

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

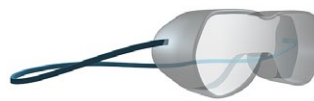
Examples of some products used in ECE that can cause some of these health problems are bleach, quaternary ammonium products, air fresheners, antibacterial soaps, and essential oils.



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, especially those that contain bleach, ammonia, or acids. 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

OSHA, Hazard Communication Standard: Labels and Pictograms – Brief

OSHA, Fact Sheet: Steps to an Effective Hazard Communication Program for Employers That Use Hazardous Chemicals

Green Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting: A Toolkit for Early Care and Education, Section 10: What is a Hazard Communication Program?