

Cleaning Products

What is Certifiably Green Denver?

The Certifiably Green Denver Program provides education and recognition for environmental achievement. Our free services are available to any business in the City and County of Denver.

Certifiably Green Denver offers:

- Assessments to identify water conservation and energy-efficiency options
- Information and assistance to meet your business needs
- Public recognition for your environmental efforts

Why Participate?

Compliance - Proper management practices help minimize wastes, reduce downtime, and keep you in compliance with regulations.

Cost Savings - Less waste means lower disposal and operating costs. Efficient use of materials, water, and energy saves money.

Public Image - Superior environmental practices affect your image with customers, the community, and regulatory agencies.

Public Recognition!

Certifiably Green Denver publicly recognizes certified businesses through free advertising. This includes Internet listings and advertising in the newspaper, magazines, radio, and water bill inserts. Certified businesses receive a framed certificate and window decal.

Certifiably Green Denver's goal is to work with you and your vendors to identify toxic cleaning products and replace them with products that are safer for humans and the environment, without sacrificing performance or cost. By avoiding toxic cleaners, you can improve indoor air quality and reduce or eliminate numerous health conditions that can lead to unhappy customers and sick or injured employees. This resource sheet focuses on frequently used cleaners, including all-purpose, floor, glass, bathroom surface, and degreasing products.



Health and Environmental Concerns

Using toxic cleaning products can lead to personal injury, allergic reactions, hypersensitivity, rashes, eye irritation, and asthma. Serious conditions such as cancer, lung disease, and liver and kidney damage can occur with long term use. Cleaning products can also impact the environment since many chemicals do not get fully treated in wastewater treatment plants and are discharged to our streams and rivers, becoming a persistent problem to the aquatic environment.

Emerging chemicals such as endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDC) disturb the hormonal system and gender characteristics of fish and other species, creating "intersex" fish that carry both male and female reproductive organs. Exposure to EDC affects humans, too. Conditions like Alzheimer's, ADHD, depression, and cancer are all linked to our hormones. Researchers are studying the impact of EDC on humans that drink the water downstream from wastewater treatment plants. Other major toxins in cleaning products are reproductive toxins that can affect fetal development, sperm count, or fertility. In addition, bio-accumulating toxins work their way up the food chain, exposing species in their path to toxic effects.

Labeling and Product Identification

Any cleaning product that contains hazardous substances has signal words on the label. These words are regulated by federal government to indicate level of toxicity:

- **'POISON'** - highly toxic or poisonous
- **'DANGER'** - extremely flammable, corrosive, or highly toxic
- **'WARNING'** or **'CAUTION'** - moderately or slightly toxic

Always choose the least toxic product that can be used for the job and remember, just because the label of a cleaning product says it's "green", biodegradable, non-toxic, or environmentally friendly does not mean it is safe. Alternately, a product can be EP but not offer the same cleaning performance as its toxic counterparts. Third party certifications can help you identify products that are environmentally preferable and perform well. Third-party certifiers identify and promote environmentally responsible products by setting environmental standards for reduced ecological impact associated with the manufacture, use, and disposal of products. Third-party certifiers for commercial cleaning products recognized by Certifiably Green Denver have these logos:



productguide.ulenvironment.com



www.greenseal.org



www.epa.gov/saferchoice

Assistance from Certifiably Green Denver

Identifying green cleaning products can be difficult; the Certifiably Green Denver team can work with your facility and vendors to select the safest products available for your needs. To assess cleaning products from your suppliers, Certifiably Green Denver will cross-reference the products' safety data sheet (SDS) with known environmentally preferable cleaning product standards. SDS' are product-specific documents designed to provide workers with identification and safety information on their chemicals, and businesses are required by OSHA to have them available for all chemicals on the premises.

Local Suppliers

Most suppliers offer a handful of products suited for each common cleaning application. Local suppliers and the types of EP cleaning products they carry are listed below. Cleaners that meet EP criteria are marked with the third-party certifier logo.

Supplier	All-Purpose	Degreaser	Floor	Bathroom	Glass	Hand Soap
Auto-Chlor						
Ecolab						
Staples Sustainable Earth						
Diversey						
Sysco						

Helpful Resources

See the Certifiably Green Denver website for more helpful resource sheets: www.denvergov.org/CGD

Please be aware that detergents used in cleaning activities, **even** those labeled 'non-toxic', 'environmentally friendly' & 'biodegradable', can cause immediate harm to fish and other wildlife. **NEVER** dump cleaning products or wash waters into a storm drain!



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