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There are three major types of environment.

* The physical environment
* The biological environment
* The social environment

The physical environment

A physical environment can be described as anything we can physically experience through our senses—touch, smell, sight, hearing, and/or taste. The physical environment includes both the natural environment and the human-made environment. For example, the physical environment of a house can include the human-made structures such as the walls, the pipes, and the appliances, as well as the natural environment, such as the air circulating in the house, the water flowing through the pipes, and the trees, plants, and animals that exist in the yard.

One's physical environment is one's surroundings. This is true whether or not there are any people around. Water, land formations, minerals, air, and vegetation are examples of natural physical surroundings. Infrastructure and buildings are examples of human-made physical environmental structures.

The biological environment

This is defined as the natural biological factors (such as wild animals and plants or bacteria) that affect human life (as in a particular place or period). The biological components of the environment are the living organisms, such as animals, plants, bacteria, fungus, etc. These are often referred to as biotic factors.

The social environment

The social environment refers to the immediate physical and social setting in which people live or in which something happens or develops. It includes the culture that the individual was educated or lives in, and the people and institutions with whom they interact. Examples are customs, culture and beliefs, habits, income, occupation and religious practices.