

Using SIGNIFICANTLY RESEARCHED QUALITY “GREEN” PRODUCTS & CLEANING METHODS For Facility Cleaning

USE OF RESEARCH TO IMPROVE CLEANING METHODS

The concept of “Green” cleaning is surfacing more often in janitorial literature since the introduction of “Green” cleaning came to pass.

With all the attention that “going Green” has been getting the idea of applying research to “Green” cleaning is becoming more prevalent. This month’s newsletter provides practical reading and understanding behind the concept of “Green” cleaning and beyond.

Why use “Green” Products?

“Green” or environmentally preferable products are and can often be defined as “products or services having a safer, cleaner effect on the health of humans. The environment is also protected when you compare “Green” products in competition with or services that offer the same purpose.

Practical use of “Green” cleaning effectively protects human health while the products are not harmful to the environment.

Many cleaning company professionals offer green cleaning for businesses, residential and individuals. Additionally, “Green” cleaning products are more readily and widely available. There are many benefits of using “Green” cleaning products and practices both at home and at work including:

- Greatly improved indoor air quality
- Reduced complaints regarding indoor environments from office and janitorial workers
- Environmental impact can be drastically reduced and less adverse
- Money savings for company owners are proven
- Natural resource conservation and protection/enhancement of natural habitats
- Employee productivity and satisfaction is improved
- Optimizing building material life-cycles
- Community health and well-being contributions

Getting to know your “Green” products!

There can be difficulty in determining which products are authenticated “Green” and those that lay claim to be “Green” but really are not.

TASK-CO Building Maintenance suggests that one looks for the following things in “Green” cleaning products:

- Ingredient listing
- No perfume or fragrances with essential oils
- Successful companies who keep sustainability in mind.
- Additionally, evaluate products in accordance with recognized labelling programs.

• EcoLogo

- EcoLogo is the most widely recognized and respected certification of environmental leadership, setting standards and certifying products in more than 120 categories.
- Currently there are more than 7,000 EcoLogo-certified products from hundreds of manufacturers.
- When choosing a “Green” product, look for the following logo.



What to look for in your “Green” products!

Difficulty can arise when choosing which cleaning products are the “greenest”. There are a few key words and phrases that can be looked for which will help identify products with reduced adverse environmental and health effects. TASK-CO Building Maintenance advises the purchase of products that label their ingredients;

Purchase from a reputable supplier. Some words and phrases to look for include:

- Phosphate free
- Nitrogen free
- Biodegradable

Importantly

Certification programs can be costly. Smaller, start up firms cannot afford to register. It is important not to exclude these producers when you are looking for new cleaning products.

- Non-toxic
 - Minimizes exposure to concentrates
 - Reduced bio concentration/ bioaccumulation factor
 - Reduced or no added dyes, except when added for safety purposes
 - Designed for use in cold water in order to conserve energy
 - Reduced or no skin irritants
 - Use of renewable resources, such as bio based solvents from citrus, seed, vegetable, and pine oils
 - Reduced or no volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
 - Scented with essential oil
 - Contains vegetable based surfactants
 - Perfume/Fragrance free
 - Natural Ingredients - note that ‘anything is natural’.
- Most importantly be aware, not all green cleaning products will have all of the above listed attributes but if they list at least one then the product is on the right track. For example, it is important to look for phosphate free detergents however they may also be bio-degradable. All-purpose cleaners will be toxin free and furniture polish should NOT contain VOCs or fragrance additives.

The Significance Behind Good Facility Maintenance and Quality Cleaning Methods

Often time facility managers/Owners only see what is immediately in front of them when it comes to cleaning a facility and don't realize the significance behind complete facility maintenance.

Not generally realized is that there are hidden items to be assessed. The following are just few examples of additional issues for consideration:

- Carpet Cleaning
- Hi dusting
- Ceramic and Vinyl Tile Floor Cleaning
- Window Cleaning

Easy realization is "yes", floors need mopping; garbage needs to be removed; restrooms need cleaning. Here at TASK-CO Building Maintenance, we realize the importance of not just basic cleaning but also disinfection.

- Hi and low dusting should also be high on the list of importance, particularly in restaurants. Not everyone realizes the amount of dust that can circulate throughout a facility; through ventilation system; open windows, etc. Dust can settle in high level areas such as rafters and beams in restaurants and above dropped ceilings.
- Post construction clean ups are also recommended. It is wonderful for employees to move into a new facility where everything is sparkling clean after construction is complete. Should there be customers coming in and out of a new facility it is good sense to have them observe how clean your new facility is.

Hi Level Dust Build Up

- Restaurant cooking smells/residues can settle high up and can circulate through the atmosphere. This is not conducive to ambient surroundings. The idea is to bring customers into clean surroundings with no dust, clean carpets, clean tile/ceramic flooring, clean windows and sparkling welcome atmosphere.
- It is very important to maintain both health and safety standards for restaurants.
- Mishandled food can harbor food borne illnesses that can lead to severe health complications.
- Dust from rafters/ceilings above can migrate down into food that is improperly covered or through ventilation systems that have not been maintained.



Studies indicate most cleaning cloths, rags/ sponges used in commercial cleaning environments harbor dangerous levels of bacteria.

- Cleaning is an everyday part of running a restaurant and is also a safety measure.
- Cooking can cause grease to build up in various parts of the kitchen which adheres to cooking grease and can harbor many different microbes causing illness.
- Exhaust systems are used to remove fumes; however safety hazards are created when grease/dust builds up within the system thereby causing exhaust fans to function improperly, increasing the chances of a fire.
- **Remove excess grease from these areas as well as any dust buildup that can cause the equipment to malfunction.**
- Wipe all stove and oven surfaces to remove food particles and any buildup in the creases of the appliances being used. In-depth cleaning, including the equipment's designed to clear the kitchen, goes a long way in protecting against a fire.

What can TASK-CO Building Maintenance do for your cleaning needs?

Make TASK-CO Building Maintenance your commercial/industrial, restaurant and office cleaning company.

We make it a priority to ensure that safe and hygienic cleaning methods are practiced by all of our employees when cleaning your restaurant kitchen.

When it comes to your staff just how hygienic are your cleaning practices? Has your staff received training in proper sanitation and cleaning methods, and are they practicing them?

Or have you simply just assumed that they are doing so?

Even if they have successfully completed a training program, without regular refresher courses, the skills that they have learned during their training may have already been forgotten.

TASK-CO Building Maintenance ensures that every one of our staff members is trained in hygienic cleaning methods.

Mission Statement

TASK-CO BUILDING MAINTENANCE is dedicated to providing our clients with a better quality of cleaning service.

All internal performance standards are met with enthusiasm.

Management of TASK-CO BUILDING MAINTENANCE is committed to providing our staff and crew with the training and equipment necessary to achieve such a level of quality.

A higher standard of quality exists within the operations of TASK-CO BUILDING MAINTENANCE such that we are able to meet and/or exceed our customer's expectations.

Our name, TASK-CO BUILDING MAINTENANCE represents exemplary excellence of service and quality to our

100% Customer satisfaction guaranteed

Fully licensed

W.S.I.B & Contractor's Liability Insurance

JHSC (Joint Health & Safety Certified)



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