

SD43 IS SCENT AWARE

School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) buildings are scent aware facilities. In order to protect those individuals with fragrance sensitivities and to prevent others from developing such sensitivities, SD43 provides this information and asks for your cooperation towards a scent-reduced environment.

The district is asking for cooperation towards a scent-reduced environment. All staff, students and visitors are strongly encouraged to avoid or reduce the use of fragranced products, and to replace them with unscented alternatives.

We recognize the personal right of individuals to use scented products. We believe, however, that this must be balanced with the adverse health effects and extreme discomfort that can be suffered by fragrance-sensitive individuals.

This is not an issue about an individual disliking the smell of a particular perfume and not getting what he/she wants in the workplace. This is not a ban on scented products. This is a request to refrain from chemical-based scented products.

What can you do to help?

- Be considerate of those who are sensitive to fragrance chemicals. Avoid or using scented products; instead, use unscented alternatives.
- If you do use scented products, use them sparingly. A general guideline for scented products is that the scent should not be detectable more than an arm's length away from you. Do not apply scented products in a public area.
- Be an informed consumer. Read the product label. A product labeled as "fragrance-free" is likely to be free of fragrance chemicals. A product labeled as "scent-free" or "unscented" may mean that no fragrance chemicals have been added to the product, or it may be that a masking agent has been added to disguise the smell of some of the ingredients. These terms are not regulated, so use your nose or ask the store to check the product for fragrances.
- Avoid using products (e.g. air fresheners or potpourris) that give off chemical-based scents in your work area.
- Avoid using laundry products or cleaning agents that are scented. Air out dry-cleaned clothing before wearing.

This is an important document. Please arrange to have it translated.
Ce document est important. On vous recommande de le faire traduire.
To jest ważny dokument. Prosimy o przetłumaczenie go.
此為重要文件,請翻譯成中文。
이것은 매우 중요한 서류입니다, 정확한 번역을 부탁드립니다.
این مدارک از اهمیت ویژه ای برخوردار است لطفاً ترجمه شده آن را در خواست بنمایید.



SYMPTOMS INCLUDING:

- Headache
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sinus congestion
- Wheezing
- Shortness of breath
- Dizziness
- Anxiety
- Anger
- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Mental confusion
- Inability to concentrate

AVOID PRODUCTS INCLUDING:

- Perfume
- Cologne
- Aftershave
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Hairspray
- Body spray
- Makeup and powders
- Air fresheners
- Fabric softeners
- Laundry detergents
- Cleaners
- Carpet deodorizers
- Facial tissues
- Candles

NO SCENTS.....MAKES GOOD SENSE

What should you do if you're approached because of the scented product you're wearing?

If an individual or your principal/manager informs you that the fragranced products that you use or wear are a problem and requests that you avoid using them:

- You may feel puzzled, hurt, annoyed, defensive or even insulted by the request.
- Understand that it is not about you as a person or about your choice of fragrance, but it is about the chemicals in the fragranced product.
- Do not discount the issue as ridiculous and unreasonable.
- Discuss the issue openly.
- Ask questions about the health impact on the person, the types of symptoms experienced, the factors which make the person's symptoms better or worse (e.g. fragrance type, amount used).
- Empathize with the individual. Work with cooperation and understanding towards a satisfactory resolution.

What is the district doing about it?

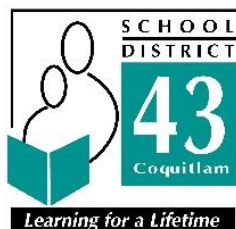
Recognizing that chemicals, including fragrance chemicals, can negatively impact on indoor air quality, the district will strive to:

- Promote the reduction of unnecessary use of chemicals, including fragrance chemicals.
- Promote the use of environmentally-friendly and least harmful products in cleaning/building materials.
- Target harmful chemicals/contaminants and implement controls to effectively prevent/minimize their release into the air as a result of building, maintenance, custodial, research and teaching activities.
- Support the best possible air quality practicable attainable, by means of proper ventilation, peak performance and proper maintenance of building mechanical ventilation systems, in keeping with the district's Indoor Air Quality Standard.
- Duty to accommodate for employees with proper medical documentation.

What can the principal/manager do?

If an individual in your work area is adversely affected by scented products:

- Listen to the person with respect and civility
- Clarify the issue. Ask the individual to describe their health effects, the factors that make the problem better or worse, and the actions they are taking to deal with it.
- Investigate the issue and use good judgment to provide a fair and timely resolution.
- Discuss the issue with your staff in an open and non-threatening manner. Inform them of the health concerns that have arisen as a result of the use of scented products. You may choose to have this discussion with an individual or group of employees, whichever is appropriate to the situation.
- Request your staff's cooperation and understanding to avoid the use of scented products in the area. Discuss the benefits of a scent-free work area.
- Implement measures to reasonably accommodate those who are affected by scented products. Where employees are severely limited due to exposure to scented products, you may need to establish a fragrance-free zone. For meetings held in enclosed rooms, you may need to send out notices to attendees informing them of the scent-free nature of the meeting.
- Consult with Operations staff regarding the adequacy of ventilation in the area.
- Distribute this information and display the "No Scents make Good Sense" poster.



Thank you for your cooperation in helping us ensure the health and safety of all students, staff and visitors.



NO SCENTS.....MAKES GOOD SENSE