

Bleach Exposure in Child Care Settings: Strategies for Elimination or Reduction



Bleach use in child care

Child care settings use bleach in order to comply with California Child Care Licensing (CCL) requirements for sanitizing and disinfecting since bleach works in a reasonable amount of time for child care purposes and is cost-effective.



Spraying bleach frequently throughout the day is a risk factor for asthma. Exposure to bleach in the workplace has been linked with exacerbation of asthma and newly developed asthma.

Bleach exposure at work has also been associated with respiratory distress, allergic reactions, and skin burns due to the properties of bleach as an irritant and as corrosive.

Findings from our pilot project

Based on current practices, child care workers are over-exposed to bleach. Education is key to raise awareness of chemical products used in child care, to make more informed choices when purchasing, and to maintain safer practices.

We found bleach-free sanitizers and disinfectants that are safer for asthma and meet CCL requirements. We also found methods to reduce exposure to bleach.

Interested in eliminating bleach or reducing bleach exposure?

We provide training for child care workers on asthma, infection control, California CCL regulations, bleach-free sanitizers and disinfectants, and methods that allow for safer bleach use.



We also provide assistance to centers and providers who would like to transition to bleach-free sanitizers and disinfectants.

If you are interested in our training and recommendations, please contact:

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Referral Sheet

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Return by Mail: Children's Environmental Health Promotion, Environmental Health Section, San Francisco Department of Public Health, 1390 Market Street, Suite 410, San Francisco, CA 94102
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Date	
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Center/Provider	
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Name	
Address	

Primary Contact	
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Name	
Title	
Phone	
Email	

Center Information	
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Age Groups	<input type="checkbox"/> Infant <input type="checkbox"/> Toddler <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-School
# Classrooms	____ Infant ____ Toddler ____ Pre-School
# Teachers/Aides	
Primary Language of Staff	
Other Languages of Staff	

Referral Source	
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Organization Name	
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Reason for Request of Service	
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Potential Available Dates	
Reason for Request	
Main Interest	<input type="checkbox"/> Bleach-free Sanitizers and Disinfectants <input type="checkbox"/> Bleach Reduction
Other Interests	<input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> Infection Control <input type="checkbox"/> Toxics Reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing Other: