

# Summary of Illinois State and City of Chicago Regulations on Chemicals in Cleaning Products

**Website:** <http://www.epa.state.il.us/p2>

1. Executive Orders. Former Governor Ryan issued Executive Order Number 6 and Executive Order Number 11 designed to, among other things, encourage state agencies to purchase environmentally preferable products.

2. Guidance. Illinois published Greening Government Opportunities: A Resource Guide for Illinois Executive Agencies (April 2001) which is intended as a guidance document to help state agencies green their operations. This document sets forth the following recommendations regarding the purchase of green cleaning products:

- Use mild cleaning products for daily maintenance (i.e., non-acid bowl cleaners for toilets).
- Avoid cleaning products that are flammable, corrosive, or highly toxic.
- Consider using bio-based cleaning products
- Purchase “janitorial products” (i.e., napkins, paper towels, trash receptacles, toilet tissue, trash bags) made from the “highest percentage of post consumer recycled content” that is considered acceptable.

3. House Resolution 797. The Illinois House of Representatives passed House Resolution 797, which requires the state to identify opportunities and make recommendations for legislative and administrative changes that would enhance the purchase of environmentally preferable products and services purchased by the state. Pursuant to HR 797, in the August 2005 report of the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council, the Council committed to helping state agencies to increase the purchase of environmentally friendly cleaning products.

**4. Green School Programs.** Illinois EPA has established several programs that are designed to improve the ability of schools to provide a safe and healthy environment for all those who use their facilities. The [Illinois Green School Programs](#) provides access to a number of resources including a [Green Schools Checklist](#), and the state’s [Greening Schools Program](#), which is a collaborative effort between Illinois EPA and the Waste Management Research Center.

## City of Chicago:

**Website:**

[http://egov.cityofchicago.org/webportal/COCWebPortal/COC\\_EDITORIAL/GreenCleaning.pdf](http://egov.cityofchicago.org/webportal/COCWebPortal/COC_EDITORIAL/GreenCleaning.pdf)

## Summary

**1. Background.** The City of Chicago issued its [Green Cleaning Low Environmental Impact Cleaning Policy](#) the purpose of which is to require the Cleaning and Maintenance Contractor to use environmentally benign cleaning products and promote housekeeping practices that will limit hazards to the building occupants as well as maintenance and janitorial staff.

**2. Low-Impact Environmental Cleaning Fluids and Housekeeping Policy.** It is the policy of the City of Chicago to use concentrated cleaning products dispensed from closed dispensing systems. Such products must comply with the minimum standards established in the [Green Seal Standard for Institutional Cleaners \(GS-37\)](#).

**3. Cleaning Agents—Mandatory Criteria.** Chicago's policy requires that low-impact cleaning products meet the following mandatory criteria based principally on [GS-37](#):

- Products shall not contain any ingredients on the list of Prohibited Industrial Toxic Chemicals (as defined by the City of Chicago's policy) and shall not be toxic as defined by GS-37
- Products shall not contain any carcinogens
- Products shall not contain any ozone depleting ingredients
- The product as used must not contain more than 0.5% by weight of total phosphorous
- The VOC of the product as used shall not exceed the following:
  - 1% by weight for general purpose and bathroom cleaners
  - 3% by weight for glass cleaners

**5. Cleaning Agents—Additional Criteria.** In addition to the above mandatory criteria, products must comply with the additional criteria below to the greatest extent possible. Products that do not meet any of the additional criteria should be noted in the submittal of the low-impact environmental cleaning plan submitted to the Department of General Services, Architecture, Engineering and Construction Management Division. The additional criteria listed below are based on [GS-37](#):

- Hazardous Waste: Products are favored that do not require disposal as a hazardous waste
- Skin and Eye Irritation: Products are favored that are less irritating
- pH: Products are favored that have a pH closer to neutral
- Flash Point: Products are favored that do not ignite easily
- VOC Content: Products with the lowest VOC content are favored
- Biodegradable products are favored
- Alkylphenol Ethoxylates: Products are favored that do not contain APES
- Dyes and Fragrances: Products that are offered without dyes or fragrances are favored
- Packaging: Products are favored if they are available as a concentrate, and is available using a system of container collection and refilling (reuse)

**6. Prohibited Industrial Toxic Chemicals.** The following comprise the list of Prohibited Industrial Toxic Chemicals that cannot be used in any cleaning product:

- 1,1,1-Trichloroethane

- Alkylphenol ethoxylates
- Benzene
- Cadmium
- Carbon tetrachloride
- Chloroform
- Cyanide
- Dibutyl phthalate
- Dichloromethane
- Lead
- Mercury
- Methyl ethyl ketone
- Methyl isobutyl ketone
- Nickel
- Tetrachloroethylene
- Toluene
- Trichloroethylene
- Xylene
- Heavy metals including arsenic, lead, cadmium, cobalt, and chromium
- Ozone depleting compounds

**7. Low Environmental Impact Housekeeping Disposable Products Policy.**

Use disposable janitorial paper products and trash bags that meet the minimum requirements of U.S. EPA's [Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines](#) for the appropriate category. Also, use plastic trashcans and other liners with a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content. Furthermore, it is preferable that the paper products be manufactured without the additional use of elemental chlorine or chlorine compounds.

**8. Low Environmental Impact Cleaning Equipment Policy.** The city shall follow a policy for the use of janitorial equipment that maximizes reduction of building contaminants with minimum environmental impact.

**C. Chicago Public Schools**

**Website:** <http://policy.cps.k12.il.us/documents/410.8.pdf>

**Summary**

**1. Background.** On September 28, 2005, the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) adopted a [Green Cleaning Policy](#).

**2. Overview.** It is the policy of CPS to encourage the maintenance of clean, safe, and healthy schools through the elimination of contaminants that affect children and adult health, performance and attendance and the implementation of cleaning processes and products that protect health without harming the environment.

Specifically, CPS will promote the use of “health and high performing cleaning” (HHPC) based on:

- The U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-Existing Buildings criteria ([LEED-EB](#)); and
- ASTM’s E-1971 Standard Guide on Stewardship for Cleaning Commercial and Institutional Buildings.

**NOTE:** The [USGBC LEED-EB](#) addresses green cleaning practices and procedures. As it relates to green cleaning chemical products, LEED-EB specifies that the product must meet the criteria of the [Green Seal Standard for Institutional Cleaners \(GS-37\)](#). As to products that are not within the purview of GS-37, LEED-EB specifies that the product must be compliant with the [California VOC limitations](#) for consumer products.