



Deal with the Monster in the Closet!

Step # 1: Find out what chemicals are in your school

- ✓ Conduct an inventory in every room (custodial closets, science, art, vo-tech classrooms, maintenance sheds, etc.)
- ✓ Record the chemical name, # of containers, container size and type, and the physical state of the chemical (good/fair/poor)
- ✓ Keep your inventory on file, away from where substances are stored

Step # 2: Store chemicals properly

- ✓ Keep chemicals in their original containers with labels
- ✓ Deteriorating or leaking containers are a hazard
- ✓ Alphabetical order is **NOT** the best way to store chemicals...do your homework!
- ✓ Incompatible chemicals cannot be stored together
- ✓ Sort, store, and secure chemicals in approved containers

Step # 3: Clean Out the Chemicals

- ✓ Before starting read the online School Chemical Cleanout toolkit at: <http://www.peakstoprairies.org/chemcleanout/>
- ✓ Contact your Regional EPA School Chemical Cleanout Coordinator www.epa.gov/waste/partnerships/sc3/live.htm
- ✓ Conduct the clean out when students are not present
- ✓ Use a hazardous waste disposal company to remove toxic chemicals

Step # 4: Develop a chemical purchasing policy

- ✓ Purchase only what is needed for the current year
- ✓ Micro-scale all science experiments
- ✓ Hazardous chemicals should be avoided