



## *Why Target Flooring Cleaning Products and Equipment?*

Adoption of environmentally preferable cleaning chemicals is important for many reasons:

**Worker health and safety:** Janitorial workers are one of the most likely worker classifications to suffer injuries on the job, primarily burns and blinding from caustic substances. One study found that 35% of conventional cleaning products can cause blindness, severe skin damage or damage to organs through the skin.

**Environmental damage:** Cleaning products that contain phosphorous are associated with algal blooms in water bodies that kill aquatic organisms. Some contain alkylphenol ethoxylate surfactants, which persist in the environment and are linked to hormone disruption in exposed organisms. When paper is manufactured with chlorine or any of its derivatives, it releases dioxin into the environment, a persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemical.

**Patient and staff comfort:** Many cleaning products contain high levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which can give rise to respiratory irritation, headaches and other symptoms.

**Long term health issues:** A surprising number of cleaning products contain known or probable carcinogens, and substances associated with reproductive organ damage, birth defects, kidney damage, neurological impacts and other serious health effects.

## *What Should Purchasers Look For?*

As the market for environmentally friendly cleaning products has expanded, many manufacturers make environmental claims that are difficult to verify or assess. Clearly, product review committees or contract staff would find it challenging to take on the immense burden of reviewing individual lab data on specific products to assess environmental impacts. Third party certification can provide assurance that a given product has been independently tested and found to meet a specific set of criteria which verifiably reduce its negative environmental and health impacts. It also ensures that a program of repeat verification and factory inspection is in place to ensure continuing compliance.

There are two certifying organizations for cleaning products that are widely accepted. In the US, a nonprofit organization called Green Seal has established product standards for cleaning products based on a combination of performance specifications and environmental criteria. Their process is open, and includes feedback from health and environmental experts as well as manufacturers and end users. UL Environment (formerly TerraChoice) offers the "EcoLogo" certification program (which has been mostly based in Canada) for cleaning products and supplies operated in a similar fashion to Green Seal. Both have developed environmentally preferable standards for janitorial chemicals and paper products.

## Supplier Disclosure Questions for Floor Cleaners and Equipment

Cleaning Equipment			
Equipment Question	Preferred Answer	Rationale: Why ask suppliers this question?	Other considerations or options for this question
Is this equipment approved by the Carpet and Rug Institute? (Yes/No/NA)	Yes	<b>This applies only to carpet cleaner equipment. Vacuum cleaners</b> certified by the Carpet & Rug Institute Seal of Approval/Green Label Program and are capable of capturing 99.97% of particulates 0.3 microns in size. <b>Carpet extraction equipment</b> used for restorative deep cleaning certified by the Carpet & Rug Institute’s “Seal of Approval” Testing Program for Certified Deep Cleaning Extractors. Carpet extraction equipment shall be capable of removing sufficient moisture such that carpets can dry in less than 24 hours	The Green Seal standards for products relevant to cleaning contracts include: Degreasers (GS-34); Industrial & Institutional general-purpose, bathroom, glass, and carpet cleaners(GS-37); Industrial & Institutional Floor-Care Products (GS-40); Industrial Hand Cleaners (GS-41); Paper Towels and Paper Napkins (GS-09); Tissue Paper (GS-01). EcoLogo standards include Carpet and Upholstery Cleaners (CCD 143), Cleaning and Degreasing Compounds-Biologically based (CCD 110), Floor Care Products (CCD 147), Hand Cleaners (CCD 104) and Hard surface Cleaners (CCD 146).
Does this equipment operate at a sound level less than 70 dBA? (Yes/No)	Yes	This question pertains to worker health and safety and is also included in the Green Guide for Health Care credits, ES 1.6, <a href="http://www.gghc.org">www.gghc.org</a>	
Is this product not powered by propane? (Yes/No)	Yes	Current in-use propane-powered equipment may only be used when the building is unoccupied, and under conditions allowing for as much air circulation and exchange as possible. Suppliers should answer “Yes” to this.	
Does this product use microfiber cleaning technology? (Yes/No)	Yes	Microfiber mops are preferable compared to the bucket/mop cleaning. See the fact sheet from EPA on the benefits in cleaning efficacy, health and safety, and water reduction, <a href="http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/p2/projects/hospital/mops.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/p2/projects/hospital/mops.pdf</a>	
Is this product free of intentionally-added mercury in all components? (Yes/No/Unknown)	Yes	Mercury is typically used in switches, temperature controls, and pressure controls.	Mercury is a known neurotoxicant and mercury contamination continues to affect fisheries in the US and around the world. Substitutes for mercury-containing components in electronics are widely available.
Is this product free of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic?	Yes	PVC is used in stiff and flexible plastic parts.	PVC is being targeted for phaseout by many medical facilities because PVC manufacturing results in releases of dioxin, a potent carcinogen.

