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Green Cleaning: Tips

By Enviro-Solutions

Tips On Selecting Green Floor Care Products

Fact: Americans spend more than \$1 billion on floor care every year.

Fact: From 1993 to 1997, 12 percent of the work-related injuries in four major states were associated with exposure to cleaning chemicals.

These are just some of the findings of a Green Seal report recently added to the Enviro-Solutions Web site.

Green Seal, an independent testing organization, evaluates and certifies Green cleaning products based on their chemical composition and effectiveness.

Enviro-Solutions is a leading manufacturer of Green cleaning chemicals for floor care and other cleaning needs.

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A Complicated Issue

According to the report, choosing floor care products can be a very complicated process. Now, with the introduction of environmentally preferable—and very soon certified-Green—floor care cleaning products from such manufacturers as Enviro-Solutions, there are even more issues to consider.

To help make sense of it all, the Green Seal report discusses:

- The history of floor care cleaning products
- The chemical characteristics of floor care products
- Their effect on human health and the environment
- What to look for and avoid when choosing floor care products

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- Green alternatives

Certified-Green

“As the report indicates, some floor care chemicals are pretty tough on people, users and the occupants of the buildings, as well as the environment,” says Mike Sawchuk, Vice President of Sales for Enviro-Solutions. “But, the report also shows how, certified-Green floor care products have less impact on human health [and] the environment—and work just as well,” says Sawchuk.

According to the report, facility service providers should read labels and select floor care chemicals that have fewer harmful components than their counterparts such as:

- Selecting products that do not contain carcinogens or reproductive toxins.
- Choosing floor finishes free of zinc or other metals.
- Avoiding purchasing products that contain ammonia, ammonium hydroxide, ammonium salts, dibutyl phthalate or alkylphenol ethoxylates.
- Choose products with a VOC (volatile organic compound) concentration of no more than 7 percent by weight and strippers with no more than 7 percent VOCs when diluted as directed.
- Choose products with a total phosphorus concentration of 0.5 percent by weight or less.
- Select products with a pH no higher than 11.5.
- Select products with a flash point above 150 degrees Fahrenheit.

The complete report—which includes Green Seal’s floor care product recommendations by manufacturer and brand—may be downloaded by visiting the Enviro-Solutions’ Web site at: www.enviro-solution.com or at: www.greenseal.org/recommendations/CGR_floorcare.pdf

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