Sustainable e_2 Business

SLCgreen

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

TOOLKIT

Hazardous materials in the workplace take multiple forms. Sometimes the products and materials used in your business process, such as paints or aerosol hair products, contain Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) that can cause eye, nose or throat irritation. Conventional cleaning products often contain harmful chemicals that cause skin irritation, trigger respiratory problems, or cause serious bodily harm if ingested. Minimizing, or eliminating entirely, exposure to these potentially toxic substances is possible with the following actions:

Mitigating Exposure

When buying cleaning or other chemical products, find products with the Environmental Protection Agency's Safer Choice Label. These products have been thoroughly vetted for minimal toxic substances by the EPA.

Ensure that areas in which chemical substances are being used are well-ventilated with sources of moving fresh air (open window, ventilating fan, etc.)

When receiving new materials made from plastic, such as furniture, allow items to off-gas volatile organic compounds in an unoccupied area for several days.

Or make your own cleaning supplies.

Formulas for Non-Hazardous Cleaning Alternatives

All-Purpose Cleaner: combine and dissolve ½ cup vinegar, ¼ cup baking soda and ½ gallon water.

Disinfectant: combine and dissolve 4 tablespoons vinegar, 2 teaspoons borax, 3 cups hot water.

Window Cleaner: combine and dissolve 2 teaspoons of white vinegar, 2 liters warm water.

Drain Cleaner: deposit ½ cup of baking soda in drain, followed by ½ cup of vinegar, wait 15 minutes, and then flush drain with hot water.

Find more alternatives here: **http://eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_solutions.htm#substitutions**

SAFER CHOICE
Meets U.S. EPA Safer Product Standards
epa.gov/saferchoice

Benefits of Mitigating Hazardous Substances

Improves employee safety and health.

Minimizes adverse environmental impact from conventional cleaners.

Reduces airborne toxins, allergens, and carcinogens.