



Lead, Serve, Support

August 21, 2018

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY SCHOOLS

Clean schools not only look nice, they also provide a healthy environment in which to learn. **Students learn better if they are not exposed to allergens, irritants, or toxins, especially those suffering from asthma or allergy symptoms.**

Staff and students can assist with cleanliness by practicing what is called “environmentally friendly classrooms” which will contribute to the overall performance of students and lessen the possibility of asthma and allergy symptoms.

- ✓ To avoid triggering asthma attacks, strive for a **scent-free environment**:
 - Use only **unscented, school-approved cleaners**.
 - Do **NOT** use candles, candle warmers, diffusers, plug in deodorizers, or air fresheners.
 - Avoid using scented personal products or perfume.
- ✓ Do **not** keep animals in classrooms. The Department of Health recommends animals be **temporary visitors** to the classroom, with the exception of certified and trained service animals.
- ✓ Do **NOT** cover up or block air supply vents or cold air returns.
- ✓ **Rubber backed rugs over carpet can trap moisture and need to be moved when vacuuming.**
- ✓ Do **NOT** bring cleaning products from home, bug sprays, spray paint, etc., as they may contain toxic materials or react harmfully with chemicals custodians use.
- ✓ Keep plants in **glazed ceramic or plastic containers** to control moisture seepage. Avoid over watering.
- ✓ Keep a neat and easily cleanable classroom/office.
 - Remove unused items. If you haven't used it in the past year, consider removing it from your classroom/office.
 - Store items in cleanable plastic tubs.
 - Remove all fleecy furniture. It can harbor an abundance of allergens and dust mites.
- ✓ Rotate or clean mobiles and wall displays on a routine basis. They have a tendency to collect dust.
- ✓ Clean and organize your personal work space. Custodians may not be able to move or disturb your desk and other personal items.
- ✓ Have students clean out their desks on a routine basis.
- ✓ Report water leaks or damp areas **immediately**.



Asthma Triggers

By 7Mike5000/CC BY SA-3.0

To assist with cleaning, have students:

- ✓ Place chairs on top of desks and/or move tables to one side of the room at the end of the day to make vacuuming easier and faster. Talk with your custodian to determine the best placement.
- ✓ Pick up any garbage on the floor.
- ✓ Help with dusting on days the custodian is **not** scheduled to dust, using micro fiber rags to pick up dust rather than stirring it around.



For more information on environmentally friendly schools visit <https://tinyurl.com/ybaol6qh>.

SAFETY MATTERS