

PURCHASING GREEN CLEANSERS

In accordance with the NYS Education Law (409-i) and State Finance Law (163-b), the Board of Education, when required, will make purchases related to the procurement and use of environmentally sensitive cleaning and maintenance products. The intent of this law is to protect children and employee health by enabling schools to select products that clean effectively and minimize any adverse health effects.

The Board recognizes that certain circumstances (ex. blood spill) and locations (ex. food service, swimming pool areas, nurse's office, and in-school child care facilities) may require special cleaning practices that are prescribed by existing laws, regulations or professional guidance. The law for green cleaning does not supersede or change existing health, labor, education and environmental regulations and professional guidance related to cleaning and maintenance practices and disposal of hazardous chemicals. When disinfectants or other special cleaning practices are necessary, in accordance with the above, personnel will be trained in the proper use of the products and label directions will be followed.

Products will be selected from the OGS green cleaning product lists or from a NYS green cleaning product contract, except for any existing cleaning supplies. As those are depleted they will be replaced with more environmentally sensitive alternatives.

In addition to the cleaning products, the Board acknowledges the following best cleaning management practices:

- 1) Reduce the need to clean. Prevent, to the extent possible, soil and other contaminants from entering the facility.
- 2) Follow instructions and precautions provided by the manufacturer.
- 3) Clean first; only use a disinfectant or germicide if needed.
- 4) Minimize the use of products that leave a scent in the room.
- 5) Buy high quality floor finishes.
- 6) Use cold water.
- 7) Consider the impact and life cycle costs of maintenance in choosing floor products.
- 8) Vacuum carpets frequently prior to considering the use of any carpet cleaning products.
- 9) Maintain vacuum cleaners and filters regularly.
- 10) Investigate the use of new cleaning technologies and equipment.
- 11) Ensure all custodial and maintenance personnel are trained properly.
- 12) Leave virtually no residue.
- 13) Educate all faculty and staff members regarding the use of chemicals and green cleaning.

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