



Southwest Washington Workers'
Compensation Trust

Help Maintain Clean Air In Your Classroom

A clean, safe, comfortable, and healthy environment is important for teaching and learning. Many factors can affect the air in your classroom, such as the use of chemicals and perfumes, dust accumulations, and air flow.

Here are some ways you can help maintain clean air:

- Maintain an easily cleanable classroom. Reduce clutter and piles of dust-collecting objects. Put loose items and piles in containers that can be wet-wiped.
- Wet-wipe dusty surfaces weekly. Avoid using a feather duster.
- Do not bring chemicals, paints, or cleaners from home. Chemicals need to be stored properly and out of the reach of children, not under the classroom sink.
- Limit or avoid wearing perfume or perfumed products.
- Use dry erase markers with non-toxic ink and low odor.
- Avoid the use of spray adhesives, contact cement, and volatile paints. Use non-toxic water-based materials when possible.
- Do not use room deodorizers, air fresheners, plug-ins or candles.
- Remove items that cannot be properly and regularly cleaned, such as overstuffed furniture, pillows, and stuffed animals.
- Allow only vinyl covered stuffed chairs and sofas in classrooms.
- Do not hang items that collect dust like streamers or student projects.
- Learn where supply and return vents are located in your classroom. Don't block the room's air supply or exit grills or turn off ventilators.
- Notify maintenance if conditions are not right (too hot or cold) or you notice problems with the ventilation equipment.
- Report any water leaks or damp areas. Wet areas can harbor mold.
- Inform students about the importance of maintaining good indoor air quality at school and at home.

Are the supplies and materials in your classroom low odor? Do they harbor allergens or create dust? Can you use an odor free or dust free alternative?