

Green cleaning is cleaning to protect health without harming the environment

DID YOU KNOW?

In the United States, commercial and institutional cleaning is a \$140 billion industry, annually consuming approximately 6 billion pounds of chemicals, 4.5 billion pounds of janitorial paper, and using a billion pounds of tools, equipment, and other supplies. The extraction of raw materials and manufacturing of these products have significant environmental impacts, as does their transportation, use, and disposal. Many of our raw materials are limited and nonrenewable, which means that once depleted, they're no longer available to future generations for their use.

WHY GREEN CLEANING:

- ❖ Improves the environment by reducing toxic pollution and waste, conserving resources and habitats, and minimizing global warming and ozone depletion.
- ❖ Increases health and wellbeing, particularly in populations most affected by product choice, such as school children, service staff, and the elderly.
- ❖ Demonstrates to various business segments that environmentally responsible products can improve quality and boost profitability.

Defining "Green"

GREEN - Products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on health and environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose.

Two key points:

1) The definition is comparative - It compares products and services to existing or traditional products and services used for the same purpose.

2) The goal of green is to reduce health and environmental impacts. This means that green isn't simply an environmental issue but relates to human health as well.

Steve Ashkin - The Ashkin Group



Green is better for our health and well-being of people, and better for the environment we live in. Technology is great and has given manufacturers more options when it comes to designing a formula. These recent advancements have led to the development of safer products for the cleaning industry. Green products are formulated with less volatile organic compounds (VOC's) than standard products.

ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR GREEN PRODUCTS

- No Nonyl Phenols
- Non-Toxic
- No Phosphates
- Biodegradable
- Non-Corrosive
- No Petroleum Distillates
- Low V.O.C. Levels
- Highly Concentrated

Formulating for our future by transforming the cleaning industry with innovative, green cleaning solutions.



CORE EDUCATIONAL GUIDE TO

Green Cleaning Implementation

Eight Simple Guidelines for Green Cleaning and a Healthier Environment



Choosing environmentally responsible products is a powerful way to make your spending make a difference. Finding those products, and trusting them, isn't always easy.

Develop, plan and execute for success

Caring for a commercial or institutional facility is a huge task. Developing and implementing a green cleaning program that effectively protects occupants' health, while minimizing cleaning's impact on the environment is equally significant. Whether you're explaining your green cleaning plan to a new employee, a vendor, or someone in senior management, you need to capture the most significant aspects.

1. PUT HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT FIRST

A green cleaning program protects health and the environment first, appearance second. Even buildings that appear to be clean can be extremely unhealthy. Low productivity and poor performance are the results of a Building Related Illness or Sick Building Syndrome. Implementing a green cleaning program will more than pay for itself with just a small increase in productivity.

2. REVIEW CURRENT PRODUCTS AND PRACTICES

In order to measure progress, improvements to any program typically requires doing an assessment before implementation. Some current practices may be applied to the new green cleaning program. Gathering information such as manufacturer, vendor information, MSDS, labels of products currently being used, personal protective equipment (PPE), special handling and disposal requirements, and where the products are being applied. Transitioning to a safer, healthier cleaning protocol is also an opportunity to standardize practices among multiple sites.

3. USE GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS

Use certified green cleaning products. Many organizations including Green Seal, Ecologo and DfE approve cleaning chemicals based on environmental impact, health exposures and performance. Today's technology allow manufacturers to offer green cleaning solutions that work well and are cost-competitive to traditional cleaning products. For products not covered by existing standards, choose products that are lower in VOCs compared to similar products. Install and use chemical dilution systems and proportioning equipment to reduce chemical exposure to cleaning workers and building occupants.

4. USE GREEN EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Capture dust and microscopic particles rather than putting them back into the air. Use micro-fiber dust mops or vacuum cleaners to dry-clean hard floors. Use high-efficiency vacuum cleaners and vacuum cleaner filters to capture microscopic materials that might adversely impact building occupant health. Use microfiber cloths to capture dust rather than rags and furniture polish.

