How can I protect my Lungs?

**STOP**
- Go to the Eco-Logo and Green Seal websites for cleaning agent suggestions.
- Read warning labels and follow them!
- Wear gloves to keep your skin safe from burns. Sometimes skin contact with a chemical can cause allergies.
- Leave windows and doors open, or use a fan to keep the air fresh.
- Keep cleaners in the containers they came in.
- Read the SDS (Safety Data Sheets) for the chemicals you work with.
- Watch out for small rooms, confined spaces and poor ventilation/air flow!

**Watch Out for These**

**Warning Signs!**

If you have ANY of these problems, talk to your doctor. These breathing problems are not normal!

- WHEEZING
- CHEST TIGHTNESS
- COUGH
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH

**What Can My Doctor Do . . .**

**To Check My Lungs?**
- Breathing Tests at the Doctor’s office
- Peak Flow Meter you use to test your own breathing

**How Can I . . .**

**Get More Information?**
- Call your doctor.
- Read the SDS.
- Go to www.getasthmahelp.com
- Go to Eco-Logo for certified products http://bit.ly/2razz0P

**Keep This Number Handy . . .**

In Case Of An Emergency
Poison Control

1.800.222.1222

*IT’S ALWAYS BETTER TO BE SAFE*
if you have any doubt about a chemical you are working with or were exposed to, even if you weren’t the person doing the cleaning, contact your doctor.

It’s better to protect your lungs now, than having to live with breathing problems for the rest of your life.
Can Cleaners Cause Asthma?
YES, they can!

You might not expect it, but chemicals we use to clean at work can cause asthma. This is what happened to some people in their jobs:

**A Cashier** had trouble breathing about 2 hours after she cleaned up a spill of drain cleaner at the supermarket where she worked. She had to stay at the hospital for 3 days to get her breathing under control. The Doctors told her she got asthma from that spill. One year later she still had asthma.

**A Housekeeper** at a hotel noticed she had trouble breathing when she used window cleaner, bathroom cleaner or bleach. Her Doctor told her she had asthma from her job. Sometimes her breathing was so bad she had to go to the emergency room and once she had to stay at the hospital. Three years later she still had asthma.

**A Hospital Worker** got asthma about two years before she started her new job as an anesthesia aide. Four months after starting her new job her breathing got a lot worse, especially when she was around floor wax, sterilizing chemicals, bleach deodorizers and air fresheners. Her main job was cleaning the tools used by the anesthesiologists in a small room with poor air flow. She had to go to the emergency room more than 20 times the year she had that job. Her doctor told her to quit her job and a year later she did. She still had asthma after she quit, but her breathing trouble was not as bad.

How to avoid getting sick from using cleaners:

DO NOT MIX different products together. Watch out for left-over cleaner in buckets, on rags and on sponges.

DO NOT USE a cleaner at full strength when the instructions say to DILUTE with water. It’s important to always read the label.

Sometimes, a person can get an allergy to a cleaner just by using it regularly.

Never Mix Cleaners

Mixing Bleach and Ammonia
Mixing Bleach and Acid

MAKES POISONOUS FUMES

For more information on the safe use of bleach, check out our new brochure at www.oem.msu.edu “Cleaning and Sanitizing with Bleach - What You Need to Know!”

Who Can Be Affected?

All sorts of workers use cleaners, like janitors, office workers, and hospital workers. We need cleaners to disinfect surfaces and control mold and dust. But some people who work with those same cleaners, or work in areas where cleaners are used can get breathing problems from them.

Here are some jobs where you might be exposed to cleaners:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF CLEANER</th>
<th>TYPE OF JOB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carpet Cleaner, Floor Wax, Stripper</td>
<td>Janitor, Teacher, Office Worker, Health Care Worker, Maid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disinfectant</td>
<td>Nurse, Restaurant Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet Cleaner, Glass Cleaner</td>
<td>Housekeeper, Hotel Maintenance, Janitor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>