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Steps to Take if You Don't Want to Use Bleach in Your Early Learning Program

1 When considering safer sanitizers and disinfectants:

Make sure the product is labeled as:

- Fragrance-Free
- EPA registered
- Safe for use on food-contact surfaces if it will be used to sanitize

Look for the EPA's Design for the Environment Logo.



This logo means the ingredients used in the product are safer for people and the environment.

2 Get approval from your licensor.

You must get approval from DCYF BEFORE using any other product, including wipes, to sanitize or disinfect in your early learning program.

4 Train Staff

Only trained staff can use the product. Staff must be trained on safety precautions and procedures and only use the product according to the instructions on the label.

3 Read and follow the product label instructions.

Some products may need to remain on the surface for a specific amount of time or require rinsing after use.

The label must include:

- Directions for use
- A description of safety precautions, procedures, and equipment, such as:
 - how to safely mix the product if using a concentrate
 - what to do if the product comes into contact with skin or is inhaled

5 Make sure the following are available:

- Material data safety sheet(s)
- Equipment and supplies needed to mix and use product safely, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and an emergency eye wash station
- Appropriate ventilation

FAQ - Using Other Products in Early Learning Programs

1 Can I use sanitizing or disinfecting wipes in my program?



We DO NOT recommend the use of wipes because:

- Many wipes do not contain the active ingredient found in bleach (sodium hypochlorite).
- Not all wipes are safe for use on food surfaces.
- They are frequently used incorrectly which can leave harmful chemical residue on surfaces or might not work effectively to reduce or remove germs.

While wipes may appear to be a time saver, you must still meet all WAC requirements and follow the manufacture's instructions on the label every time you use wipes. For example:

- Even when using wipes, WAC requires that you CLEAN and RINSE surfaces BEFORE sanitizing and disinfecting.
- Many wipes require you to RINSE surfaces with water AFTER using them.
- All wipes list a required contact time on their label, which is how long the surface needs to stay visibly wet. Some products require surfaces stay wet for up to 10 minutes, so you may need to use more than one wipe.

2 Can I use aerosol sprays or air fresheners in my program?



No. WAC does not allow use of aerosol sprays or air fresheners.

Aerosols release additional chemicals into the air. Air fresheners, including 'natural' products like essential oil diffusers, contain concentrated fragrances.

These chemicals and fragrances are easily inhaled and can harm children's lungs and trigger asthma.

3 Do I have to use single-use paper towels?

No. You can use reusable cloths for the 3-step method, but you will need to:

- Use a separate cloth for each step of the 3-Step Method, just like you would with single-use paper towels.
- Wash cloths after each use. Place used cloths in a bin or laundry basket out of reach of children and wash them separate from other program laundry.
- Consider using microfiber cloths because they are better at cleaning surfaces and removing germs.



4 How do I choose cleaning products with safer ingredients?

To make your cleaning solution for the 3-Step-Method, choose dishwashing soap with the Green Seal, ECOLOGO, or EPA Safer Choice logo. You can find these logos on other products as well, such as laundry detergent, dishwasher detergent, and handwashing soap.

