

PATHWAYS ABILITIES SOCIETY

POLICY: ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS AND CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Applies to: All Personnel, Volunteers, Persons Served and Tenants

Original Approval Date: November 22, 2013

Date Board Approved: December 13, 2021

Replaces Policy Dated: November 8, 2021

Board Member's Signature

PREAMBLE

For the purposes of this policy "hazardous material" refers to materials which are likely to cause harm or injury in certain circumstances.

This policy has the following purposes:

- To ensure compliance with legislative requirements (federal and provincial acts, regulations, standards and guidelines and municipal by-laws) pertaining to hazardous materials management.
- To minimize exposure to hazardous materials to ensure the safety of all people attending and working at Pathways.
- To ensure controlled access to hazardous materials.
- To set requirements for proper disposal of hazardous materials.
- To ensure that individuals receive required training in the proper handling, storage, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials and waste.
- To ensure a hazardous materials inventory is maintained.

POLICY

Pathways Abilities Society understands the importance of maintaining safe environments for the well-being of persons served, personnel, volunteers and tenants.

Training regarding specific hazardous materials is conducted prior to any handling of the material. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are required for hazardous materials - with the exception of products, materials or substances packaged as a consumer product and in quantities normally used by the consuming public (Work Safe BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Section 5.3 2e). Materials purchased wholesale or in bulk must have SDS sheets available in the service site where they are being used. SDS sheets must be less than three years old, unless nothing has changed, in which case a letter must be provided by the manufacturer.

Products that are not stored in their original containers must be labeled clearly naming the chemical the container contains and its concentration.

Hazardous materials are identified in agency and service area orientations. Specific hazardous materials and procedures for handling are identified in detail in area orientation manuals.

The society encourages employees, volunteers and tenants to recycle solid waste and provide containers for the proper separation and pick-up of recyclable material.

The society prefers the use of natural materials and techniques for fertilizing plants and controlling plant diseases whenever practical and effective.

The society prefers the use of non-hazardous cleaning products that promote the health and safety of both tenants and maintenance staff.

The society prefers the use of traps and mechanical methods of eliminating rodent or insect pests before resorting to poisons and pesticides.