



Teacher Checklist for Classrooms

A teachers' classroom environment can influence student health and learning. As an "Operator" or "Person in Charge" of that space, teachers have important role in ensuring that the classroom environment is both healthy and safe. We have created the Teacher Checklist for Classrooms to help inform you on how to make sure your classroom is the healthiest and safest place for student learning.

Complete this checklist and periodically review it to ensure your classroom meets important Washington State health and safety rules and guidelines (WAC 246-366).

Food Storage

- Food stored in rodent-proof containers

Healthy Air Quality

- Room kept uncluttered and organized
- Sources of odors eliminated
- Fresh air or fans used to eliminate remaining odors in a classroom instead of air fresheners, scented oils or candles
- Upholstered furniture replaced with leather/vinyl
- Stuffed animals/cushions stored in plastic bins when not in use
- Vents open and unblocked
- Plants not overwatered (no moldy soil or stagnant water under planters)
- Art supplies and markers are low VOC (volatile organic compound), such as glue sticks, Expo 2 markers, Expo Low-Odor markers
- Maintenance notified of air quality concerns/questions

Cleaners/Chemicals

- Products with "Keep Out of Reach of Children" labels stored in upper cabinets, locked closets/drawers, out of reach
- All containers labeled with contents
- Never apply any pesticides or insect sprays in a classroom
- School/district policy for classroom cleaners/chemicals reviewed

Storage and Shelving

- Store all heavy or breakable items low and on stable shelving or bookcases to prevent tipping and to protect students from falling objects.

Important Classroom Health and Safety Links:

WA State Department of Health School Environmental Health and Safety Program

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth>

DOH/OSPI Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington

www.k12.wa.us/SchFacilities/Publications/pubdocs/CompleteSafety&HealthManual2002-2003.pdf