



## The Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign (SC3)

8<sup>th</sup> Annual IAQ  
Tools for Schools  
National Symposium  
December 7, 2007

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Question: What Do School Chemical Safety and Indoor Air Quality Have in Common?

**Answer: They are both essential to children's health, safety and performance!**

Other common features:

- Teachers, administrators, nurses, facilities staff and community partners all have roles to play.
- Problems areas exist everywhere from science classrooms to art departments and maintenance closets.
- Elementary, middle and high school students are at risk.
- Cooperation is necessary for long-term solutions.

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## The Problem

- We estimate a minimum of 33,000 middle and high schools across the country can benefit from a chemical management program, positively affecting 21 million middle and high school students nationwide.
- Chemical emergencies in schools occur across the nation. Children and staff are at risk.
- Cleaning up chemical spills is more costly than removing chemicals from schools and implementing preventive measures.
  - Cleaning up after a spill can cost more than a \$1 million and result in lost schools days.
  - Removals costs vary, averaging between \$2,000 and \$5,000 per school, unless there are radioactive or explosive chemicals, which increases the removal costs substantially.

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## Chemicals Found in Schools

Where Chemicals are Used	Where Chemicals are Found	Examples
Classrooms	Science laboratories	Picric acid, cyanide, formaldehyde
	Vocational classes	Oils, solvents, paints
	Art classes	Paints, solvents, rubber cement
Health Care	Nurse's office	Mercury, pharmaceuticals
Facility Maintenance	Custodial services	Floor strippers, high pH cleaning agents
	Transportation services	Oils, lubricants, antifreeze
	Grounds maintenance	Pesticides, gasoline

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## SC3 Goals

SC3 aims to protect children by:

- Removing inappropriate, outdated, unknown and unnecessary chemicals from K-12 schools;
- Preventing future chemical mismanagement issues in schools through training; curriculum change, and long-term management solutions; and
- Raising national awareness of chemical issues in schools and promoting sustainable solutions.

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## Direction of SC3

- State, local, and tribal governments have taken the lead on developing programs to address this issue.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), National Institutes of Health, and NIOSH are collaborating to address the issue at the national level.
- New partners from a variety of industry sectors (chemicals, insurance, waste handling), are committing to provide resources and/or services to schools to create healthier school environments. Partners include American Chemistry Council, North American Hazardous Materials Management Association, and EMC Insurance Companies, among others.
- **Over 100,000** pounds of chemicals safely removed and responsibly disposed, affecting **400,000** students.
- Hundreds of teachers trained on safe chemical management so future mismanagement can be avoided or reduced.
- New tools on laboratory safety, school chemical management policy, and building successful SC3 programs are available on the SC3 website ([www.epa.gov/sc3](http://www.epa.gov/sc3)).

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## Solutions for Chemical Management Challenges

### *What Schools Can Do*

- Plan and budget for chemical purchases, management and disposal.
- Establish a chemical management plan.
- Conduct periodic chemical inventories to identify hazards.
- Establish environmentally preferable purchasing practices.
- Use the smallest amount of the least hazardous chemicals possible.
- Offer hazardous chemical management and safety training for school staff.

Remember: Every school is unique! Build on existing healthy school environments programs. Find the solutions that fit your needs.

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## Solutions for Chemical Management Challenges

### *What Community Partners Can Do*

- Build on existing community relationships.
- Provide training for teachers and facility personnel.
- Incorporate chemical management into curriculum, business practices, and budget development.
- Provide technical assistance from inventory to purchase, storage and disposal.
- Measure progress by setting performance goals.

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## Schools and Community Partners Working Together

- **Chemical Suppliers**
  - Provide technical assistance
  - Provide chemical management services
- **Waste Handlers**
  - Offer cost-effective waste analysis and handling solutions
- **Fire, Police, and Emergency Response**
  - Learn about chemical risks in schools
  - Assist schools in developing emergency response plans
  - Establish effective communication
- **Colleges and Universities**
  - Help schools assess chemical cleanout, management and disposal issues
  - Offer courses and training in EHS for teachers and school district employees
- **Environment, Health, and Education Agencies**
  - Fund school chemical cleanout and prevention programs
  - Provide technical assistance to schools in conducting chemical inventories and cleanouts

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## For More Information

[www.epa.gov/SC3](http://www.epa.gov/SC3)

- Details on chemical management programs
- Outreach materials
- Information for school and community partners
- Links to helpful tools:
  - [Building Successful Programs to Address Chemical Risks in Schools: A Workbook with Templates, Tips, and Techniques](#)
  - [www.epa.gov/children](http://www.epa.gov/children)
  - [Laboratory Chemical Safety Manual](#)
  - [Chemical Management for Schools – Policy Considerations](#)

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## Contact Information

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