Cleaning and Disinfecting Safely: Avoiding Chemical Exposure in Childcare Settings Stats and Facts

FACTS

- Children breathe closer to surfaces where chemical residues linger.
- Sprays increase inhalation exposure compared to wipes or cloth application.
- Improper mixing is a leading cause of cleaning-related poisonings.
- Routine practices matter more than product strength.
- Ventilation significantly reduces airborne exposure.

STATS

- The U.S. CDC and Poison Control Centers receive tens of thousands of calls annually related to cleaning chemical exposure, with bleach among the most common products involved.
- NIOSH links repeated disinfectant exposure to increased risk of respiratory irritation and skin conditions among workers.
- The U.S. EPA identifies improved ventilation as an effective control for reducing indoor chemical exposure.
- Canadian poison centre data shows children under five are disproportionately represented in cleaner exposure incidents.
- Occupational asthma cases are frequently linked to cleaning and disinfecting chemicals, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
- In Canada, exposure to cleaning chemicals is among the common causes of work-related respiratory and skin

irritation claims, summarized by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.