The New School Office of Facilities Management

Green Cleaning Program

Introduction

The Office of Facilities Management developed the Green Cleaning Program as part of its ongoing efforts to help The New School be an environmentally responsible university. A main goal of the program is to reduce exposure of building occupants and cleaning staff to harmful chemicals, such as products that contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Many VOCs are irritants, and some are known carcinogens.

By selecting "green" products, Facilities Management also reduces workplace safety hazards and the amount of toxins that are released into wastewater systems and the outdoor air.

The Program will only be only successful with selective purchasing decisions, continuous personnel training, and building-occupant education. Other university departments that purchase cleaning products for office use are strongly encouraged to adopt the goals and strategies described below.

Goals and Strategies

Facilities Management continues to help The New School achieve its goal of environmentally responsible practices by undertaking the following steps:

- Conserve energy, water, and other resources while still providing a clean and sanitary environment.
- Ensure that Facilities Management staff are aware of their responsibilities in implementing the Green Cleaning Program.
- Use cleaning products that meet Green Seal standard GS-37 (GS-37 Cleaning Products for Industrial and Institutional Use) and GS-40 (Floor-Care Products for Industrial and Institutional Use).
- Eliminate use of phosphates and aerosol products.
- Review all cleaning product purchases by Facilities Management to ensure that products meet the Green Seal standards.
- Utilize dispensing and dilution systems that accurately dilute cleaning products, minimize skin contact, and reduce packaging.

- Select antiseptics and germicides that are needed for infection control and are approved and regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (These products contain chemicals necessary to fight bacteria and disease. They are used sparingly and in limited areas of the university.)
- Review, by the Assistant Director for Environmental Health and Safety, of all Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for cleaning products.
- Enforcement, by the Assistant Director for Environmental Health and Safety, of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements.

Products Exempt from The New School Green Cleaning Program

The following specialty products are exempt from The New School Green Cleaning Program. Many of them are not eligible for Green Seal approval. All of these products are used sparingly, during low- or no-occupancy periods, and are applied per manufacturer's guidelines:

Johnson Diversey, Inc.	Extraction Rinse
Johnson Diversey, Inc.	Good Sense Green Apple Deodorizer
Johnson Wax Pro	Triad III Germicidal Cleaner
Johnson Diversey, Inc.	Virex TB
Johnson Diversey, Inc.	Oxivir Five 16 Disinfectant Cleaner
Johnson Diversey, Inc.	Snapback Spray Buff
Johnson Wax Pro	Freedom Stripper
3M	Troubleshooter Baseboard Stripper
Johnson Diversey, Inc.	Fresco Max Wax
Johnson Diversey, Inc.	Plaza Plus Wax
Buckeye	Carefree Gum Remover
Johnson Diversey, Inc.	Speedball
Colgate-Palmolive Co.	Murphy's Oil Soap
The Homax Group, Inc.	Goo Gone