



Selecting Protective Equipment

The material safety data sheet should tell you what kinds of protection to wear for safe handling of the product. For most janitorial products the MSDS will tell you to wear gloves and goggles, and perhaps a plastic apron.

Gloves

Heavy duty chemical resistant gloves are the best. Buy various sizes so that your people can find a pair that fits.

If anyone has a problem with their hands sweating too much, then give them cloth glove liners. These absorb sweat and make the gloves more comfortable. Another thing to do to make gloves more comfortable is to use a hand cream before putting the gloves on. One choice is antibacterial hand cream like what is used in hospitals and doctors' offices. Such creams are available in drug stores.

Goggles

Plastic wrap-around soft-shell goggles are best for preventing chemical splashes from hitting your eyes. The soft edges fit closely to your face and prevent liquids from reaching your eyes. However, these goggles are uncomfortable, and can fog up. To deal with these problems, buy the softest rubber goggles you can find. Also get cleaning sprays that keep the lenses from fogging as badly (although nothing can keep lenses totally clear).

Impact goggles are meant primarily for protecting your eyes from flying objects. They provide some protection from splashed chemicals, but not as much as the wrap-around type. Because they are more comfortable and do not fog as badly, many people like these goggles better than the splash-proof kind. In deciding which goggles to buy you have to make a trade off between protection and comfort.

Apron

Using a plastic apron can be important when opening and mixing products. This is particularly true for when you are handling concentrated chemicals that you are diluting with water.

Eyewash and Shower

California OSHA requires that an eyewash and shower be provided within 10 seconds reach of any employee who is handling corrosive chemicals (like floor finish stripper or acid toilet bowl cleaner).