

Spring Cleaning

With Spring in full bloom, now is the perfect time to clean, rearrange, and give your facilities a fresh new look! Here are some spring cleaning tips to remember and hazards to consider when freshening up your campus.

Out with the Old:

Supplies and other stored items tend to accumulate. Spring is the perfect time to identify items that are no longer needed. Too many accumulated items can lead to trip, fire, or health hazards. When evaluating items, separate into three piles: trash, keep, and give away. When the sorting is completed, handle each pile promptly.

Clean Safely:

Before cleaning, determine personal protective equipment that should be worn, such as gloves, goggles, or aprons, and confirm that all cleaning supplies are confirmed appropriate for classroom use (Healthy Schools Act). Dust the entire area thoroughly. Deep clean whiteboards and chalkboards. Sanitize surface areas that are considered “high touch”. If using a ladder, remember to maintain 3-points of contact (2 feet + 1 hand, or 2 hands + 1 foot), and keep belt buckles inside the width of the ladder. Keep in mind safety measures while cleaning, such as bending at the knees and avoiding overreaching. Get help or use assistive devices if heavy or large items need to be moved.



Reorganize/Rearrange:

Evaluate your current use of bins and storage units. Label and place them to easily track items, but don't block electrical panels, fire extinguishers, aisles, and exits. Classroom libraries, books, supply areas, and labs are usually in need of rearranging and reorganizing to determine items that are no longer needed (consider donating versus disposing). Assess if desks and furniture should be reconfigured to optimize learning experiences and efficient operations. When doing so, identify trip hazards and remove them. Some trip hazards to look out for are power cords, curled carpets, damaged floor tiles, and lifted/cracked cement.

Take Inventory:

Review the quantity of supplies in your classrooms, labs, and facilities, including inventorying chemicals. Determine if supplies can be reduced or if they are out-of-date and need to be eliminated. Dispose of expired or excess items appropriately. If supplies need to be purchased, plan in advance.

Always Think Safety!