

CLASSROOM SAFETY

CHEMICALS

Children should not have access to any chemicals without supervision, proper training, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are required for all chemicals in a classroom.

Chemicals must have full labels and be stored according to their SDS.

EXTENSION CORDS

Only for temporary use and should be removed at the end of task or day. Cords cannot be run through openings (doors, holes, windows, etc.) Most are designed for low amps/watts. Check power levels for the cord and plug in item before use.

600 VOLT LIGHTS

Temporary lighting of 600v or less that plug into an outlet are not to be used more than 90 days out of a year, including but not limited to Christmas lights. Battery operated LED lights are an alternative as a long-term replacement.

SURGE PROTECTORS

Outlet expansions and power strips should always be surge protected and are typically designed for low amps/watts. Microwaves, fridges, and portable heaters must be plugged directly into a wall outlet.

PLUG IN ITEMS

All electrical plug in items must be UL certified. There will be a tag on the cord or a stamp on the item itself. This means they passed a US electrical inspection process.

OVERHEAD LIGHTING

Employers must maintain a minimum indoor light level of 10 foot-candles for people to see hazards, emergency controls, and equipment. To meet regulations ceiling lights should not be covered or dimmed.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Organized classrooms with minimal clutter, good cable management, and backpacks off the floor reduce injuries from slips, trips, and falls.

FIRE SAFETY

Rooms with ceiling tiles/panels must have 18" of clearance between items and the ceiling with a sprinkler, or 24" without sprinklers.

SAFE STORAGE & LIFTING

Never keep heavy, sharp, or breakable items stored above shoulder height.

Items that can be lifted by one person, but are not light are stored at waist height. Two person items go on the bottom shelf or floor.

Shelves above 4' high are secured to a wall to prevent tipping.

To reach items higher up use a step ladder, step stool, or a work order.

ALLERGENS & ASTHMA

Personal items used or products kept in classrooms should be unscented and dye-free.

Classrooms should not have upholstered furniture, pillows, stuffed animals, or other items that aggravate upper respiratory conditions and house pests (lice, rodents, fleas, ants, etc.)



ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS

- WAC296-800-220 – Good Housekeeping
- OSPI's Safety & Health Manual page 16 – Secure Shelves for Earthquakes
- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.159(c)(10) & NFPA 13 A-5-6.6 – Gap Between Ceiling and Any Items
- WAC 296-800-22035 – Safe Storage
- WAC 296-800-23020 – Overhead Lighting Requirements
- OSHA standard 1910.303-305 – Power Strips, Surge Protectors, & UL Certifications
- WAC 296-800-28030 – Extension Cord Use
- NFPA 11.5.3 – Portable Electric Heaters
- WAC 296-800-180 – Safety Data Sheet (SDS) Requirements
- WAC 296-901-14012 – Secondary Labeling of Chemicals
- WAC 296-155-200 – Personal Protective Equipment
- WAC 296-800-28030 – Low Voltage Lights
- WA Department of Health – Classroom Safety: Indoor Air Quality, Asthma, & Pests
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth>