

## Hazard communication in ECE workplaces



Some chemicals used in ECE can cause:

- ◆ Coughing
- ◆ Wheezing
- ◆ Red, itchy eyes
- ◆ Skin rashes
- ◆ Skin and eye burns
- ◆ Reproductive harm
- ◆ Eye damage
- ◆ Shortness of breath
- ◆ Sore throat
- ◆ Headaches or dizziness
- ◆ Nosebleeds
- ◆ Asthma
- ◆ Cancer
- ◆ Endocrine disruption

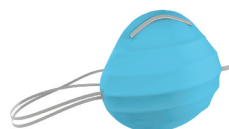
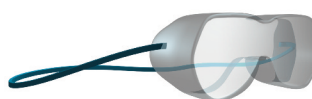
Examples of some products used in ECE that can cause some of these health problems are bleach, quaternary ammonium products, air fresheners and antibacterial soap containing triclosan.



### What you need to know

Your employer is required by law to provide a safe workplace that includes:

- ◆ A written Hazard Communication Program.
- ◆ Identifying and maintaining a list of all hazardous chemicals used in the workplace.
- ◆ Protective clothing, gloves, and safety goggles, when you need them.



- ◆ Labels on all containers of cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting chemicals.
- ◆ Training on the health and safety hazards of cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting chemicals you are using and safe work practices:
  - ◇ when you are hired, and
  - ◇ periodically thereafter, especially when new products are introduced in the workplace.

Your employer must provide training so you know:

- ◆ the health and physical hazards of cleaning chemicals BEFORE you use them.
- ◆ how to use and store cleaning chemicals safely.
- ◆ how and when to dilute cleaning chemicals you are using.

- ◆ how to label diluted products that you mix in a new bottle.
- ◆ what to do if there is a spill or other emergency.
- ◆ how to obtain and use hazard information on a product's label and in a product's Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
- ◆ how and when to use protective clothing, gloves, and safety goggles.

### Remember

Wash your hands after using cleaning chemicals and before eating, drinking, or smoking.

**Do not mix cleaning products that contain bleach and ammonia. Dangerous gases can be released and can cause severe lung damage.**



#### RESOURCES

OSHA, Hazard Communication Standard: Dec. 1st, 2013 Training Requirements for the Rev. Standard Fact <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3642.pdf>

OSHA, Hazard Communication Standard: Labels and Pictograms – Brief <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3636.pdf>

OSHA, Hazard Communication <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3084.pdf>

Green Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting: A Toolkit for Early Care and Education, Section 10: What is a Hazard Communication Program? <http://cerch.org/greencleaningtoolkit/>