
**NEW BOOKS**

The odour of new books is contributed to by a mix of volatile chemicals which originate from the adhesive, ink, and the paper treatment methods used in the book.

**ADHESIVES**

Modern day book binding adhesives are often based on ‘co-polymers’ such as that shown here. Some VOCs may originate from these compounds.

**PAPER & INK**

In the paper-making process, the paper is treated with a variety of chemicals, to achieve desired properties. Some of these chemicals could contribute to the release of VOCs. Additionally, petrochemicals used as solvents for inks can also contribute.

**OLD BOOKS**

Over time, the gradual breakdown of the cellulose & lignin contained in paper leads to the production of large numbers of different organic compounds.

**SELECTED COMPOUNDS & THEIR INDIVIDUAL ODOURS**

**BENZALDEHYDE**
Almond-like

**VANILLIN**
Vanilla-like

**ETHYL BENZENE & TOLUENE**
Sweet odours

**FURFURAL**
Almond-like

**IN SHORT:** No single chemical causes the odour of books. It’s a result of a complex mix of volatile chemicals produced by chemicals used in their manufacture, as well as the gradual degradation of the chemicals within the paper.