

# [ABOUT TOWN] TRAVELOGUE

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## > what you 'mite' inhale

There are more than 5,000 impure particles, including viruses and allergens, floating in the air around us. We could easily inhale them with every breath. That is, unless you are lucky enough to score an overnight in one of the HYATT REGENCY INNER HARBOR's 60 new hypoallergenic "Respire" rooms. (It'll put you at the center of the New Year's Eve action if you're staying overnight downtown.)

For an additional \$20 per night, these newly renovated rooms promise to be free of dust mites, which especially dwell and multiply in hotel room fabrics like bedding, carpeting and curtains. Hyatt's Respire rooms have built-in de-allergizing and purifying devices from Pure Solutions, an environment-purification company that guarantees to eliminate at least 98 percent of bacteria and viruses, and reduce the amount of undesirable air particles by half.

Once you're inside, you'll promptly notice that the air is fresher and lighter. The renovated ventilation system has been disinfected and treated with tea tree oil, which emits anti-microbial agents and eliminates the moisture that fosters mold. A separate FDA-approved, medical-grade air purifier is continually cleaning and refreshing the air.

The beds are dressed with specially treated dust-and mite-resistant encasements that are changed along with the bedding for each new guest. Then, all of the room's furnishings are treated with PureShield, a bacteriostatic barrier that repels mold and bacteria, preventing contaminants from attaching themselves to anything. The room and its systems are inspected and retreated every six months.

The result? You can rest assured that every breath you take is healthful. You'll particularly feel the difference when you enter the room from the hallway, where the air is perceptibly denser.

Respire rooms have sold out since they were launched in October. Yet two things occur to me that should probably be addressed: Guests aren't instructed to remove their shoes and put on sterilized "spa" slippers upon entering the room. And, just like the standard guest rooms, there is a "throw" at the bottom of each bed, which is not changed between guests. Still, I'm happy to have an alternative to a regular hotel room.

A handful of other hotels are offering hypoallergenic rooms, but Hyatt is the first chain committed to offering them in *each* of its full-service North American locations. To book Respire by Hyatt rooms, visit [respire.hyatt.com](http://respire.hyatt.com). To find other hypoallergenic lodging, visit [pureroom.com](http://pureroom.com).

