


Any worker who uses cleaning products on the job can be exposed to potentially hazardous chemicals. These hazards are important to recognize for those working in the cleaning industry as well as any employee who may be taking on smaller cleaning efforts while at work.

Working with cleaning chemicals can cause:

- Sore Throat or Coughing
 - Red, Itchy, or Burning Eyes
 - Skin Rashes or Burns
 - Headaches or Dizziness
 - Nosebleeds
 - Wheezing or Shortness of Breath or Asthma
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- Mists, vapors, and gases from cleaning chemicals can irritate the eyes, nose, throat and lungs.
 - Chemicals in some cleaning products can be irritating to the skin or can cause rashes.
 - Cleaning products that contain corrosive chemicals can cause severe burns if splashed on the skin or in the eyes.
 - Cleaners, sanitizers, and disinfectants serve different purposes, and it is important to choose the least hazardous cleaning chemical that will accomplish the task. In general, disinfectants and sanitizers are more hazardous than cleaners.

Employees who use cleaning chemicals must be trained and know:

- the hazards of cleaning chemicals BEFORE using them.
- how to use and store cleaning chemicals safely.
- how and when to dilute cleaning chemicals that are being used.
- what to do if there is a spill or other emergency.
- how to obtain and use hazard information on labels and safety data sheets (SDS).
- how and when to use protective clothing, gloves, and safety goggles.

Safety precautions to follow when using cleaning products:

- Store products in their original containers. Read warning labels on the products being used.
- Never mix cleaning products, especially products that contain bleach and ammonia.
- Never use a cleaner at full strength when the instructions say to dilute it. Always follow the instructions on the label to correctly dilute the cleaners.
- Wear goggles and/or gloves to prevent eye and skin contact with hazardous chemicals.
- Leave windows and doors open if possible, or use a fan to circulate air, especially when cleaning in small or closed spaces.
- Wash your hands after using cleaning chemicals and before eating, drinking, or smoking. Do not use cleaning chemicals to wash your hands.

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