

When the weather is cold outside, the center's heating system must be able to raise the room temperature to at least 68°F. You may not use portable heaters. Make sure it does not get too warm inside the center in the summer. When a room is too warm, it becomes uncomfortable. In the winter months the inside temperature of your center should not exceed 75°F. In the summer, temperatures up to 82°F are okay. If the temperature goes above 82°F, you need to have a way to cool off the room, such as an air conditioner, fan or swamp cooler.

During hot weather, you should either turn on the center's air-conditioning or open windows to maximize air flow through the building. You can open doors if you are certain no one can leave or enter the center without permission. If you use fans, ensure they are secure, earthquake-proof, and inaccessible to the children.

All windows and doors that you keep open for increased air flow require screens.

Ceiling fans may be a good investment. They keep the air circulating. They draw cool air upward from the floor in the summer. They push warm air down from the ceiling in the winter.

If possible, air out classrooms, nap rooms and other common areas several times daily.

There are other things that you can do to help improve the air quality inside your center.

- ♦ Have walk-off mats both inside your entrances and outside the doors. These mats help get dirt and chemicals off the bottoms of people's shoes before they enter your center.
- ♦ Prevent mold and moisture problems inside your center by getting water leaks fixed immediately, cleaning up spills quickly, drying any wet carpeting within 24 hours, and having good ventilation to the outside for your bathrooms and stovetops.
- ♦ Have proper ventilation. Good ventilation helps keep the air from feeling stuffy by helping to control the moisture and temperature. It is a good idea for your facility to have a properly functioning mechanical ventilation system, or open

windows for a few minutes every day. Be sure the windows are not child accessible.

- ♦ Ceiling and wall vents and furnace flues are frequently subject to clogging, especially in bathrooms. When this happens, the air does not circulate properly, creating a health and comfort problem. Inspect your vents every few months, especially in the winter when the furnace runs regularly. Unscrew the grill, and wipe out or vacuum as needed. Regularly replace your furnace filters.

Avoid the use of chemical air fresheners such as sprays, plug-in type or solid products. For some people, these chemicals are irritating to the lungs and eyes and they may be an asthma trigger. It is best to control smells by thorough cleaning and proper sanitizing, increasing ventilation and disposing of diapers in containers with tight-fitting lids.

Parents, visitors and staff must not smoke on the premises, around or in view of children. Outdoor smoking areas must be off the premises. [WAC 170-295-6050]

Ensure that the fresh air intakes for the building are not located near outdoor smoking areas or areas with large amounts car exhaust, such as bus pick-up areas.

WAC

WAC 170-295-5160

What do I need to know about pesticides?

- To use pesticides, you must comply with licensing requirements of chapter 17.21 RCW (The Pesticide Application Act) which requires you to:
 - Establish a policy on the use of pesticides that includes your posting and notification requirements
 - Provide to parents a written copy of your pesticide policies that includes your posting and notification requirements annually or upon enrollment.
 - Notify parents, guardians, and any other interested parties 48 hours in advance of the application of pesticides, and

- Require the pesticide applicator to provide a copy of the records required within 24 hours of when the pesticide is applied.
- Your notification must include a heading stating “Notice: Pesticide Application” and at a minimum must state the:
 - Product name of the pesticide being used
 - Intended date and time of application
 - Location where the pesticide will be applied
 - Pest to be controlled, and
 - Name and number of a contact person at the facility.
- To notify people that a pesticide has been used, you must place a marker at each primary point of entry to the center grounds. The marker must be:
 - A minimum of four inches by five inches
 - Printed in colors contrasting to the background, and
 - Left in place for at least 24 hours following the pesticide application or longer if a longer restricted period is stated on the label.
- The marker must include:
 - A headline that states “This landscape has recently been sprayed or treated with pesticides”
 - Who has treated the landscape, and
 - Whom to call for more information.

WAC

You are required to have a written pesticide policy (whether you use pesticides or not) and to provide parents with a written copy. Most child care centers do not intend to use pesticides. However, in the event that pesticides are needed, you must have a policy in place. The Seattle/King County Public Health Child Care Team has developed a model Pesticide Policy that you can use as you develop your own. It can be found at <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/childcare/mhp/index.htm>. You may also contact your licenser or DEL health specialist for assistance.

Most centers attempt to use the least amount of chemicals to control pests in order to provide the healthiest environment possible for the children. It is best to prevent a pest infestation at your child care center by:

- ◆ Taking out trash daily or more often as needed
- ◆ Cleaning trash cans regularly
- ◆ Keeping trash cans or dumpsters covered and away from the building
- ◆ Keeping grounds clear of food and rubbish
- ◆ Storing food in sealed plastic or metal containers
- ◆ Cleaning and sanitizing all dishes, utensils, and surfaces used for eating or food preparation after meals and at the end of the day
- ◆ Preventing pest entry into facility by sealing cracks and holes, using and repairing window screens and door sweeps
- ◆ Moisture control by maintaining plumbing and water drainage systems
- ◆ Mechanically managing weeds, and
- ◆ Planting native vegetation that is non-toxic.

Some examples of pesticides include ant poisons, wasp sprays, weed and feed lawn chemicals, bug bombs and certain lice products. Consider alternatives to chemicals before you apply pesticides. Pulling weeds by hand, removing sources of food for ants or roaches, and finding ways to prevent pests from entering the center can all be ways of ridding yourself of pests without using pesticides.

If you must use a pesticide, always read the entire label of the pesticide before using, or hire a certified pest control operator. Keep children away from weeds or other areas you sprayed with pesticides. Not only do you need to worry about the pesticides used outside, but also those that you use inside the center. If extermination inside the center is necessary, it is recommended that you hire a certified pest control operator to do the work for you. Whenever you exterminate pests in the center, remove all bedding first, air out the center with fans afterwards, and keep all children off treated surfaces for at least 24 hours. Do not use rat bait or roach motels where children can reach them. If you give a pet a flea dip, keep children away from the pet for at least a few hours.