# **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



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## **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- Dispose of outdated and unused chemicals properly, either through a hazardous waste contractor or your local municipality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, <u>or</u> 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





Department of Health
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www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials\_minerals\_pdf/schoolchemmgt.pdf

There are two chemical storage systems listed in the table. Only one system should be used as your preference.

Chemical Inventory Worksheet Template		Storage Room No.		rage *	Hazards Classification <sup>5</sup> Page 3 Comments or Comments								
	Date		lon	Chemical Storage Per Flinn**	Storage Code Page 2 GHS Chemical								
			MSDS <sup>1</sup> /SDS <sup>2,3</sup> Location	Color Coding <sup>4</sup> Chemical Storage*	Color								
			MSDS <sup>1</sup> /S	Color ( Chemica	Location								
				rer	Manufacturer								
				Container Type									
	I	ł	I	tun	finuomA IstoT								
		Contact Name		tainers	Number of Containers								
					Expiration Date (Per Label)								
					Receipt Date								
	School Name		Phone Number		Chemical Name								
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