

GO Green Cleaning

Information for Residential & Commercial Cleaning Companies

Green cleaning provides a high level of cleanliness while reducing the overall environmental impact of your services. **Good for your clients, your employees and your business.**

Why Go Green?

- ⇒ Easy to implement, convenient to use
- ⇒ Reduced employee illness & absenteeism
 - ⇒ Fewer instances of asthma/allergic attacks; less eye, skin, respiratory irritations
- ⇒ Saves money in the long run!
 - ⇒ Same price or less than non-green products
 - ⇒ Buy in concentrates, use fewer products, reuse materials, decreased disposal costs
 - ⇒ No additional staff needed
- ⇒ Better for your clients
 - ⇒ Kid and pet safe
- ⇒ Better for the environment
 - ⇒ Improves indoor air quality (IAQ) for all staff and building occupants by reducing levels of toxins



What does Green Cleaning mean?

Green cleaning products are designed to have a less harmful affect on human health and the environment when compared to other cleaning products that serve the same purpose. Traditional cleaners may contain chemicals that are asthma triggers or other respiratory irritants.

True green products are certified by an independent third party such as: [Green Seal](#) or [EcoLogo](#).

Look for these labels.



Criteria for a product to be considered “green” include:

- Minimum health effects (0-1 health rating on MSDS)
- Low VOCs (volatile organic compounds)
- Effectiveness

Refer to the following Green Seal Standards for specific criteria:

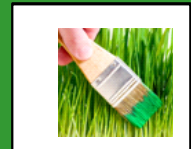
[GS-49](#): Residential Cleaning Services

[GS-37](#): Cleaning Products for Industrial & Institutional Use

[GS-08](#): Cleaning Products for Household Use

Beware of GREENWASHING!

Not all “green” product claims are true. Use of terms such as “natural” or “eco-friendly” may mislead customers in order to market the product.



Information on [greenwashing](#).



Connecticut Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Section
Environmental & Occupational Health Assessment Program
860- 509-7740 <http://www.ct.gov/dph/>

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What does it mean to offer Green Cleaning services?

A Green Cleaning program includes:

Products that:

- Are third party certified
- Contain less toxic chemicals;
Look at the ingredients- low VOCs, no ammonia or bleach, no fragrances, no corrosives, more neutral pH, plant-based ingredients, hazard rating of 0-1 and/or the lowest danger level (caution)

Equipment

- Microfiber cloths & mops that trap dust more effectively
- Multi-level filtration system/HEPA vacuums
- Dilution stations that use a concentrated product diluted at different concentrations for different tasks.

Training – Vendors are required to train buyers on the use of green certified products. Work with suppliers/vendors to get product information and training.

Policies & Procedures to ensure consistent “best” practices, reduce exposures, improve building IAQ

Ask your
supplier for
green products
TODAY!

Sanitizers and disinfectants

Currently there are no green certified sanitizers or disinfectants. Use the least toxic disinfectant such as a hydrogen peroxide-based product. There should be a plan on when and where to disinfect that employs a prudent and targeted use of disinfectants for surfaces touched frequently by hands.

Green sanitizers and disinfectants are being developed. Work with your supplier to get the latest information.

Use green cleaners to clean surfaces before sanitizing or disinfecting.

Where Can I Get More Information?

[American Institute for Cleaning Services](#) (AICS) establishes cleaning industry standards, administers the certification program and provides educational programs.

[ISSA– The Worldwide Cleaning Association](#) provides ISSA CIMS-GB (Cleaning Industry Management Standard– Green Building) certification. [CIMS-Green Building](#) provides a framework for effective management and the development of a comprehensive green cleaning program.

[Protecting Workers Who Use Cleaning Chemicals](#) (OSHA)

[EPA Environmentally Preferable Purchasing \(EPP\)](#)

[Cleaning for Health](#)



Go Green whenever possible!