

CLEANING UP

“News & Views on Our Industry You Can Use”

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“Working together for a cleaner environment”

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IN THIS ISSUE

Go Green this School Year!



Simple Steps for Green Cleaning in Schools

See page 1-2

NEW Innovative Regard Products



Hand Soap

Clean & Green Floor Care System

See page 2



"DEAR DUSTY"

Cleaning for Health

New Innovations from Tennant

See page 3

Back-to-School Special: ECO MELT



Get a head start this fall...

See page 4

CLEANING UP

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“Go Green this School Year”

Simple Steps for Green Cleaning in Schools

Cleaning is not merely an expense that keeps floors looking shiny and minimizes the number of complaints about the lack of toilet paper in the restroom. Rather, cleaning plays an important role in supporting the work of an organization's most important asset: its people. Research conducted in Europe and the United States has shown the effects of the indoor environment on worker productivity and student performance. The study involved members of the cleaning industry and used deep-cleaning methods, new equipment and cleaning supplies. The deep-cleaning process yielded the following environmental results:

- Airborne dust declined 52 percent.
- Total VOCs declined 49 percent.
- Total bacteria declined 40 percent.
- Total fungi declined 61 percent.

The research indicated that by reducing contaminants, better health outcomes can be expected, and these benefits can be achieved through following sound cleaning practices.

Many cleaning products—especially the strong versions used in

schools—contain harmful chemicals. Lots of people use schools. That means lots of dirt and lots of germs, so of course it also means lots of cleaning. Schools have to be kept clean to help kids (as well as teachers and school staff) stay healthy. Clean schools have fewer problems with bugs, mice and other pests. Cleaning products can however contain chemicals that can be harmful to people's health and the environment.



Schools have been cleaned the same way for so long that most of us haven't really given it much thought. Starting a green cleaning program can feel overwhelming, but green cleaning is not an "all or nothing" proposition. Most schools that successfully implement green cleaning programs begin by addressing the most significant or easily accessible issues. As they experience success, they add new elements to their plan or make adjustments to improve the results of current efforts. You can get the process started with just five simple

Continued on Page 2




CLEANING UP

steps:

 **Step 1: Switch to Green Cleaning Products**

Purchase certified green cleaning products. There are dozens of choices that work well and are cost-competitive compared to traditional products. This stage also includes training or retraining cleaning personnel regarding the proper product application, mixing, dilution and disposal.

 **Step 2: Introduce Green Equipment and Supplies**

Use vacuums and other floor cleaning equipment with high-efficiency filters to capture microscopic materials that might adversely impact building occupant health or damage sensitive equipment. Green equipment tends to cost more, but the higher quality and greater durability is more cost effective in the long run.

 **Step 3: Adopt Green Cleaning Procedures**

Change the frequency, technique or time when cleaning is performed. For instance, spraying product on a cleaning cloth rather than on the surface being cleaned, or adopt integrated pest management to cut down on pesticide exposure.

 **Step 4: Use Green Paper and Plastic Products**

Introduce environmentally preferable paper and recycled plastic trash can liners to your school. By taking a few simple steps to reduce consumption (such as replacing multi-fold hand towels with large rolls and replacing single roll toilet paper dispensers with

dispensers that hold multiple rolls), you can offset the higher initial cost.

 **Step 5: Share the Responsibility**

Educate custodial staff, administrators, teachers, students, union representatives, vendors and visitors about what they can do to promote a healthy school environment, such as: recycling paper and plastic, conserving water, maintaining uncluttered classrooms and work spaces and handling food and potential contaminants properly.



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DEAR DUSTY - Cleaning For Health



Dear Dusty,

I am a School Custodian with a questions about computers. The computer lab at my school is an extremely high traffic area used by hundreds of students every day. What is the best strategy for keeping these surfaces germ free without damaging the computers?

~ Sneezzy in Saskatoon

Dear Sneezzy,

Cleaning a computer lab can be a tricky task. As a preventative measure students should be washing their hands or using a hand sanitizer before and after using the labs. A microfibre cloth is ideal for cleaning a computer lab. Studies have shown that cleaning with microfibre can reduce bacteria by 69%. Moisten your microfibre cloth with a high quality disinfectant. Virox is a good example. This combination of microfibre and Virox is a great way to maintain a germ free environment in your computer labs protecting your students and the equipment.

New Innovations From



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