

Summary of Michigan's Regulations of Chemicals in Cleaning Products

1. Background. A memorandum of understanding between the Michigan Department of Management and Budget and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has created a state-wide environmentally preferred purchasing initiative to encourage and increase the use of products and services that are preferred environmentally, within state government, municipalities, and the general public.

2. Industrial and Institutional Cleaners. To encourage the purchase and use of environmentally preferable industrial and institutional cleaning products, Michigan has issued a Fact Sheet and The Green Industry Guide to Environmental Purchasing that set forth the following criteria to consider when purchasing a green cleaner:

- The product should be readily biodegradable.
- Avoid products containing EDTA and NTA.
- Products with 0.5% or less phosphate content are preferred.
- Concentrated products (less than 20% water by weight) that work in cold water are preferred.
- Avoid products with chlorine bleach or sodium hypochlorite.
- VOC content should be no more than 10% of the weight of the properly diluted product.
- Avoid products with petroleum-based solvents such as glycol ethers and phenolic compounds.
- A product with a neutral pH is preferred. An acceptable pH level is between 5 and 12.
- Products should be packaged in recyclable or refillable containers that contain post-consumer materials.