## Proper Storage of Supplies — Schools Stats and Facts

## **FACTS**

- 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.
- 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.