

Protecting workers who use cleaning chemicals

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How does OSHA do things?

- Call from a worker
- Questions, such as
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?
 - Training – in a manner and language the worker can understand?
- Signed complaint – by worker OR by employee representative
 - Family, Union, Lawyer, Doctor



Inspection

- Health and Safety plans
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Hazard Communication
 - Training records
 - MSDS's, Labels
- OSHA 300 Logs
- Walk – through
- Employee Interviews



What can OSHA cite?

- 1910.1200 Hazard Communication
- 1910.132 Personal Protective Equipment
- 1910.134 Respiratory Protection
- PEL's – Permissible Exposure Limits
- 5A1 – General Duty Clause
 - Employer failed to keep workplace free of hazard
 - Hazard was recognized
 - Hazard causing or likely to cause serious harm
 - There are feasible methods to correct hazard



Citations - IMIS

- “Chemicals”
- “Cleaning”
 - University, corrosive floor cleaner
- “Cleaning chemicals” – 2
 - Thermal burns cleaning cheese cooker
 - Laundry, dry cleaning chemicals
- “Healthcare” – none related to cleaning chemicals
- “Asthma” – none related to cleaning chemicals



Why?

- Regulation
 - Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL's) too high or ineffective
 - Can't regulate everything
 - Need for Injury and Illness Prevention Program standard
- Enforcement
 - Compliance Officers need better training on hazards of cleaning chemicals
 - Workers need better training on hazards and their rights



New Hazard Communication Standard



- Irritant (skin, eye)
- Skin Sensitizer
- Acute Toxicity
- Narcotic Effects
- Respiratory Tract Irritant
- Carcinogen
- Mutagenicity
- Reproductive Toxicity
- Respiratory Sensitizer
- Target Organ Toxicity
- Aspiration Toxicity



Susan Harwood Grants

- 2011: 3 targeted janitorial and housekeeping workers; 8 healthcare
- 2012: 1 targeted janitorial and housekeeping workers, 9 healthcare, 2 hazcom, 1 I2P2

OSHA NIOSH Collaboration

OSHA·NIOSH INFOSHEET

Protecting Workers Who Use Cleaning Chemicals

Workplaces, such as schools, hospitals, hotels, restaurants and manufacturing plants, use cleaning chemicals to ensure the cleanliness of their buildings. Workers who handle these products include building maintenance workers, janitors and housekeepers. Some cleaning chemicals can be hazardous, causing problems ranging from skin rashes and burns to coughing and asthma. Many employers are switching to green cleaning products because they are thought to be less hazardous to workers and the environment. This INFOSHEET provides information to employers on practices to help keep workers safe when working with cleaning chemicals, including green cleaning products.

Potential Health Problems Caused by Cleaning Chemicals

Many factors influence whether a cleaning chemical will cause health problems. Some important factors to consider include:

- Chemical ingredients of the cleaning product;
- How the cleaning product is being used or stored;
- Ventilation in the area where the cleaning product is used;
- Whether there are splashes and spills;
- Whether the cleaning product comes in contact with the skin; and
- Whether mists, vapors and/or gases are released.

Chemicals in some cleaning products can be irritating to the skin or can cause rashes. Cleaning products that contain corrosive chemicals can cause severe burns if splashed on the skin or in the eyes.

Mists, vapors and/or gases from cleaning chemicals can irritate the eyes, nose, throat and lungs. Symptoms may include burning eyes, sore throat, coughing, trouble breathing and wheezing. Chemicals in some cleaning products can cause asthma or trigger asthma attacks. Some cleaning products contain hazardous chemicals that can enter the body through skin contact or from breathing gases into the lungs. Mixing cleaning products that contain bleach and ammonia can

Cleaners remove dirt through wiping, scrubbing or mopping.

Sanitizers contain chemicals that reduce, but do not necessarily eliminate, microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses and molds from surfaces. Public health codes may require cleaning with the use of sanitizers in certain areas, like toilets and food preparation areas.

Disinfectants contain chemicals that destroy or inactivate microorganisms that cause infections. Disinfectants are critical for infection control in hospitals and other healthcare settings.

Cleaners, sanitizers and disinfectants serve different purposes, and it is important to choose the least hazardous cleaning chemical that will accomplish the task at hand. Before purchasing cleaning products, determine whether or not sanitizing or disinfecting is necessary. If sanitizing or disinfecting is not required, then choose a cleaner. In general, disinfectants and sanitizers are more hazardous than cleaners.

If sanitizing or disinfecting is necessary, be sure that the product purchased is effective for the microorganisms being targeted. EPA regulates sanitizers and disinfectants (named "antimicrobial pesticides") and is a useful resource. For further information, see EPA's webpage "What Are Antimicrobial Pesticides?" (http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/ad_info.htm).

