



How to Safely Handle Chemicals and Disinfectants

Proper cleaning is essential to healthy learning communities.



Use appropriate safety gear.

Stock gloves, safety glasses, and, for certain applications, respirators.



Mix concentrates carefully.

Start with water first. The amount of chemical used for cleaning and sanitizing will change depending on the surface – countertops vs. floors.



Read product labels carefully.

Make sure you are stocking safe cleaning products.

WARNING labels mean proceed with caution.

DANGER labels mean only use if properly trained.



Disinfect in the evening.

Disinfecting in the evening (after hours) ensures germ-killing “contact” time and prevents exposure to any skin, eye, or airway irritants for children and adults.



Never mix products.

Especially avoid mixing ammonia, acids, or bleach. Such mixtures create toxic gases that can cause serious injury.



Dispose of chemicals safely.

Diluted disinfectant should be disposed of properly per manufacturer and regulatory guidelines. Consult the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for management of hazardous waste.



Ensure proper ventilation.

Turn on a room fan and open windows and doors to allow fresh air to enter.



Dispose or disinfect PPE safely.

Use a designated, lined trash receptacle and remove in the same way as other school garbage. Eye protection should be cleaned and disinfected following manufacturer's direction. Store safely.

See videos and learn more at: dhs.wi.gov/safekeeping



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

Learn more. Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health
dhs.wi.gov/safekeeping.htm P-03217 (03/2022)