

GREEN CLEANING AND ASTHMA RESOURCES



Collaborative for High Performance Schools maintains a Low-Emitting Materials Product List, www.chps.net/manual/lem_table.htm. This table lists products that have been certified by its manufacturer and an independent laboratory to meet the CHPS Low-Emitting Materials criteria-[Section 01350](#)-for use in a typical classroom as described in a CA Department of Health Services (CDHS) Standard Practice. A school that specifies and installs the materials listed below qualifies for points under Indoor Environmental Quality Credit EQ2.2.



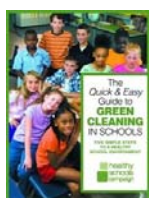
Environmental Choice is Canada's environmental product certification program. It has issued standards for over 300 product categories (such as flooring, paint, cleaners, office furniture and other products that may emit formaldehyde, VOCs and other indoor air pollutants), See www.environmentalchoice.com/English/ECP%20Home.

Green Seal is a nonprofit organization that set standards for products (such as less-toxic janitorial cleaners, floor strippers, and paints) and certifies products that meet those standards. Find certified products, standards, and *Choose Green Reports* at www.greenseal.org.



Green Purchasing Institute provides hands-on technical support to local governments on green cleaning and asthma prevention issues, including the development of environmental purchasing policies, bid specifications, contract language and outreach materials. Email: info@greenpurchasing.org.

Health Care Without Harm published a report in 2006, **Risks to Asthma Posed by Indoor Health Care Environments: A Guide to Identifying and Reducing Problematic Exposures**. It documents products such as cleaners and disinfectants that are commonly used in hospitals and other institutions that contain chemicals known to cause or aggravate asthma. This free publication can be downloaded from www.noharm.org.



Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) has published a multimedia how-to guide to help schools adopt cleaning programs that encourage the use of green products, equipment and practices in schools. The *Quick & Easy Guide to Green Cleaning in Schools* simplifies the green cleaning process, and the easy-to-use CD-Rom contains comprehensive information, practical advice, tools and resources to help schools take action. It also includes a purchasing guide that lists products that are consistent with HSC Green Clean recommendations. To download a free copy, go to:

http://healthyschoolscampaign.org/campaign/green_clean_schools/guide.php.

Healthy Schools Network has published a Green Cleaning Guide (Updated 2006), which contains practical tips from facility directors on keeping dirt and grime from entering schools, criteria to consider when selecting products, links to New York State's Green Cleaning Law, and other resources. It is available free of charge, along with two dozen other peer-reviewed guides and resources on disinfectants, mold, indoor air quality, asthma and other related issues) through this organization's EPA-Award winning Healthy Kids/Healthy Schools Clearinghouse at <http://www.healthyschools.org/clearinghouse.html>.





INFORM is a nonprofit environmental research organization based in New York City. It offers free technical resources on a several issues relating to toxic chemicals in consumer products and environmentally preferable purchasing, including its *Cleaning for Health* webpage, which links to its 2002 report on this subject as well as a *Green Cleaning Tool Kit*, designed for schools and other institutional facilities:

http://www.informinc.org/project_cleaning_health.php. INFORM's website also includes

several useful fact sheets such as:

- *Cleaning for Health: Best Practices*
www.informinc.org/FS_CHP_CfH%20Best%20Practices.pdf
- *Green Cleaning Site Visit Checklist*
www.informinc.org/FS_CHP_Site%20Visit%20Check%20List.pdf
- *Implementing Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Practices: An Eight Step Plan*
www.informinc.org/fs_chp_Implementing%20Env%20Preferable%20Cleaning%20FINAL.pdf



Janitorial Product Pollution Prevention Project (JP4) was undertaken with support of a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency. Its website offers fact sheets, commentaries with advice for pollution prevention staff and facility managers, a data base containing information summarizing the health risks of common cleaning product ingredients, and other resources designed to help custodial workers avoid or safely handle high-hazard cleaning chemicals and identify less-toxic replacements. The fact sheets, which are available in English and Spanish, give recommendations for safe and effective cleaning of restrooms, floors, glass, metal, and carpets. The JP4 website can be found at <http://www.wrppn.org/Janitorial/jp4.cfm>.

Safe & Effective Toilet Cleaning

Many toilet bowl cleaners contain acids and other chemicals that are harmful. Use the mildest product you can find, and always wear gloves and goggles to protect yourself.

Most non-acid toilet cleaners are relatively safe to use, and have only a small impact on the environment. Disinfectants require a bit more care, but are still fairly safe. Acid cleaners are the most dangerous of all.

Use a mild cleaner for daily toilet polishing.
Unless the toilets are already in good shape, clean them first and then use a separate disinfectant.

Use acid cleaners only when you have really stubborn stains to remove.
Acid cleaners are very dangerous - always protect yourself by wearing gloves and goggles.

Regular Toilet Cleaning - Use a strong non-acid cleaning product for your daily toilet maintenance. Also use a disinfectant product that contains Alkyl Ammonium Chloride to kill germs. Some suppliers combine the cleaner and disinfectant into one product. You can use a combined cleaner-disinfectant only if the toilet fixtures are not too dirty to start with.

Otherwise you should clean the toilets first, and then use a separate disinfectant. Leave the disinfectant in place for 10 minutes to get good results.

Stain Removal - Sometimes lime stains, rust, or other stubborn deposits will form in the toilet bowl. Your regular daily cleaner might not remove these materials.

You have two choices: use a powdered cleaner and scrub pad to scour the

Women's Voices for the Earth published a report, *Household Hazards: Potential Hazards of Home Cleaning Products*, July 2007, <http://www.womenandenvironment.org/campaignsandprograms/SafeCleaning/HazardsReport.pdf>.

US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and other federal agencies have developed websites, reports and other resources to assist federal agencies in making the transition to green cleaning products, including:

- *Greening Your Purchase of Cleaning Products: A Guide For Federal Purchasers*, US Environmental Protection Agency, <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/pubs/clean/cleaning.htm>
- *Green Janitorial Products and Services*, Office of the Federal Environmental Executive website, <http://www.ofee.gov/gp/greenjanitorial.html>



This fact sheet was compiled by The Green Purchasing Institute; please email info@greenpurchasing.org with any questions or comments.