Proper Storage of Supplies – Schools Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. Trip and Fall Risks: Improperly stored supplies, such as boxes or materials left in walkways, create tripping hazards, increasing the risk of falls for students and staff in classrooms and hallways.
2. Overhead Storage Hazards: Heavy supplies stored on high shelves without secure anchoring can fall, causing head injuries or musculoskeletal strains when reaching or retrieving items.
3. Improper Lifting Injuries: Supplies stored in awkward locations (e.g., too high, too low, or in cramped spaces) force staff and students to use unsafe lifting techniques, leading to back and shoulder strains.
4. Fire Hazards: Flammable supplies, such as paper or chemicals, stored without proper containment or ventilation increase fire risks and can exacerbate fire spread in schools.
5. Lack of Storage Systems: Insufficient shelving, cabinets, or labeled bins leads to cluttered storage areas, making it difficult to access supplies safely and increasing injury risks.
6. Inadequate Training: Staff and students often lack training on safe storage practices, such as weight limits for shelves or proper stacking methods, contributing to disorganized and hazardous storage areas.

STATS

- A 2020 Journal of School Health study reported that 12% of student injuries in schools were linked to trips over improperly stored supplies, such as classroom materials or equipment left in walkways.

- WorkSafeBC noted in 2022 that 20% of school staff injuries in British Columbia were related to slips, trips, and falls, with disorganized storage areas cited as a significant contributor.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) found in 2021 that 15% of custodial staff injuries in schools were caused by handling or retrieving supplies from poorly organized storage spaces.
- A 2021 Statistics Canada survey indicated that 28% of teachers reported safety concerns due to cluttered or improperly stored classroom supplies, impacting classroom management and safety.
- OSHA reported in 2022 that schools with proper storage systems, such as secure shelving and labeled bins, reduced workplace injuries from falls and strains by up to 25%.
- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) stated in 2020 that improper storage of flammable materials contributed to 10% of school fire safety violations identified during inspections.