



Tackling Chemical Hazards in Schools Through Responsible Chemical Management

9th Annual Indoor Air
Quality Tools for Schools National Symposium
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Question: Why Should You Be Concerned about Responsible Chemical Management in Schools?

Answer: Students deserve healthy school environments in which to learn and grow!

- SC3 is one of many efforts aimed at protecting children's environmental health.
- It is part of EPA's healthy schools initiative, captured in HealthySEAT.
 - HealthySEAT provides a framework for schools to address and prioritize environmental health and safety issues.
 - Like indoor air quality, responsible chemical management is one element of this program.

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The Problem

- When handled responsibly, chemicals are useful educational tools. However, mismanaged chemicals can pose risks to students and staff.
- We estimate a minimum of 33,000 middle and high schools would benefit from a responsible chemical management program.
 - Would have a positive impact on 21 million students.
- **Cleaning up** emergency chemical spills is more costly than **removing** chemicals from schools and implementing preventative measures.
 - Cleaning up a spill can cost >\$1 million and result in lost school days.
 - Removal costs vary, generally averaging \$2,000 -- \$5,000 per school. (Radioactive or explosive chemicals substantially increase removal costs).

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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
	Custodial services	Floor strippers, high pH cleaning agents
Facility Maintenance	Transportation services	Oils, lubricants, antifreeze
	Grounds maintenance	Pesticides, gasoline

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The Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign (SC3)

- In August 2005, EPA Administrator Johnson gave the charge: establish a national program focusing on school chemical cleanout and chemical mismanagement prevention.
- On March 23, 2007, the National SC3 Program was officially launched.
- The purpose of SC3 is to reduce chemical exposures and improve chemical management in K-12 schools.

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The Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign (SC3), cont.

- SC3 is modeled on successful state, tribal and local chemical management programs.
- We're building a network of federal, state, industry, school, and community partners.
- Working together, we can give schools the tools they need to responsibly manage chemicals.

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SC3 Goals

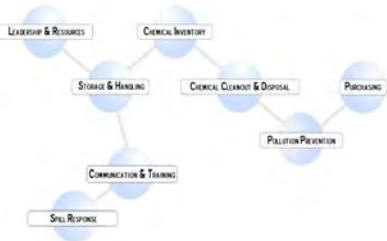
SC3 aims to protect children by:

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

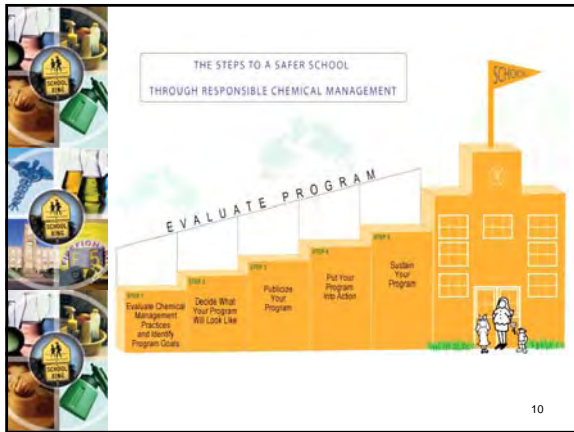
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Key Components for a Successful Chemical Management Program



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The Role of Schools

- **Every school is unique.**
 - Schools have many competing priorities.
 - Build your program incrementally as resources become available.
- **What Can You Do?**
 - Assemble a team within your school or district.
 - Organize and build support for a chemical management program.
 - Foster frequent and open communication.
 - Call on EPA regional or headquarters contacts.
 - Build partnerships with outside organizations.

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The Role of Partners

- Fund school chemical cleanout and prevention programs.
- Provide training for teachers and facility personnel.
- Help schools incorporate chemical management into curriculum, business practices, and budget development.
- Provide technical assistance from inventory to purchasing, storage and disposal.
- Assist schools in developing their chemical management plan.

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Helpful Guidance: The SC3 Workbook

- Available at www.epa.gov/sc3 under "SC3 Tool Kit."
- First released in October, 2007; updated in October, 2008.
- Is based on successful SC3 programs across the country.
- Contains advice, worksheets and templates.
- Content is adaptable to the particular needs of a school or school district.



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For More Information

www.epa.gov/SC3

- Details on chemical management programs.
- Outreach materials.
- Information for schools and partners.
- Links to helpful tools:
 - Environmental Compliance and Best Management Practices (Region 2).
 - Environmental Health and Safety in the Arts (Region 2).
 - Laboratory Chemical Safety Manual (CPSC and NIOSH).
 - Pollution Prevention Measures for Safer School Laboratories (Region 8 and Roche Colorado).

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