

## TYPES OF CERTIFICATIONS



**Green Seal** is a non-profit standard-setting organization certifying a range of products and services. Certified products can be found at [www.greenseal.org/FindGreenSealProductsAndServices.aspx](http://www.greenseal.org/FindGreenSealProductsAndServices.aspx)



**EcoLogo** certifications are managed by UL, a global safety science company. They certify cleaning and other types of products based on scientific testing and third-party audits. [www.industries.ul.com/environment/certificationvalidation-marks/ecologo-product-certification](http://www.industries.ul.com/environment/certificationvalidation-marks/ecologo-product-certification)



**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Design for the Environment (DfE)** label was renamed Safer Choice in March 2015. Products which have been certified by the program may use either name or logo during the name transition. [www.epa.gov/saferchoice](http://www.epa.gov/saferchoice)



**DfE is the former EPA logo. It is acceptable in place of the Safer Choice logo.**



**Postconsumer recycled content (PCRC)** reflects the proportion of a product recycled from consumer materials that otherwise would have been disposed. Consistent with U.S. EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines, this specification requires purchasing janitorial paper products with varying levels of recycled content.



Vacuum cleaners trap dust and other irritants using **HEPA air filters** that are designed according to federal standards to remove 99.97% of airborne particles measuring 0.3 micrometers in diameter.



Bin liners used to collect and transport waste for composting are **Biodegradable Product Institute (BPI)** certified to meet the ASTM D6400 standard for commercial compostability of plastics. A database of BPI certified compostable products is available at <http://products.bpiworld.org/>



These products do not contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in concentrations that exceed the levels required by **The California Air Resources Board's (CARB)** Regulation for Reducing Emissions from Consumer. <https://www.arb.ca.gov>

## ENVIRONMENTAL HOTSPOTS

### Key human health and environmental goals of this guide

#### WATER CONSUMPTION

Microfiber mops, cloths, and sponges use less liquid than cotton, which reduces water and chemical use.

#### RECYCLED CONTENT

Using products with high PCRC (Postconsumer Recycled Content) reduces the demand for virgin wood.

#### TOXICITY/HEAVY METALS

Certain toxic chemicals have been linked to serious health problems for building occupants and janitorial staff, including asthma and cancer.

#### PACKAGING

Green Seal, EcoLogo, and Safer Choice/DfE require less material-intensive packaging methods and/or recycled content for packaging of their certified products.

#### END-OF-LIFE-DISPOSAL

Green Seal, EcoLogo, and Safer Choice/DfE require distributors to offer training or information on proper disposal methods to reduce adverse impacts on health and the environment.

## SIGNIFICANT DIRECTIVES

#### LEGISLATION

Healthy Schools Act of 2010, Section 501 requires the use of environmentally friendly cleaning supplies in public schools.

#### LEED FOR SCHOOLS

LEED v4 awards one point for Indoor Environmental Quality: Green Cleaning—Products and Materials if at least 75%, by cost, of the total annual purchases of these products meet green cleaning requirements.

#### DISTRICT POLICY

This guide adheres to the Sustainable Purchasing Program managed by the District Office of Contracting and Procurement.

#### PPRA

PPRA § 104 specifies that products meet Default Environmental Standards.

#### FIFRA

EPA regulates pesticides through the Federal Insecticides, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.



# GREEN CLEANING SUPPLY PURCHASING GUIDE



#### Objective:

The District of Columbia is committed to procuring quality goods and services in a timely manner and reasonable cost to support sustainability goals.

#### Benefits:

Commonly used disinfectants contain chemicals that cause cancer and asthma. Green cleaning and disinfecting products are safer and less toxic for children and adults.

**Updated: March 2017**

**This guide is modeled on OCP's Sustainable Purchasing Specifications:**

<http://ocp.dc.gov/page/sustainable-purchasing>

**For more information:**

[sustainable.schools@dc.gov](mailto:sustainable.schools@dc.gov)

<https://dcps.dc.gov/page/sustainable-schools>

## USING THIS GUIDE

This guide addresses four categories of products:

- A** General purpose cleaning products
- B** Disinfectants and sanitizers
- C** Specialty cleaning products
- D** Miscellaneous janitorial supplies

## MANUFACTURER REQUIREMENTS

For categories **A**, **B** & **C**

**1**  
(MSDS) and  
product label

Cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing products shall include a **Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)** and **product label with a list of ingredients and instructions** for proper handling.

**2**  
Training on  
proper use

The product manufacturer or **contractor shall offer training on the proper use of cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing products** upon request.

**3**  
Correct order  
and package

Cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing **products shall be ordered in concentrated form, wherever practical. Concentrated cleaning products shall be packaged and designed to be used in a closed dilution control system** that limits worker exposure to chemical concentrates while facilitating the proper dilution of chemical concentrates.



# PRODUCT CATEGORIES

## A GENERAL CLEANING

Must be certified to at least ONE (1) of the following standards:



Includes:

- a** General purpose (all purpose) cleaners and degreasers
- b** Bathroom cleaners and deodorizers (includes hard surface, toilet, and urinal)
- c** Glass, mirror, and window cleaners
- d** Carpet, rug, upholstery cleaners (includes routine and spot cleaning products)
- e** Floor cleaners, strippers, sealers, and finishes
- f** Hand soaps, hand cleaners, and hand sanitizers

## B DISINFECTING AND SANITIZING

**1** The District shall prioritize the purchase of disinfectants and non-food contact sanitizers that only contain the following active ingredients:

- |  |                       |                         |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>a.</b> Hydrogen peroxide or accelerated hydrogen peroxide | <b>b.</b> Citric acid | <b>d.</b> Caprylic acid |
|  | <b>c.</b> Lactic acid | <b>e.</b> Silver        |

**2** Disinfectants, including antimicrobial mold and mildew cleaners, and non-food contact surface sanitizers shall be EPA FIFRA-registered.  
**Registries can be found at: [www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/registration-information-type-pesticide](http://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/registration-information-type-pesticide)**

## Tips and Techniques

- A B C** purchase products in concentrated form.
- D** Liners with star seals tend to resist leakage  
LDPE liners tend to resist tears better than HDPE liners
- B** Disinfecting and Sanitizing: Clean first and only as required, as they are inherently toxic.

## C SPECIALTY CLEANING

Must be certified to a least ONE (1) of the following standards or low VOCs, OR fall below CARB Limits for VOCs:



Includes:

- a** Metal polish (including but not limited to chrome and brass cleaner)
- b** Furniture polish
- c** Graffiti remover
- d** Gum remover
- e** Lime and scale remover

## D MISCELLANEOUS JANITORIAL

Products purchased by the District shall meet the following criteria:

- 1. Vacuum cleaners** shall have high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters.
- 2. Paper towels** shall contain at least 40% postconsumer recycled content (PCRC).
- 3. Toilet paper** shall contain at least 20% PCRC.
- 4. Trash bin and recycling bin liners** shall contain at least 10% PCRC or have a thickness of less than 0.7 ml.
- 5. Composting bin liners** shall be Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) certified to meet the ASTM D6400 standard for commercial compostability of plastics.
- 6. Recycling bin liners** shall be clear, white, or natural in color.
- 7. Microfiber** mops, cloths, and sponges shall be purchased instead of cotton.
- 8. Protective gloves** shall not contain PVC or vinyl.

