

Green Cleaning - WI Assembly Bill 578

February, 2010

What is green cleaning”?	Green Cleaning simply means <i>cleaning to protect health without harming the environment.</i>
What will this proposed legislation do?	All school and government buildings would need to implement common sense green cleaning procedures that protect human health and the environment.
Who defines "green"?	The Bill would rely on widely accepted third-party eco-labeling programs as a baseline for product and equipment selection as well as for cleaning procedures. A council of statewide stakeholders, established through DHS, would review and refine standards to ensure ongoing best practices.
What types of cleaning products would need to be "green"?	The Bill would include green products which are already reputable on the marketplace in the hand soap, general purpose, restroom, glass, rug and laundry cleaner categories. It would also require environmentally preferable paper products.
What about H1N1 and MRSA?	Green cleaning and infection control are compatible since green cleaning is all about protecting human health. Furthermore, the use of sanitizers and disinfectants would still be required under relevant local, state and federal public health requirements and do not fall within the scope of this bill.
Will it cost more?	Schools across America are using green cleaning products without increasing costs. However, in the event that a school bids on a green cleaning program and the changes would increase costs, the school can apply for a one year exemption. If necessary, schools can apply for this exemption each year.
When would these rules go into effect?	Green cleaning products would need to be purchased within one year; green cleaning procedures would need to be instituted within four years.

Updated February 23, 2010