

Sample Action Plan for Inhalant Abuse Prevention

ADULTS ONLY

The Maine Inhalant Abuse Prevention Task Force encourages schools to take the following steps to prevent inhalant abuse in school and during school-sponsored activities. For more information about inhalants and prevention strategies, please contact the Office of Substance Abuse using the contact information found at the end of this document.

		Projected Completion Date	Who is responsible for step implementation	Date step is completed
1. Education for parents, staff, and community	A. Inhalant in-service training and/or printed materials provided to faculty, staff, and school nurses, etc. Schools could also invite community-based youth-serving professionals.			
	B. Educate parents about the dangers of inhalant abuse. Many parents' busy schedules make it difficult to attend evening programs. Mailing written information to parents can be a good alternative. Inhalant information can be added to school, parent teacher organization or report card mailings. Camera ready copies of parent flyers are available from the National Inhalant Prevention Coalition at 1-800-269-4237 or by email at nipc@io.com			
2. Environmental Safety	A. Screen supplies for safety. Consider supplies currently used in offices, classrooms, art, and shop. Strong smelling supplies may be an indicator that the item contains solvents. An "AP Non-Toxic" label on art supplies from the Art and Creative Material Institute <i>does not indicate an absence of solvents</i> , since the Institute does not evaluate products for their potential to be abused as inhalants. If you have questions about a particular product, contact the manufacturer or the Northern New England Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222.			
	B. Review school supplies purchases. When available, substitute water-based products for solvent-based products. For example, water-based correction fluid, glue (white glues or glue sticks) and paints. As well as <i>low odor</i> dry erase markers are safer alternatives.			
	C. In instances when water-based products are not available, the use of solvent-based products and gases should be closely monitored. A helpful strategy in monitoring these products is to <i>check out</i> and <i>check in</i> solvent-based products while noting the frequency and amount used. Teachers should be mindful of rags, handkerchiefs, small bottles, soda cans, and sleeves as they may be used for the delivery of solvents.			
3. Policy	A. Ban nonessential solvent-based products (such as solvent-based correction fluid and dry erase and magic markers) in schools. Rationale: The school is looking for ways to reduce indoor air pollution and poisons in the schools. Labeling products as inhalants or drugs can arouse the curiosity of students and encourage use.			

MAINE INHALANT ABUSE PREVENTION WORK GROUP

A Project of the New England Institute of Addiction Studies / Funded by the Maine Office of Substance Abuse

For more information about inhalants please contact

Maine Office of Substance Abuse Information and Resource Center

Phone: 1-800-499-0027 TTY – 1-800-606-0215

Email: osa.ircosa@maine.gov Web Address: <http://maineosa.org/irc>

Last Revised November 2006

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4. Curriculum Review			
5. Intervention			

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