5. DECREASE ENTRY OF DIRT AND POLLUTANTS

Paying attention to entryways - inside and out - helps keep trafficking of dirt from getting into an area. A significant amount of dirt, dust and other pollutants come into a building on people's feet. Install walk-off mats, which will help to trap and remove dirt and debris before it enters the area. Consult your mat supplier to choose the proper style for outside and inside each entryway. Proper and frequent cleaning of entry mats is critical to preventing dirt from being distributed.

6. DISINFECT ONLY IN AREAS THAT REQUIRE IT

Indoor air quality is affected by dirt, dust and the chemicals we put into the air. EPA registered disinfectants are categorized as pesticides. The chemicals used to kill bugs can pollute the air if over used. Choose and apply disinfectants properly. Resist the temptation to over-use disinfectants when cleaning. Good basic cleaning procedures are as effective as disinfectants for cleaning most surfaces. Focus on touch points, those spots where people come into contact with most. Door knobs, handles, rails, push bars, light switches, public phones, elevator buttons, and so on are prime points for disease transmission.

7. USE GREEN PAPER AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS

Use janitorial paper products that have a significant percentage of post consumer recycled content. Look for paper that was produced without using chlorine, which when released into the environment, can create dioxins, and other incredibly dangerous chemicals. Many paper and plastic goods such as paper towels, toilet paper and can-liners have been green certified by third part organizations. By taking a few steps to reduce consumption you can offset the higher initial cost of paper and plastic products.

8. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ENFORCING

Everyone doesn't know how to clean. Train custodial staff and managers to ensure procedures are performed properly and safely. Without adequate training, the potential for job-related accidents and injuries is very high. Engage cleaning staff in the process by helping them understand why they are directed to do certain tasks. It is a group effort to maintain and improve the green cleaning program. Increase the professionalism of your staff through continued education and training.

Stephen Askin and David Holly, *Green Cleaning for Dummies*, 2007, (Hoboken, NJ, Wiley Publishing, Inc.)

Rochelle Davis, ed. *The Quick & Easy Guide to Green Cleaning in Schools*, 2008, 2nd ed., (Chicago, IL, Healthy Schools Campaign)

THE PROOF IS IN THE CERTIFICATION

Organizations that set Green Cleaning Standards

There are several organizations that set or promote standards relating to cleaning services, green cleaning, the products, equipment, paper, vacuums and supplies used in green cleaning. For standards or certification programs that are not available, companies may choose to receive third-party verification of environmental impacts and sustainability.



GREEN SEAL ORGANIZATION

Green Seal is an independent, non-profit organization recognized by the industry and strives to achieve a healthier, cleaner environment. Green Seal's evaluations are based on state of the art science and internationally recognized methods and presiders. Green Seal provides credible, objective, and unbiased information whose only purpose is to direct the purchase to environmentally responsible products and service.



U.S. EPA DESIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (DfE)

The DfE program is one of the EPA's premier partnership programs, working with individual sectors to compare and improve the performance and human health and environmental risks and costs of existing and alternative products, processes, and practices. The DfE U.S. EPA Green Chemistry program promotes the research, development, and implementation of innovative chemical technologies that prevent pollution in both a scientifically sound and cost-effective manner.



ECOLOGO (formerly Environmental Choice)

EcoLogo is North America's most widely recognized and respected certification of environmental leadership. By setting standards and certifying products in more than 120 categories, EcoLogo helps you identify, trust, buy, and sell environmentally preferable ("green") goods and services.



U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL (USGBC)

The U.S. Green Building Council is a non-profit community of leaders working to make green buildings available to everyone within a generation. Their rating system is designed for delivering economically profitable, environmentally responsible, healthy, productive places to live and work.



CARPET & RUG INSTITUTE (CRI)

Indoor air quality (IAQ) is an important environmental consideration, especially since we spend approximately 90 percent of our time indoors. CRI represents the carpet and rug industry. Using scientifically established standards, the Green Label program symbolizes the carpet industry's commitment to a better environment for living, working, learning and healing. The Green Label Testing Program was developed for vacuum cleaners and carpet extractors.



THE CHLORINE FREE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

CFPA is an independent not-for-profit accreditation and standard setting organization. Their focus is promoting sustainable manufacturing practices, implementing advanced technologies free of chlorine chemistry, educating consumers on alternatives, and developing world markets for sustainably produced third party certified products and services.

Sustainability of any Green Cleaning Program is execution, training and commitment