

## Green Cleaning Resource Guide

**Our Mission:** To deliver exceptional Support, Training, Education and Products to authorized Multi-Clean distributors in order to provide customers with the tools to make the challenge of cleaning commercial facilities easier, more efficient, and safer.

### Product Standards

**Description:** **Green Seal** is a non-profit organization that functions as a third party certifier for green products.



**Web:** [www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)

**Notes:** You can go to this site to look up products from manufacturers as a way to verify products that are Green Seal Certified. Multi-Clean has certified products under three Green Seal Standards: GS-37 for **Institutional and Industrial Cleaners**, GS-40 for **Floor Care Products**, and GS-41A for **Hand Soaps**.

**Description:** **The Design for the Environment (DfE)** program is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's third party certification organization. Like Green Seal, DfE certified cleaning products have been evaluated for health, safety, environmental impacts, and performance.



**Web:** [www.epa.gov/dfc](http://www.epa.gov/dfc)

**Notes:** ECO<sub>2</sub>, 3 Eliminator 3, 70 Tough Green are certified by DfE under the category **Industrial and Institutional Cleaning Products**. These products can be located on the DfE website for verification.

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**Description:** The **BioPreferred<sup>SM</sup>** program was launched by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase the purchase and use of renewable, environmentally friendly biobased products while providing "green" jobs and new markets for U.S. farmers, manufacturers, and vendors.



**Web:** [www.biopreferred.gov](http://www.biopreferred.gov)

**Notes:** Multi-Clean offers a variety of Plant Power<sup>TM</sup> bio-based products that are listed in the USDA's BioPreferred<sup>SM</sup> Catalog under the headings **Glass Cleaners, General Purpose Cleaners, and Bathroom Cleaners.**

### Operational Standards

**Description: LEED<sup>®</sup> Standards:** The United States Green Building Council is a non-profit organization that develops sustainability standards for new and existing public and private buildings.



**Web:** [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

**Notes:** An good resource document that provides an overview of the LEED<sup>®</sup>-EB (Existing Buildings, Operation and Maintenance) standard, including green cleaning specific pre-requisites and credits is available, to view [CLICK HERE](#) .

### Green Cleaning Process Standards

**Description:** The **Green Seal<sup>TM</sup> Environmental Standard for Commercial and Institutional Cleaning Services GS-42**, establishes environmental requirements for cleaning service providers of commercial, public, and institutional buildings, including in-house and external cleaning services, to create a green cleaning program that protects human health and the environment.



**Web:** [www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)

**Notes:** The standard is an excellent blueprint for a Building Service Contractor that wants to offer green cleaning services to clients. To view the actual document, [CLICK HERE](#) .

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**Description:** The **Cleaning Industry Management Standard (CIMS)** was launched by ISSA several years ago as a way to standardize sound business principles for cleaning organizations. CIMS applies to management, operations, performance systems, and processes associated with cleaning operations. Compliance with the Standard demonstrates an organization is structured to deliver consistent, quality services that are designed to meet the customer's needs and expectations.



**Web:** [http://issa.com/?id=cleaning\\_industry\\_management\\_standard\\_cims&lq=](http://issa.com/?id=cleaning_industry_management_standard_cims&lq=)

**Notes:** Recently ISSA added the designation CIMS-GB which added a green cleaning component to the standard. For distributors wishing to assist their customers with complying with CIMS, individuals can become ISSA Certification Experts (I.C.E.) by taking an ISSA sponsored course.

### University and Higher Education Resources

**Description:** **AASHE** is an association of colleges and universities that are working to create a sustainable future.



**Web:** <http://www.aashe.org/>

**Notes:** A good resource for University personnel with great ideas on how to implement a campus wide sustainability program.

### Schools, K-12

**Description:** **EPA Tools for Schools** is a comprehensive selection of information and tools dedicated to improve indoor air quality in our schools.

**Web:** <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/>

**Notes:** Virtually every K-12 Schools could benefit from the information and resources aimed at improving indoor air quality in schools.

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**Description:** **The Healthy Schools Campaign** is a non profit organization that advocates the creation of healthier schools. The HSC brings together the cleaning industry, educational leaders, parents and advocates in a rapidly growing Green Team whose mission is to encourage schools to adopt environmentally friendly policies, practices and products.



**Web:** [www.greencleanschools.org](http://www.greencleanschools.org)

**Notes:** **The Quick and Easy Guide to Green Cleaning** is a free resource available to K-12 Schools. The Guide comes as a CD Rom and is full of practical resources. As a sponsor, Multi-Clean is listed on the back side of the guide and also has green product listings in the guide itself.

## Government

**Description:** **Executive Order 13101** is an environmentally preferable purchasing directive that gives preference to the purchase of green products by government agencies.

**Web:** <http://www.epa.gov/epp/pubs/13101.pdf>

**Notes:** The complete executive order was issued by then President Clinton in 1998 and directed the government to give preference in the purchase of environmentally friendly products.

## Healthcare

**Description:** **Practice Greenhealth** is the nation's leading membership and networking organization for institutions in the healthcare community that have made a commitment to sustainable, eco-friendly practices.

**Web:** <http://www.practicegreenhealth.org/>

**Notes:** Formerly called Hospitals for a Healthier Environment.

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**Description:** **Healthcare Without Harm**

**Web:** <http://www.noharm.org/>

**Notes:** Another advocacy group that promotes green practices in healthcare.

### Laws and Legislation Information

**Description:** **GREEN CLEANING Legislation** is on the rise with 11 states mandating the use of green cleaning products in schools. The best resource to research current and proposed legislation is ISSA. If you are a member, you may have to log in. Much of the information on the site does not require a log in or membership.



**Web:** [www.issa.com](http://www.issa.com)

**Notes:** The very useful guide from ISSA is the update on Green procurement policies broken down by state. Here is a link to the guide, but a member log in may be required to access this document.

<http://www.issa.com//data/File/regulatory/Green%20Cleaning%20Product%20Procurement%20Policies.pdf>

### Newletters and Blogs

**Description:** **The Ashkin Group** is an independent consulting organization that specializes in the cleaning industry. Their leader, Steve Ashkin, is well known as one of the leading experts on green cleaning.



**Web:** <http://www.ashkingroup.com/homenew.html>

**Notes:** Publisher of **Destination Green**, an excellent e-Newsletter dedicated to green cleaning subject matter.

## Books and Other Publications

**Description:** **Green Cleaning for Dummies** is a comprehensive book on green cleaning written by Steve Ashkin and David Holly. The book is an excellent primer for those that want to learn more about green cleaning.

**Web:** [www.ashkingroup.com](http://www.ashkingroup.com)

**Notes:** Ashkin and Holly have published several other green cleaning books that are available through ISSA or the Ashkin Group website. Also, sign up for the e-Newsletter DESTINATION GREEN, a very good publication with a focus' on green cleaning.

## Award and Recognition Programs

**Description:** The **Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative (SDSI)** was launched by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to recognize manufacturers and formulators of cleaning products that have proactively eliminated harmful ingredients from their formulations. Those that accomplished this task were designated "Environmental Champions" and can use the DfE logo for the purpose of promotion.



**Web:** <http://www.epa.gov/dfe/pubs/projects/formulat/sdsi.htm>

**Notes:** Multi-Clean was one of 20 companies that were awarded the Environmental Champion designation. Of interest, many of the familiar manufacturers in the cleaning industry were absent from this list. To view the list of CHAMPIONS, [CLICK HERE](#)