



# Tips for Teachers to Keep Your Classroom Clean & Healthy

***Improving the school indoor environment, including reducing asthma triggers like dust and chemicals, benefits both students and staff. Teachers can help by following these useful tips.***

## Design your classroom so that it is easy to clean:

- Store as many materials as possible in clear plastic bins that can be easily wiped off and labeled.
- Avoid having too much clutter. If you have taught for many years, consider throwing out outdated materials or if you inherited something from a previous teacher, it doesn't mean you have to keep it!
- Allow only vinyl covered stuffed chairs and sofas in your classroom. These can be easily wiped down. Fabric furniture and pillows collect dust, harbor dust mites, collect germs and are hard to clean.
- Limit the use of area rugs. If they are used, they should be cleaned periodically.
- Store all food in hard plastic, glass or metal containers to keep pests away.

## Cleaning

- Supplies: Obtain a small bottle of the approved green cleaner and a cloth, preferably microfiber, from the custodial staff. **Do not bring any type of cleaning product (including hand sanitizers, wipes and air fresheners) from home – it's the law!**
- If you have stuffed animals in the classroom, they should be washed weekly or monthly depending on their use. These items collect dust, dust mites, and can harbor germs.
- Wall and ceiling decorations including student art should not become dust collectors. Try not to leave these items in the classroom for more than a month.

## Ordering supplies

- Look for non-toxic products or the least toxic product available. Contact your facilities director for assistance in finding safer products.

## Understand how the ventilation works

- Make sure the air supply and return vents are not blocked and are working properly in your room.
- Don't put anything on top or in front of the ventilation or heating/cooling units!
- Proper ventilation is important for clean air.

## Look for signs of water or moisture

- Look for stained ceiling tiles, wet/damp windowsills, and leaks under sinks.
- If you find evidence of moisture, report the problem to the custodian.
- Unreported leaks can lead to potential mold issues.

For more information and assistance, contact your school's Tools for Schools building team and/or visit these web sites:

[www.ct.gov/dph/schools](http://www.ct.gov/dph/schools)

[www.csiert.org](http://www.csiert.org)