

# Classroom Cleaning Tips for Staff ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

In order to comply with State and Federal regulations aimed at avoiding the introduction of chemicals into classrooms, which can present a potential hazard to staff and students and/or trigger allergic reactions or asthma, all staff not specifically trained to use cleaning agents should adhere to the following tips.

As mandated by law, sanitizers and disinfectants can only be applied by properly trained personnel such as custodial staff. Although custodial staff is ultimately responsible for cleaning, it is recognized that teachers and other staff conduct additional cleaning. Following these tips will ensure that efforts to remove dirt and germs are safe, effective and compliant with regulations.

Product	Approved for use by untrained staff?
Clorox/Lysol type disinfecting wipes	<b>NO</b> – These products are EPA registered as pesticides (antimicrobial). Requires mandated procedures and application by trained staff.
Lysol or similar spray disinfectants and cleaners	<b>NO</b> – These products are EPA registered as pesticides (antimicrobial). Requires mandated procedures and application by trained staff.
Store bought general purpose cleaners	<b>NO</b> – Most contain disinfectants and fragrances. Require mandated procedures and application by trained staff.
GenEon general purpose cleaner	<b>YES</b> – District provided nontoxic cleanser. Effective general classroom cleaner. Also preferred to clean white boards in lieu of “Expo” or other white board cleansers.
Baby wipes – non-fragrance and non-disinfecting	<b>YES</b> – Not the most effective means for classroom cleaning purposes. Acceptable for hand cleaning but soap and water is preferred.

In an effort to provide teachers and other site staff a means to clean, the District will be providing (at a teacher’s request) a properly labeled spray bottle containing premixed GenEon general purpose cleaner, which can be used with district provided paper towels to safely and effectively clean. Site custodial staff will restock the cleaner as needed.

## Why can’t teachers or other staff members bring common cleaning products (including bleach) into the classroom?

- Aside from the reasons noted above, common household cleaners and disinfectants such as Clorox & Lysol wipes, bleach products, Windex, Ajax, Goo-Gone, etc. are not appropriate for schools as they are often poisonous, flammable, and/or combustible. Many common cleaning products can cause allergic reactions and pose other health risks.
- Most common cleaning products are dangerous especially when mixed. For example: Comet, containing bleach, would react with Windex, which contains ammonia, to form poisonous vapors.
- Schools and districts must have a Safety Data Sheet for each chemical used in the school and can only be applied by properly trained staff.

## Why is it important to use fragrance-free products in school?

- Fragrance is one of the most frequently identified allergens, which can irritate the respiratory system, cause headaches, and exacerbate asthma.