Is this product free of intentionally-added Short Chain Chlorinated Paraffins? (Yes/No/Unknown)	Yes	Short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs) are n-paraffins that have a carbon chain length of between (and including) 10 and 13 carbon atoms and a degree of chlorination of more than 48% by weight. These may use the CAS number 63449-39-8.	SCCPs are generally persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic and have been identified as problematic environmental contaminants in the North Atlantic. Responsible manufacturers stopped using SCCPs in electronic devices in the 1990s.
Is this product free of intentionally-added Halogenated Flame Retardants (HFRs) in any component, including Housings & External Enclosures? (Yes/No/Unknown)	Yes	HFRs are defined as chemicals that contain a carbon-halogen bond and are intended to inhibit ignition and the spread of flames. Halogens include fluorine, chlorine, bromine, and iodine. (For a list of HFRs, see <a href="http://www.noharm.org/lib/downloads/bfrs/Purchasers_Can_Reduce_BFRs.pdf">http://www.noharm.org/lib/downloads/bfrs/Purchasers_Can_Reduce_BFRs.pdf</a> )	For many devices, feasible alternatives to HFRs exist for all components. While many companies have stopped using HFRs in housings and external enclosures, environmental leaders are eliminating all HFRs in every component, including printed circuit boards.

Janitorial Cleaners				
Question	Yes/No Definition	Preferred Answer	Rationale: Why ask suppliers this question?	Other considerations or options for this question
Is the product supplied Green Seal or EcoLogo Certified?	Y/N/NA. Y = Product certified by Green Seal or EcoLogo, N = Not certified by Green Seal. See <a href="http://www.greenseal.org">www.greenseal.org</a> and <a href="http://www.environmentalchoice.com/en/greenproducts/">http://www.environmentalchoice.com/en/greenproducts/</a> for applicable certifications. Applies only to applicable cleaning products, including general purpose cleaners, carpet cleaners, floor finishes and strippers, paper towels and tissue paper.	Yes	Green Seal and EcoLogo certify products that meet consensus environmental standards. Using Green Seal-certified or EcoLogo-certified cleaning products can help facilities qualify for credit ES 4.1 in the Green Guide for Health Care ( <a href="http://www.gghc.org">http://www.gghc.org</a> ), and can help facilities green their operations.  Green Seal certified paper products are not bleached with chlorine or any its derivatives.	The Green Seal standards for products relevant to cleaning contracts include: Degreasers (GS-34); Industrial & Institutional general-purpose, bathroom, glass, and carpet cleaners(GS-37); Industrial & Institutional Floor-Care Products (GS-40); Industrial Hand Cleaners (GS-41); Paper Towels and Paper Napkins (GS-09); Tissue Paper (GS-01). EcoLogo standards include Carpet and Upholstery Cleaners (CCD 143), Cleaning and Degreasing Compounds-Biologically based (CCD 110), Floor Care Products (CCD 147), Hand Cleaners (CCD 104) and Hard surface Cleaners (CCD 146).

