# THE SCIENCE OF AIR FRESHENERS

The average person has five senses, and each one is vitally important. However, we tend to underestimate one: smell. However, this is the one sense that can make us incredibly uncomfortable and irritable, can make us turn against one another in an endless search for the culprit. When something smells bad in your house, you’re not happy. Someone did something that released a foul odour, and you really wished they didn’t. But no matter who dragged their hockey bag through the kitchen or whichever dog had an accident on the carpet or even if someone *tried* to cook, it’s not their fault – it’s the little molecules that hang around.

Odour is the result of neutrally charged molecules that hang around and don’t do anything. When something smells bad, the first instinct is to make it smell better, and the easiest way to do that is use an air freshener. A lot of people believe that aerosol fresheners just mask the smell instead of getting rid of it, but there’s actually a lot of science that goes into that little can. When you spray some Febreze around your house, the freshener molecules get to work. These molecules contain plates with a positive and a negative charge. Because of static electricity, we know that objects without a charge will be attracted to those with a charge, so when the air freshener comes close to the odour molecules, the odour molecules attach themselves to the air freshener molecules. The air freshener molecule then charges the molecule, so it sticks to one of the plates and disables the smell. This then lets the air freshener molecule release its own sweet-smelling scent.

There are many types of air fresheners, though. Many plug-in fresheners transform the odour molecule into water upon impact, and fabric refreshers reduce the objects pH level to barely anything. However, aerosol fresheners exemplify static electricity very well. Air freshener molecules attract the odour via induction, according to the third rule of static electricity: charged objects attract neutral objects. When the odour molecules comes close enough to the air freshener, the air freshener charges the molecules with an exchange of electrons, an example of conduction. Air fresheners don’t simply mask the smell – they actually change it. When you spray an aerosol can, it may seem like you’re releasing chemical scent, but you’re actually sending out molecules that police the area for nasty scents. Many people will say to just wash whatever smells bad, but sometimes, that is not the case. It takes a while to wash a carpet, and even if that disgusting garbage bag isn’t in the house anymore, that stink lingers.

After doing my research, I believe that air freshener is not useful at all. They just make a smell and can toxic you while you are pregnant, if you drink it, and you put it on one of your part of your face. It will not make a big difference without this product. The trees fresh the air and we don’t need things that can toxic ate you. As a result, this product is not that useful object to use.

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