

Influence of ventilation and room air movement on formation and growth of 1-20 nm particles via ozone-human chemistry

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Ozone reaction with human surfaces is an important source of ultrafine particles indoors. Our previous study (Yang et al., 2021) was the first to report nanocluster aerosol (NCA, sub-3 nm particles) formation via ozone reaction with humans. However, 1-20 nm particles generated from ozone-human chemistry, which mark the first step of particle formation and growth, remain understudied. Ventilation and indoor air movement could have important implications for these processes. Therefore, in a controlled-climate chamber occupied with human volunteers, we measured ultrafine particles initiated from ozone-human chemistry and their dependence on air change rate (ACR, 0.5 h⁻¹, 1.5 h⁻¹, and 3 h⁻¹) and operation of mixing fans (on and off). Concurrently, we measured volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and explored the correlation between particles and gas-phase products. At 25-30 ppb ozone levels, humans generated 0.2-7.7×10¹² of 1-3 nm, 0-7.2×10¹² of 3-10 nm, and 0-1.3×10¹² of 10-20 nm particles per person-hour depending on ACR and mixing fan operation. Size-dependent particle growth and formation rates increased with higher ACR. The operation of mixing fans suppressed the particle formation and growth owing to enhanced surface deposition of newly-formed particles and their precursors. Correlation analyses revealed complex interactions between particles and VOCs initiated from ozone-human chemistry. The results imply that ventilation and indoor air movement may have a more significant influence on particle dynamics and fate relative to indoor chemistry.

[1] Yang S, Licina D, Weschler CJ, Wang N, Zannoni N, Li M, Vanhanen J, Langer S, Wargocki P, Williams J, Bekö G. *Environmental Science & Technology*, **2021**, 55(21):14536-45.