

# Chemicals in Schools

## Fragranced Products and Green Cleaning Solutions

With more than 53 million children and 6 million adults spending a significant amount of time in more than 120,000 school buildings across the nation, making sure the air they are breathing in is clean and healthy is an important public health issue:

Fragrances, and the chemicals that make up many fragrances, are found in every corner of school buildings nowadays. Their use in perfumes, deodorants, hair and make up products, hand sanitizers, soaps, cleaning products, etc. make them impossible to avoid in a present day school setting.

These products can be a major trigger for negative health effects in children and adults alike who may experience neurological (headaches, dizziness), respiratory (wheezing, breathing difficulties) and/or allergic symptoms (watery eyes, rashes, itching and hives).

### Healthy Solutions

- ◇ Adopt a Fragrance-Free school policy
- ◇ Purchase healthier, safer cleaning products:



- \* Practice Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP)
- \* Avoid products with the ingredient "fragrance" listed
- \* Look for multipurpose products with a neutral pH
- \* Avoid suspected carcinogens and other hazardous ingredients

### Quick Facts

- Of the 85,000+ synthetic chemicals in use, only 200 have been tested for safety
- More than 95% of fragrance chemicals are man-made petroleum derivatives
- Children are at greater risk for chemical contamination due to higher respiratory rates and smaller body size
- Up to 72% of asthma sufferers have symptoms triggered by fragrance
- Asthma is the most common chronic illness in childhood, accounting for 10.5 million missed school days each year
- Approximately 12.6% of the population suffers from multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), a condition in which they experience reactions from exposure to low con-