

GREENING YOUR CLEANING PRODUCT PURCHASES

WHAT IS GREEN CLEANING?

Green Cleaning is cleaning your home, workplace, school, etc. with less-toxic products and substances.

WHY SHOULD YOU “GO GREEN” WHEN CLEANING?

Green Cleaning better protects your health! Many household products contain chemicals that can have unfavorable health effects – these chemicals can cause cancer, irritate the skin and lungs, interfere with the proper functioning of organs, or affect the reproductive system.

- 6% of janitors experience job-related injuries from chemical exposure from cleaning products every year!
- Most Americans have cleaning product chemicals (which can be toxic) in their blood and urine.
- Childhood asthma has increased 60% since 1980; 10 million children under the age of 16 are diagnosed with asthma.
- Veterinarians are treating more cancer in pets – AND there is an increase in behavioral problems due to chemical poisoning of household pets. Conventional cleaning products can be highly toxic to animals.
- Toxic chemicals and carcinogens (chemicals that can cause cancer) have been found in the ice of our planet’s polar ice caps AND in the umbilical cord of newborn babies!



Additional info:

<http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov>
<https://www.greenworkscleaners.com>
<http://simplegreen.com/household/>

HOW CAN YOU “GO GREEN” WITH CLEANING PRODUCTS?

AVOID THE FOLLOWING:

- Products packaged in aerosol containers (“automatic sprayers”)
- Products with added fragrances
- Products containing disinfectants (unless specifically used for disinfecting)

AVOID PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN:

- Alkyl phenol ethoxlates (environmental toxins)
- Ammonium quaternary compounds (occupational asthmagens)
- Glycol ethers (developmental and reproductive toxins)
- Phthalates (hormone disruptors, and asthmagens found in fragrances)
- Monoethanolamine (occupational astmagen)

SHOP FOR PRODUCTS THAT ARE:

- Disclosing their ingredients
- Plant or bio-based, NOT petroleum-based
- Biodegradable,
- pH neutral
- Packaged in pump-spray bottles, NOT aerosol cans
- Packaged in recyclable containers
- Certified by a third-party certification organization (Green Seal, EcoLogo, Design for the Environment, etc.)

LOOK FOR THE LABEL



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INGREDIENT GUIDE

Acids – can produce severe burns on contact

Acute health effects – due to short-term exposures – usually of short duration, irritation, corrosivity, chemically induced unconsciousness, or death

Biodegradable – capable of being converted to simpler chemicals by microorganisms

Carcinogen – chemical capable of causing cancer

Central nervous system depressant – chemical toxic to neurons in the brain

Chronic health effects – effects which generally occur as a result of long-term exposure, and are of long duration

Combustible – a substance having a flash point at or above 100°F – the flashpoint is the temperature when a substance can ignite in the air

Corrosive – chemical that can cause deep tissue damage upon contact

Flammable – a substance having a flashpoint (the temp. when a substance can ignite in the air) above 20 and below 100°F

Incompatible – chemicals that react violently or produce toxic byproducts

Irritation – redness, swelling, or tissue damage caused by chemicals – varying degrees depending on dose

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