



**Eco-Healthy
Child Care**

Train the Trainer: Fact Sheet North Carolina September 2008

1. How many North Carolinians, under the age of 18, have asthma?

147,662 North Carolinians under the age of 18 have asthma. This age group numbers 1,591,183 which means 9.3 % of children in NC are asthmatic.

2. What are the state licensing regulations on the application of pesticides in or near child care facilities (centers and homes)?

15A NCAC 18A .2831

(b) Effective measures shall be taken to keep uncontained insects, rodents, and other vermin out of the child care centers and to prevent their breeding or presence on the premises. Traps shall only be placed in areas inaccessible to children.

(c) All openings to the outer air shall be protected against the entrance of flying insects. In food preparation areas, only fly traps, pyrethrin-based insecticides or a fly swatter shall be used for extermination of flying insects. Products shall be used only in accordance with directions and cautions appearing on their labels. Insecticides shall not come in contact with raw or cooked food, utensils, or equipment used in food preparation and serving, or with any other food-contact surface.

(d) Only those pesticides which have been registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall be used. Pesticides shall be used in accordance with the directions on the label and shall be stored in a locked storage room or cabinet separate from foods and medications. Pesticides shall not be applied or used when children are present in the area.

3. What regulations exist for use of Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) pressure-treated wood?

15A NCAC 18A .2831

(e) Decks, fences, playground equipment, and other products constructed or installed after September 1, 2006 shall not be made from chromated copper arsenate (CCA) pressure-treated wood unless the use of CCA-treated wood is for an approved use listed on the CCA product label and allowed under the US EPA Supplemental Guidance on Interpretation of Revised Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) Wood Preservative Label, as amended.

(f) In areas accessible to children, CCA-treated wood decks, playground and recreational equipment, and structures installed or constructed:

(1) prior to January 1, 2005; or

*All regulations noted in this document are state regulations. Some cities and/or counties in North Carolina may have additional regulations. Check with city or county governments to find out if there are additional standards.

(2) where EPA allows the use of CCA-treated wood, shall be sealed using an oil-based, semi-transparent sealant; oil-based clear stain; or a water-based clear stain applied at least once every two years.

(g) At the time of the initial sealant or stain application and whenever more than two years has passed since the previous sealant application, soil under such wood shall be:

- (1) removed and replaced with similar material;
- (2) covered with at least four inches of soil, gravel, sand, sod, or other vegetation; or
- (3) otherwise made inaccessible.

4. Is there a state program working on promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in North Carolina?

The IPM program is housed at North Carolina State University's Centennial Campus. The website is www.ipm.ncsu.edu/. Information is disseminated through local county Cooperative Extension Centers. Citizens may contact/locate their county cooperative extension center by visiting: www.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=countycenters. North Carolina State also has an IPM program for NC Public Schools, (www.schoolipm.ncsu.edu), which could also be a helpful resource.

5. What are the state licensing regulations on smoking on or near a child care property?

10A NCAC 09 .0604

(g) Smoking is not permitted in space used by children when children are present. All smoking materials shall be kept in locked storage or out of the reach of children.

15A NCAC 18A .2823

(b) Tobacco use in any form is prohibited in any part of a child care center except in a designated area either outdoors, separate from the outdoor learning environment, or indoors in a room with a separate ventilation system approved by the building inspector.

6. What are the state regulations on using candles, air fresheners, and perfumes within the child care program?

No regulations currently exist.

7. What are the regulations on types of cleaners allowed/disallowed in child care programs?

No regulations currently exist.

8. Do child care facilities have to use State licensing regulations for sanitizing and disinfecting?

Providers are required to use chlorine bleach. In addition, products registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as hospital grade germicides or disinfectants or as disinfectants for safe use in schools, child care centers, institutions or restaurants are also approved disinfectants. See details in section "(7)" below.

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For sanitizing, the bleach-to-water ratio is one tablespoon of liquid household chlorine bleach with one gallon of water prepared fresh daily. For disinfecting the bleach-to-water ratio is one-quarter cup (2 fluid ounces) household liquid chlorine bleach with one gallon of tap water (or one tablespoon of liquid household bleach in one quart of water) prepared fresh daily.

15A NCAC 18A .2801 DEFINITIONS

(7) “Disinfecting Solution” means a solution containing 500 to 800 parts per million (ppm) of chlorine. A disinfecting solution can be made by mixing a solution of one-quarter cup (2 fluid ounces) household liquid chlorine bleach with one gallon of tap water (or one tablespoon of liquid household bleach in one quart of water) and prepared fresh daily. In addition, products registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as hospital grade germicides or disinfectants or as disinfectants for safe use in schools, child care centers, institutions or restaurants are also approved disinfectants, provided the manufacturer’s Material Safety Data Sheets are kept on file at the child care center and the instructions for use are followed.

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(14) “Household bleach” means bleach sold in concentrations that are intended for household use, and not industrial applications. Household bleach is sold in retail stores at strengths of 5.25 percent hypochlorite (regular strength bleach) solution and 6.00 percent hypochlorite (ultra strength bleach) solution.

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(22) “Sanitizing Solution” means a solution containing 50 to 200 parts per million (ppm) of chlorine. A sanitizing solution can be made by mixing a tablespoon of liquid household chlorine bleach with one gallon of water and prepared fresh daily.

9. Are child care facilities tested for lead - in paint and water - before receiving a state child care license?

Facilities, built before 1978, are inspected for lead paint hazards. Centers with municipal water are only tested for lead if there is some reason for concern. Facilities, with well water serving less than 25 people, are tested for bacterial contamination only. Those facilities, with well water serving 25 or more people, get a full water workup.

15A NCAC 18A .2816

In child care centers, areas accessible to children shall be free of identified lead poisoning hazards as defined under G.S. 130A-131.7(7).

10. Are lead testing kits available at state Public Health Departments, if so, are they free?

The department does not recommend that child care providers use lead testing kits, as they have had issues with reliability and are not currently approved by the EPA.

11. Are there regulations regarding using mercury-containing thermometers in child care centers?

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No.

12. Have any of the chemicals in toxic flame retardants (PBDEs) been banned?

No.

13. Have phthalates or BPA been banned, or is the state crafting legislation about banning these toxins?

No.

14. Are centers required to use non-toxic art supplies as approved by ACMI...or another institute?

No.

15. Are the child care centers asked to recycle by licensing entities – is recycling common?

Centers may recycle on a voluntary basis. Recycling is common in NC.

16. Is there a state resource/agency that provides free blood-lead-level tests?

Some local health departments provide this service for free, some do not. (Wake County does, for example.) If the local health department cannot provide the test for free, they may be able to refer you to another agency that can. Children on Medicaid can get a blood-lead-level test for free, through a Medicaid provider.