

Sustainable “Green” Cleaning

Green Cleaning is necessary to safeguard human health while minimising impact on the environment. Unlike traditional cleaning, it goes far beyond simple appearance, focusing on products and services that have fewer adverse health and environmental impacts as compared to others that might be used for the same purpose.



OC Clean, (2018)

Recommendations

- ❑ Develop a sound Green Cleaning Policy for the building.
- ❑ Address selection and appropriate use of disinfectants and sanitisers.
 - Choose products that are readily biodegradable.
 - Less toxic products needed to perform a specific cleaning task.
 - Use products with low VOC content (Volatile Organic Compound).
 - Look for products with a moderate pH.
 - Avoid products containing known or suspected carcinogens.
 - Select products that are designed to work in cold water.
 - Select metal free floor finishes.
 - Select products that are derived from renewable resources and feed stocks - such as detergents and solvents made from corn starch, coconut oil and orange peels.
 - Select products that come in recyclable containers and minimise packaging.
- ❑ Establish standard operating procedures addressing how an effective cleaning and maintenance system will be consistently used, managed and audited.
- ❑ Develop guidelines addressing the safe handling and storage of cleaning chemicals.
- ❑ Develop goals and strategies for promoting the conservation of energy, water and chemicals used for cleaning.
- ❑ Train occupants about the sustainable green cleaning programme and responsible procurement of green cleaning chemicals.
- ❑ A Green Cleaning Policy should contain at least the following to adhere to Green Star South Africa requirements:
 - Standards and performance measurements and metrics.
 - Implementation procedures and strategies.
 - Quality assurance control processes.
- ❑ Contact [Ecolution](http://www.ecolution.co.za) for more details.

Savings and Benefits

- ❑ Improved indoor air quality.
- ❑ Reduce levels of chemical, biological and particulate contaminants.
- ❑ Reduced hazardous waterborne and solid waste entering waterways (including lead, mercury, chromium, cadmium, and beryllium).
- ❑ Savings of energy, water and chemicals used for cleaning.

Environmental Improvement	Medium
Awareness Impact	Medium
Capital	Low
Payback	N/A