scrubbing techniques are used less often, but do have their place. In some situations, it may be necessary to protect an area from contamination. This is achieved by placing the air scrubber outside the work area and using a duct to direct the scrubbed air inside the desired location. This positively pressurizes the area with scrubbed air and prevents contaminated air from entering.

## **Q6. What are Germicides?**

## **ANS:**

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A germicide is any type of products or agents that are designed to kill and destroy germs and bacteria on the surface of different things.

**Q7. What are the best examples of germicides?**

**ANS:**

1. Chlorhexidine
2. Alcohols
3. Hydrogen peroxide
4. Detergents and soaps
5. Heavy metals
6. Aldehydes
7. Gases
8. Dyes

**Q8. What are flame retardants?**

**ANS:**

Flame retardants are a key component in reducing the devastating impact of fires on people, property and the environment. They are added to or treat potentially flammable materials, including textiles and plastics. The term flame retardant refers to a function, not a family of chemicals. A variety of different chemicals, with different properties and structures, act as flame retardants and these chemicals are often combined for effectiveness.

**Q9. What are the most common elements in flame retardants?**

**ANS:**

Bromine, phosphorus, nitrogen and chlorine are commonly used in flame retardants. Inorganic compounds are also used in flame retardants, either alone or as part of a

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flame retardant system in conjunction with bromine, phosphorus or nitrogen. It is important to note that flame retardants are not readily interchangeable.

**Q10. What is Lead Paint Abatement?**

**ANS:**

Lead paint abatement is the process of safely reducing lead paint hazards. Lead paint abatement can be very dangerous if done improperly.

**Q11. What are the Lead Abatement Methods?**

**ANS:**

The options for lead abatement methods include:

- 1. Enclosure:** This can be the easiest of all methods. The lead paint is covered with a wall covering. This is typically done for large surfaces such as walls.
- 2. Replacement:** This method involves completely removing the door, window or molding that is covered in lead paint and replacing it with a new one.
- 3. Paint Removal:** This method involves completely removing lead paint. This will create lead dust and should be performed by a certified professional.
- 4. Encapsulation:** This method not only covers but seals the affected area with a specific coating. This is less expensive but cannot be used on all surfaces.