

WASHINGTON STATE  
**GREEN Cleaning**



**Toolkit**

ages

# GREEN Purchasing Guide

## Cleaning supplies

A wide array of cleaning chemicals are used to remove dirt from the floors, countertops, windows and other surfaces in our public buildings. Cleaning is also an important first step in protecting building occupants from bacteria, viruses and other pathogens. While cleaning chemicals are critically important for protecting the health of building occupants, many conventional products release chemicals into indoor air that can cause asthma and other health problems among custodial staff and building occupants. Fortunately, a wide array of certified low-toxicity cleaners are available and offered on the State of Washington's contracts for janitorial, facility maintenance, and office supplies. This guide is designed to make it easy for SWashington state employees and contract users to:

-  Specify **GREEN** cleaners when developing contracts
-  Identify **GREEN** cleaners on Washington's Master Contracts and other price agreements
-  Understand how **GREEN** cleaners will help the State of Washington protect human health and the environment and yield other sustainability benefits

## Sustainability specifications

### *What is a GREEN cleaner?*

General purpose, floor, carpet, restroom, and glass cleaners are used on a daily basis in public office buildings and, therefore, present the highest exposure for custodial workers and building occupants and visitors. For this reason, the State has negotiated a **GREEN Janitorial Supplies Master Agreement** that offers several brands of certified low-toxicity, high-performance cleaning products for these applications.

### Minimum requirements

General purpose, restroom, floor, carpet and glass cleaners must have at least one of the following multi-attribute third-party low-toxicity certifications: **Green Seal**, **UL ECOLOGO**, **Safer Choice**, or **Cradle to Cradle** (Silver level or higher).

## Look for these eco-labels



# GREEN Cleaners

## Safe cleaners and disinfectants against COVID-19

### *EPA's List N*

EPA's List N includes several safe hydrogen peroxide-based surface disinfectants which include but are not limited to:



#### **CLOROX®**

A ready-to-use liquid with efficacy against a wide array of bacteria and viruses (including Human Coronavirus) with a 1-minute contact time:

- **Commercial Solutions Hydrogen Peroxide Disinfecting Cleaner**
- **Commercial Solutions Hydrogen Peroxide Disinfectant Wipes**
- **Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant**
- **Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant Wipes**

(EPA Registration No. 67619-24 and 67619-25)



### *Washington's master contracts*



#### **DIVERSEY®**

A dilutable (1:64) liquid concentrate with efficacy against a wide array of bacteria and viruses (including Human Coronavirus) with a 5-minute contact time:

- **Surface Disinfectant Cleaner**

(EPA Registration No. 70627-62)



#### **GOJO INDUSTRIES PURELL®**

A ready-to-use liquid with efficacy against a wide array of bacteria and viruses (including Human Coronavirus) with a 5-minute contact time:

- **Multi-Surface Disinfecting Cleaner**
- **Multi-Surface Disinfectant**
- **Professional Surface Disinfectant**
- **Professional Surface Disinfecting Wipes**

(EPA Registration No. 84368-1 and 84150-1)



WASH STATE

# GREEN Cleaning

## Safe cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting strategies to reduce and prevent COVID-19 transmission

### *Hazardous chemicals are common*

People using these products, and people in the spaces where they are used, can get sick or develop illnesses, including asthma. Others harm reproductive health or may cause cancer if too much exposure occurs. Some damage skin or other body systems. For example, custodians using cleaning products and disinfectants may suffer from work-related asthma due to exposure on the job.

### *What is important for product selection?*

- 🍃 Cleaning is always the first step. Disinfectants and sanitizers do not work on dirty surfaces.
- 🍃 Cleaning is different from sanitizing and disinfecting (see the box on page 1 for definitions). Disinfectants are widely misused and overused, including improper concentrations and solutions. More is not necessarily better - often, cleaning is all that's needed.
- 🍃 Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, may be needed. Refer to the product label or Safety Data Sheet to see if specific protective measures are recommended. You will need to consider if the product is being sprayed into the air (which makes it easier to inhale) or placed on cloths (which can cause skin exposure), as well as how concentrated the product is and if it should be diluted.
- 🍃 Dwell or contact time matters for sanitizers and disinfectants. They work only if left on a surface for specified times. See the manufacturers' instructions on the label.
- 🍃 Use the right product for the surface! Not all surfaces are the same. For example, what works on fabric may not work on stainless steel. Some products work on bacteria but not viruses. Some must be diluted, such as bleach.
- 🍃 Some can be used in sprays; others cannot. Is it certified for your purpose by EPA or another reputable body? See full guide for details.

### **Questions?**

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