Choosing Safer Cleaning Chemicals

- NORA Service Sector, Building services subsector product.
- Choosing safer cleaners
- Green cleaners
- Safe work practices
- Worker training
- Alternatives
- Resources



Posters in 4 languages

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a maroon shirt, smiling at the camera. She is positioned in the upper left corner of the page, which is part of a larger collage. The collage includes other images related to workplace safety, such as a person in a white lab coat holding a clipboard, a blue circular logo with a stylized bird or flame, and the NIOSH logo.

Protéjase:

Los productos químicos de limpieza y su salud

Trabajar con productos químicos de limpieza puede causar:

- Tos
- Sibilancias
- Asma
- Párpados en la piel
- Sarpullidos en la piel y los ojos
- Falta de aire / falta de aliento
- Dolor de garganta
- Dolores de cabeza o mareos
- Sangrado por la nariz
- Enrojecimiento y picazón en los ojos

Si usted tiene problemas de salud y cree que son causados por usar productos químicos de limpieza, digale a su supervisor y pida ver a un médico.

Lo que debe saber

No mezcle productos de limpieza que contengan cloro/lejía y amoniaco. Esta mezcla puede peligrosos y causar daños graves a los pulmones.

Su empleador debe brindar un lugar de trabajo seguro que incluya:

- Ventilación adecuada (flujo de aire) al usar productos químicos de limpieza.
- Ropa de protección, guantes y gafas de seguridad para su protección, si son necesarias.
- Etiquetas en los recipientes que contengan productos químicos de limpieza.
- Capacitación sobre los riesgos de los productos químicos de limpieza que usted usa y las medidas de protección.

Su empleador lo debe capacitar para:

- Saber cuáles son los riesgos de los productos químicos de limpieza ANTES de usarlos.
- Saber cómo usar y almacenar en forma segura los productos químicos de limpieza.
- Saber cómo y cuándo diluir los productos químicos de limpieza que usa.
- Saber qué hacer si ocurre algún derrame u otra emergencia.
- Saber cómo y cuándo usar ropa de protección, guantes y gafas de seguridad para protegerse.
- Saber cómo obtener y usar la información de peligros en las etiquetas y hojas de datos de los materiales (MSDS).

Recuerde

- Lávese las manos después de usar productos químicos de limpieza y antes de comer, beber o fumar.

Productos de limpieza ecológicos

¿Los productos de limpieza ecológicos cumplen eficazmente?

- Muchos han cumplido con los rendimientos para su uso.
- Además, muchos limpian eficazmente sin fragancia, pero limpian eficazmente sin olor.

Consejo de seguridad

- Puede que necesite usar ropa, guantes o gafas de seguridad para su protección. Algunos limpiaadores ecológicos certificados. Pregúntele a su empleador.

Este documento no constituye una norma o regulación de OSHA, pero contiene recomendaciones que se aplican a los trabajadores y trabajadoras para contar con un lugar de trabajo seguro y saludable. La mención de cualquier grupo o entidad en este documento no constituye un respaldo de NIOSH o OSHA a esa organización ni a sus productos o servicios.






















































































































































































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David Michaels, PhD, MPH
February 22, 2013

“We must develop new ways to approach the problem of workplace exposures to hazardous substances, both from the enforcement and standard-setting perspectives, and we look to occupational safety and health professionals as well as stakeholders for their thoughts on how to best accomplish this.”





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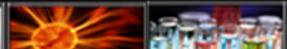
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back to **SAFETY AND HEALTH TOPICS**



What is healthcare?

Healthcare is involved, directly or indirectly, with the provision of health services to individuals. These services can occur in a variety of work settings, including hospitals, clinics, dental offices, out-patient surgery centers, birthing centers, emergency medical care, home healthcare, and nursing homes.

Related Industries:

Dentistry

Home Healthcare

Laboratories

Nursing Homes and Personal Care

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/healthcarefacilities/index.html>





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The mission of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is to assure safe and healthy working conditions for working men and women by developing, setting and enforcing standards and by providing outreach, education, training and compliance assistance. Under the law, employers have the responsibility to provide a safe workplace.

Physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other health care professionals often encounter work-related health and safety questions as they care for their patients. This web page provides information, resources and links to help clinicians navigate OSHA's web site and aid clinicians in caring for workers.

If you are new to occupational health, sections of this page address important ethical, regulatory and clinical issues you will encounter. You can also use OSHA's [A-Z Index](#) or search engine (both at the top of all pages) to find information on specific hazardous exposures, specific occupations, specific industries, along with other occupational health topics. A number of useful links are listed under Resources below.

Occupational Health Practice

For clinicians establishing or working in an occupational health practice, many protocols and procedures will depend on the practice situation (i.e. freestanding clinic, corporate clinic, large clinic network) and on the industry or industries being served. However, the following are important considerations for any clinician providing occupational health services:



Local intranet | Protected Mode: Off

<http://www.osha.gov/dts/oom/clinicians/index.html>

