

Managing Chemicals in Schools

Hazardous chemicals can be found in many different areas and materials throughout school buildings.

Use Cleaner, Greener Chemicals and Products

- Adopt a “Green Chemistry” approach to minimize the use of hazardous chemicals and increase awareness of sustainability practices
- For resources on green chemistry in science classrooms, visit www.beyondbenign.org
- For additional resources on approved products and how to build a greener, healthier school environment, use the link at the bottom of this page

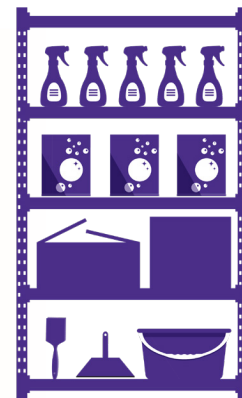


Perform a Chemical Inventory

- Identify all storage locations such as science labs, art rooms, vocational workshops, custodial closets, maintenance rooms, groundskeeping sheds, bus garages, and storage rooms. Also check the nurse’s office, other offices, classrooms, and cafeteria/kitchens.
- List all chemicals, their quantities, and expiration dates
- Complete a chemical inventory using the template on the back of this page

Chemical Cleanout, Organization, and Storage

- Dispose of outdated and unused chemicals properly, either through a hazardous waste contractor or your local municipality
- Organize remaining chemicals using the **Flinn method**, by organic and inorganic and compatible families, **or** using the **Color-coding method**, which assigns a color to each hazard classification (i.e., blue = health hazard; red = flammable)
- For more information on proper chemical storage, management, and disposal, visit www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/schoolchemmgt.pdf



Manage Chemicals

- Ensure the school has up-to-date safety data sheets (SDSs) for all chemical products
- Develop and maintain a Chemical Management System, a framework to address chemical spills, conduct cleanouts, and other ways to manage chemical hazards

Health Effects of Chemicals

- Chemicals can worsen student and staff health symptoms and conditions
- Chemical products used in schools can contain ingredients that are corrosive, toxic, irritants/sensitizers, that worsen asthma, or disrupt hormones



New York State School Environmental Health Program
www.health.ny.gov/SchoolEnviroHealth



