



for Food Service

Know the Chemicals You Work With

You don't have to be working in an industrial setting to be harmed by chemicals. All chemicals have the potential to cause harm. Take the time to learn about the chemical products you work with. Remember these same principles apply to chemicals you and your family use at home!

- Soaps and detergents may cause allergic reactions and skin irritation.
- Broken skin may provide an avenue for infection or injury if exposed to chemical hazards.
- Drain cleaners, oven cleaners, and grill cleaners solutions and sprays can be caustic and cause skin burns and eye and skin irritations.
- Ammonia, used as a cleaning agent, and chlorine solutions, used as a disinfectant in dishwashing, can cause skin, eye, and nose irritations. **Caution:** Mixing chlorine and ammonia solutions will result in a chemical reaction and may release a toxic gas.
- Avoid latex gloves if you have been diagnosed with latex allergy.

Follow these suggestions to protect yourself when using cleaning chemicals:

- ✓ Use the least toxic cleaning products possible.
- ✓ Chemical products should only be used in the manner and for the purpose for which they were intended. Be sure not to mix chemicals unless specifically allowed by the "directions for use".
- ✓ Read the product label and follow instructions and recommendations listed on the label. For more detailed information for a product, obtain and read the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). If you do not understand the MSDS, ask your supervisor to go over it with you.
- ✓ Use personal protective equipment provided such as gloves, eye goggles, and aprons.
- ✓ Store chemicals according to the manufacturer's instructions. Chemicals should be in recommended containers, clearly marked and kept in designated, well-ventilated storage areas.
- ✓ Label secondary containers into which hazardous chemicals are transferred with the identity of the chemical and the appropriate hazard warning(s) that are found on the original product container.
- ✓ After removing gloves, wash your hands with mild soap and water, and dry thoroughly.

For further information about safe chemical use, go to your district's SafeSchools.com website and take the Hazard Communication and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) courses.