

# THE UNIQUE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CHRONIC CHEMICALLY INJURED

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A Chronic Chemically Injured person's unique requirements are many. In a nutshell, they require as pure as possible environment in which to live, work, socialize, etc. Food, water and air must be as free as possible from toxic chemical contamination.

As a person increasingly has toxic reactions to more and more things, like scented products and household and industrial cleansers, they increasingly begin to avoid going to places or doing things, where they will encounter products that will make them ill. Their lifestyle must change in order to reduce their symptoms and toxic reactions. Consequently, their life becomes more and more restricted and isolated.

Activities such as, employment, social events, church or community involvement, shopping (even grocery shopping), in-person banking, and so on becomes increasingly very difficult for them and sometimes impossible to accomplish. Their toxic chemical intolerance will also impact their possessions. If they can no longer tolerate synthetics, they may require a whole different wardrobe. As they react to the toxic chemicals in the furniture that they now possess, they may require a complete change of household furniture.

On top of all these changes, there is the huge impact on their relationships with family, relatives, friends, neighbours, co-workers, and others. Not only must a Chronic Chemically Injured person change the personal care products and laundry products that they use; but everyone living in their home must also make the same changes. This is also true for anyone having any kind of close contact with the Chronic Chemically Injured individual. Everyone around them needs to adapt and ensure that they have no scent, fragrance or any other odour on their hair, skin or clothes, in order to prevent the Chronic Chemically Injured person from having toxic reactions.

However, the greatest challenge for all Chronic Chemically Injured people is usually housing, as they require low-toxicity housing for any degree of recovery of their health, and for preventing their health from deteriorating even further. Also, it is a mandatory medical requirement for the very survival of those who are severely affected.

In a low-toxicity home, all building materials must be as non-toxic as possible. The usual housing building materials are typically taboo, such as synthetic carpet, drywall, chipboard, particle board, plywood, and so on. Sadly, by the time a doctor tells them that they need a specialized low-toxicity house, they are already disabled. Therefore, their income is limited, and they often lack the financial resources to purchase a specialized house.

Since low-toxicity homes are a medical requirement for any degree of recovery of their health, and since these kind of homes are rare to find, many people are unable to succeed in meeting this medical need.

If they cannot tolerate the air quality in the home they have, and they can't find a specialized low-toxicity home to rent or buy (if they are able to purchase), they may become homeless nomads. Some people live in a vehicle they can tolerate or in a tent they can tolerate, or on someone's porch that they

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can tolerate. They often need to move from one outdoor location to another, trying to avoid outside air pollution in the ever changing outdoor air quality. In order to survive, some will choose to battle the elements of nature outside, in areas where the air is purer, instead of trying to survive in the continual exposures of indoor air pollution.

For Chronic Chemically Injured individuals, these lifestyle changes, wardrobe changes and possession changes are not of their own choosing. It is mandatory that they make these changes in order to increase their quality of life, and in some cases, in order to survive.

Life for the Chronic Chemically Injured is very difficult. They struggle to get their basic needs met in a way that won't involve having toxic chemical exposures, toxic reactions and setbacks in their health. They need, and crave, help and support from others, and to have their needs accommodated in all aspects of life.

Therefore, they deeply appreciate any help or support extended to them, as long as it is done in such a way as to prevent them from having toxic reactions. By accommodating them and helping them, you are demonstrating in a practical way that you put a value on their life, and that you care. Since support and accommodation is often rare, at this current time, any effort to accommodate them and help them is usually received with deep appreciation by the Chronic Chemically Injured.