



## Safe Storage & Mixing

The following are ideas you can use to make your chemical storage and mixing safer.

**Incompatible Products** - Products with incompatible ingredients should be stored separately. For example keep glass cleaner with ammonia away from tub & tile cleaner containing bleach. "Away from" means in a separate room, in a separate cabinet, or on separate shelves (but not one over the other).

**Strong Ingredients** - If you have space, consider storing products with acids or other strong ingredients in plastic tubs so that any leaks will not harm the storage rack or janitorial closet.

**Stock Rotation** - Rotate your stock of stored products so that the oldest ones are used first. Some janitorial products (for example, bleach) have a shelf life. Be sure all such products are used before this time expires.

**Spill Kits** - Keep spill clean-up kits in each building, and train your workers in their use.

**Dispensers** - Automatic dispensers might make sense if you use lots of chemicals, and are working in a building with custodial closets. A well-designed dispensing system can save you money, and also can make chemical mixing safer for your employees. However, mixing units can have problems, particularly when filled with seldom used chemicals, so it is important evaluate your needs carefully before selecting a dispenser. Because of its simplicity and ease of maintenance, a manual dispensing system is usually best.

**Safe Mixing** - Floor strippers and other products with strong chemicals pose the greatest risks when your worker is handling the concentrate. To reduce these risks during mixing:

- Train your employees in safe work procedures.
- Have a supervisor do all mixing.
- Insist that protective gloves and goggles are worn when your employee is handling concentrated products.
- Be aware of Cal/OSHA regulations that require a 15-minute full-flow eye wash station be provided in any area where workers are exposed to corrosive chemicals.
- Many accidents occur when a worker lifts a full mop bucket to pour its contents into a janitorial sink. Teach your employees safe lifting methods.