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Question	Yes/No Definition	Preferred Answer	Rationale: Why ask suppliers this question?	Other considerations or options for this question
Is this product fragrance free? (Yes/No)	Y/N. Y = Product available without added fragrance, N = Product not available without added fragrance.	Yes	As a result of rising incidences of fragrance sensitivity, some facilities may wish to prefer products available without added fragrance. Also, fragrances can contain phthalates which are used to help fragrances last longer. Phthalates have been linked to damaging the DNA in sperm of adult men. Suppliers should know even if a product is labeled “unscented” it may contain masking fragrances.	Manufacturers are not required by law to disclose chemical ingredients in fragrances making it difficult to avoid products containing fragrances.
Is the product’s <i>primary</i> packaging made with postconsumer recycled content? (Primary packaging surrounds the product, i.e., the bottle is primary for a cleaner.) Yes/No)	Y/N. Y=Product’s primary package contains postconsumer recycled content and is labeled as made with recycled content. N=Product’s primary packaging does not contain postconsumer content?	Yes	Purchasing products made with postconsumer recycled content helps support local recycling markets and close the recycling loop.	
Does this cleaning product meet California’s volatile organic compound (VOC) regulations (Title 17, Division 3, Chapter 1, Subchapter 8.5, Article 2, Consumer Products, Sections 94507-94517)? (Yes/No)	Y/N/NA. Y = product meets California Regulation for Reducing Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Emissions from Consumer Products, N = does not meeting California Regulation for Reducing VOC Emissions from Consumer Products. Applies only to covered consumer products. See <a href="http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/title17_94509.pdf">http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/title17_94509.pdf</a> NA=This product is not a cleaner.	Yes	Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) cause smog and poor indoor air quality. Many cleaning products are available with low VOC levels. California has the strictest VOC regulations in the country. Using products that meet the California VOC restriction can help facilities qualify for credit ES 4.1 in the Green Guide for Health Care. ( <a href="http://www.gghc.org">http://www.gghc.org</a> )	There are over 100 products covered, many of which are janitorial products in the Table of Standards for Percent VOC by weight. This regulation is updated regularly so check the website for updated versions at <a href="http://www.arb.ca.gov/consprod/regs/regs.htm">http://www.arb.ca.gov/consprod/regs/regs.htm</a>

Janitorial Cleaners				
Question	Yes/No Definition	Preferred Answer	Rationale: Why ask suppliers this question?	Other considerations or options for this question
Is there a full ingredient list available publicly (website, label, etc) or through a third party for this product? (Yes/No)	Y/N. Y = Supplier will provide full and complete ingredient list upon request or has an ingredient list through a third party for confidentiality reasons. N = Supplier cannot provide full and complete ingredient list.	Yes	Facilities may prefer products for which a full and complete ingredient list is available, because it will assist the facility industrial hygienist in the case of an occupational health incident, or if facilities wish to compare products to choose the least toxic.	Fragrance ingredients are not required to be listed on products (FDA).
Has this product had all chemical and material ingredients tested for toxicity? (Yes/No)	Y/N/Unknown. Y=Supplier knows all chemical ingredients have been tested for toxicity. N=Supplier knows none of the chemical ingredients have been tested for toxicity. Unk=Supplier does not know if any chemical ingredients have been tested.	Yes	Facilities may prefer to know that all chemicals in product ingredients have been tested before they reach the market. To ensure the safety of patients and begin to move markets, ask suppliers to know the extent of toxicity testing on each ingredient in all the cleaning products supplied based on the Screening Information Data Set (SIDS) screen or equivalent dossier. Information on SIDS is available in the Manual for Investigation of High Product Volume (HPV) Chemicals at <a href="http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,2340,en_2649_34379_1947463_1_1_1_1,00.html">http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,2340,en_2649_34379_1947463_1_1_1_1,00.html</a> .)	Information on SIDS is available in the Manual for Investigation of High Product Volume (HPV) Chemicals at <a href="http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,2340,en_2649_34379_1947463_1_1_1_1,00.html">http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,2340,en_2649_34379_1947463_1_1_1_1,00.html</a> .)
Will this cleaning product not be classified as a hazardous waste (under RCRA) if disposed as delivered?	Y/N/NA. Y = Product is not a RCRA hazardous waste if disposed as delivered. N = Product is a RCRA hazardous waste if disposed as delivered. NA=This does not apply to this product.	Yes	Some cleaning products, as a result of particular ingredients or other attributes, must be disposed of as hazardous waste in the event of a spill or outdated product. Facilities can avoid these potential liabilities and costs by preferring products that are not hazardous waste if disposed "as delivered," meaning before the product is used. Because state laws for hazardous waste definitions vary, this question asks about the product's status under the Federal RCRA hazardous waste law.	

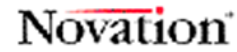
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\*Information on SIDS is available in the Manual for Investigation of High Product Volume (HPV) Chemicals at [http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,2340,en\\_2649\\_34379\\_1947463\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,2340,en_2649_34379_1947463_1_1_1_1,00.html).)

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