



OSHA #2: Cleaning Safety Checklist

Background:

Although accidents can happen in almost any profession, workers who clean are more likely to be subjected to various physical and chemical hazards. These hazards can and often lead to injury and an increased risk of illness.

A Safety Checklist for Your Cleaning Staff:

- 1. Slip and falls** can be caused by wet floors, uneven floor mats, ladders and more. To prevent them, your cleaning staff should:
 - Wear slip-resistant shoes
 - Keep an eye out for obstructions
 - Address spills immediately
 - Place wet-floor caution signs before cleaning and/or in heavy moisture areas
 - Make sure floor mats lie flat
- 2. Cleaning chemicals** can be dangerous if the right precautions aren't taken. To ensure their utmost safety, your cleaning staff should:
 - Make sure that all spray bottles are properly labeled for the product being used
 - Know the location of and how to read the Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
 - Make sure the area is well-ventilated before cleaning
 - Never mix chemicals
 - Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including gloves and goggles for overhead cleaning tasks
- 3. Heavy lifting and repetitive motions** can result in back strains and injuries. To avoid strains, your cleaning staff should:
 - Stretch before, during and after work
 - Take short breaks throughout the day
 - Understand proper lifting techniques
 - Ask for help when an item is too heavy

Good Practice Ideas for the Pet and Worker:

In addition to being trained in basic safety hazards, it's important for your staff to have a thorough understanding of their specific working environment. Ultimately, safety depends on your staff. Making sure that your staff understands the ins-and-outs of your facility is the best way to protect them from injury. The following are additional support items that you can provide your cleaning staff:

- ✓ Visual tools, such as wall-mounted protocols and color-coded cleaning tools (squeegees, brooms, mops, etc.)
- ✓ Staff training manual
- ✓ Staff safety meetings
- ✓ Self inspections of the facility to ensure that your staff has everything needed to implement a safe and effective cleaning program including labeled spray bottles, SDS manual, wet floor signs, gloves, etc..

For more information and/or technical support, please contact your ProVetLogic Representative, call 800.869.4789 or email: productsupport@provetlogic.com.