

## Cleaning Chemical Injuries

Each year about six out every hundred professional janitors are injured by the chemicals that they use. Burns to the eyes and skin are the most common injuries, followed closely by breathing toxic fumes.

One third of the cleaning chemicals used today have ingredients that can harm you. These ingredients are in products for cleaning glass, restroom fixtures, metal, kitchens, carpets, and hard floors, to name only a few.

### Are Your Cleaners Safe?

**Read The Label** – Avoid products that have the words “Danger”, “Poison”, or “Warning”. When you must use a strong product to get the job done, protect yourself by wearing gloves & goggles, and be sure that your work area has plenty of fresh air.

**Call Customer Service** – Most labels have an “800” number to call with questions. Ask the customer service people to tell you if the product you are using has hazardous ingredients that may harm you. If there is no phone number on the container, ask the store where you bought the product.

**Read The Safety Data Sheet** – The customer service staff can send you a Material Safety Data Sheet, or “MSDS”, for the product. This sheet explains what is in the cleaner, how these ingredients might harm you, and how to protect yourself while using it. Many companies also have MSDSs on their web site.



### Get A Free Product Safety Check

Would you like a free and confidential review of the health and safety risks of your cleaning chemicals? Ask us to check the products that you use, tell you which ones have the highest risks, and suggest alternatives for you to consider.

Takes only a few minutes.

Can be done over the phone (or in person if you prefer)

Available to professional janitors, custodians, and cleaners throughout Santa Barbara County.

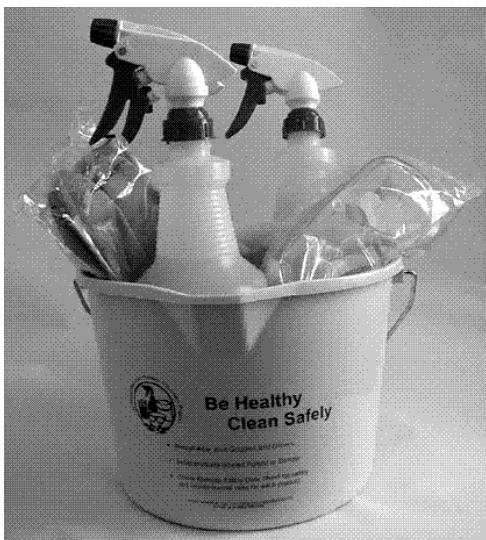
**Call Steve Clark at (805) 963-0583.**



# What Cleaners Have The Most Risk?

Product	Hazardous Ingredients	How These Can Harm You
Glass Cleaner General Purpose Cleaner Carpet Spot Remover	A solvent called "Butoxyethanol"	Butoxyethanol absorbs through your skin and poisons your blood, liver, & kidneys.  Wear gloves when you use cleaners with this ingredient.
Toilet Cleaner	Hydrochloric Acid Phosphoric Acid	These acids are very good for removing hard water rings, but they can also blind you in seconds.  Wear your gloves and goggles, or better yet change to a milder product (one with Citric Acid – strong lemon juice).
Oven Cleaner Heavy Duty Degreaser	Sodium Hydroxide	Oven cleaner in a spray can – very convenient, but also very dangerous. Sodium hydroxide can blind you, and the vapors can harm your lungs.  Use it with care - wear gloves & goggles, and provide lots of fresh air.

## Free Samples Of Safer Products



Ask us to give you free samples of products that are lower risk than traditional cleaning chemicals. These products are now being used by the City of Santa Monica, City of San Francisco, and State of California.

The samples are free.

Each product comes with a Material Safety Data Sheet, and the supplier's phone number in case you want to order more.

There is no obligation – your name is not disclosed.

Available to professional janitors, custodians, and building cleaners throughout Santa Barbara County.

**Call Steve Clark at (805) 963-0583.**

## Want More Info?

This is a public service effort co-sponsored by the City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. The local contact is Steve Clark at the Community Environmental Council (805) 963-0583. Or visit <http://www.westp2net.org/janitorial/jp4.htm>

