



# Clean Air Counts

## Strategy Fact Sheets

**Low-VOC Cleaning Products**



**CLEAN AIR COUNTS** *Make A Visible Difference*



## What Are Low-VOC Cleaning Products?

Many common cleaning products contain hazardous chemicals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), smog-forming chemicals that can be harmful to users. All-purpose cleaners as well as specialty products (such as metal polishes and glass, tile and tub cleaners) pollute indoor air and may cause respiratory and eye irritation, particularly for janitorial and other cleaning staff. Substituting lower emitting products for traditional products improves both indoor and outdoor air quality and protects the health and safety of individuals exposed to them.

## The Benefits of Using Low-VOC Cleaning Products Include:

- Lower emissions of smog-forming chemicals into the air.
- Better health and safety for building occupants and individuals using these products.
- Fewer fumes reduce eye and respiratory irritation.
- Reduction in air quality related illnesses, such as asthma.

## How to Use This Brochure.

This brochure provides the assistance you will need to implement a successful green cleaning program. The following steps identify issues you will need to address and provides suggestions on how to achieve success at every step of implementing a green cleaning program in your facility. Please refer to the matrix included in this brochure to assist you in identifying low-VOC green cleaning products.



## How to Implement a Low-VOC Cleaning Program at Your Facility.

### Step 1. GAIN COMMITMENT:

Gaining commitment from all stakeholders is essential for program success. Action must be taken to clearly define goals and expectations, and to establish an implementation plan and timetable.

### Step 2. DEVELOP A TEAM:

Assemble a team of those responsible for program implementation. The team should include the building owner/manager, facilities manager, cleaning personnel (in-house or outside contractor), health and safety personnel, and tenants.

### Step 3. ESTABLISH A BASELINE:

A building investigation should be undertaken to identify existing cleaning products and procedures and opportunities for improvement. The baseline will allow you to document improvements when switching to new products.

### Step 4. REVIEW PRODUCTS:

Cleaning products should be reviewed specifically for impacts on human health and the environment. In some cases, your current vendor might carry a line of low-VOC cleaning products. Ask your vendor representative for a list of these alternatives.

### Step 5. EVALUATE PROCEDURES:

Cleaning procedures should be evaluated and modified with a desire to implement a process designed to protect health and safety and minimize environmental impacts. Procedures should be designed based on the requirements of individual areas of the building with specific attention paid towards individual building occupant needs.

### Step 6. ORGANIZE TRAINING:

Training should include functional and



Clean Air Counts is a voluntary, public-private initiative to reduce smog-forming pollutants and energy consumption in the greater Chicago, six-county region. It is a collaborative effort between the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the Illinois Environmental Agency, and US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 5.

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procedural education related to low-VOC cleaning products and OSHA requirements. Additionally, it is important to inform the cleaning personnel about the critical role that their activities provide in maintaining a healthy environment.

#### **Step 7. ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS AND PROMOTE SHARED RESPONSIBILITY:**

Communication should be encouraged to foster a team effort, develop a clear sense of shared responsibility and to establish a framework for continual improvement. The traditional cleaning approach delegates the responsibility for the cleanliness of the building solely to the cleaning personnel. But to optimize resources and generate a healthy, high performance indoor environment, all those who have impacts on the indoor environment must share in the responsibility for maintaining that environment. Thus, as part of a shared responsibility program, education should be provided for occupants, vendors, visitors and others who work in or visit the building.

#### **Step 8. CHAMPION CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT:**

Continued involvement of the project team is key to long-term success and program improvement. Feedback from occupants should be reviewed and opportunities for improvements evaluated. Periodic meetings with cleaning personnel should be ongoing for both the training of newly hired cleaning personnel, as well as to reinforce correct procedures.

#### **Step 9. REPORT YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Go to [www.cleanaircounts.org](http://www.cleanaircounts.org), log-in and enter information about your green cleaning program into the online database. We'll let you know how much positive impact you've had on regional air quality. We'll also work with you to let your colleagues and clients know about your achievements. Need help? Email [info@cleanaircounts.org](mailto:info@cleanaircounts.org).

# Air Friendly Cleaning Products

Product Manufacturer	Low VOC Product Line	Glass Cleaner	All Purpose Cleaner/Degreaser	Floor Cleaner	Bathroom Cleaner/Disinfectant	Neutral Cleaner	Heavy Duty Cleaner	Carpet Cleaner	Peroxide Cleaner	Floor Stripper	Floor Finish	Other	Industrial Cleaner	Contact
3M	Twist n' Fill	X	X	X	X	X								
AFFLINK	AFFLAB Green Origin	X	X		X	X	X							<a href="http://www.afflink.com">http://www.afflink.com</a>
American Cleaning Solutions	Focus MP 11 Focus GC 55 Focus TC 66 Focus Safe 2 Clean	X	X		X				X					<a href="http://www.cleaning-solutions.com">http://www.cleaning-solutions.com</a>
American Formula	Oxy Orange Concentrate		X						X					<a href="http://www.americanformula.com">http://www.americanformula.com</a>
AQP Corporation	SOYPRO SOYMAX		X		X		X					X		<a href="http://www.aqpcleans.com/">http://www.aqpcleans.com/</a>
Aries Supply	All Surface Cleaner Concentrate		X											<a href="http://www.ariessupply.com/">http://www.ariessupply.com/</a>
Athea Laboratories	Total Green HydroPower Concentrate		X						X					<a href="http://www.athea.com/">http://www.athea.com/</a>
Avmor	Ecopure	X	X		X		X							<a href="http://www.ecopure.ca/">http://www.ecopure.ca/</a>
Bay Safe	Ion-A-Clean		X											<a href="http://www.baysafe.net/">http://www.baysafe.net/</a>
Betco	Green Earth	X		X					X	X	X			<a href="http://www.betco.co">http://www.betco.co</a>
Brulin & Company	TerraGreen	X	X			X				X				<a href="http://www.brulin.com/">http://www.brulin.com/</a>
Buckeye International	Tenacity True 7 RAM Star Spray Concentrate	X	X											<a href="http://www.buckeyeinternational.com/">http://www.buckeyeinternational.com/</a>
Butcher's	Butcher's G-Force Butcher's Look Butcher's Raindance	X	X	X	X					X	X			<a href="http://www.brulin.com/">http://www.brulin.com/</a>

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Canberra Corporation	Husky Jaws Maxi-Blend	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X		<a href="http://www.canberracorp.com/">http://www.canberracorp.com/</a>
Carroll Company	EnviroPatrol	X	X		X	X	X							<a href="http://www.carrollco.com/">http://www.carrollco.com/</a>
ChemBlend International	e.logical	X	X		X									<a href="http://www.chemblendllc.com/">http://www.chemblendllc.com/</a>
Chemical Specialties Manufacturing Corporation	Chemspec ECOgent		X											<a href="http://www.ecogent.ca/">http://www.ecogent.ca/</a>
Cleaning Technologies Group	TRUMIX	X	X											<a href="http://www.trumix.biz/">http://www.trumix.biz/</a>
Cleanline Products, Inc.	H202 Super H202		X											<a href="http://www.cleanlineproducts.com/">http://www.cleanlineproducts.com/</a>
Coastwide Laboratories	Sustainable Earth	X	X		X	X	X	X						<a href="http://www.coastwidelabs.com/">http://www.coastwidelabs.com/</a>
Cogent Environmental Solutions, Ltd.	ECOgent		X											<a href="http://www.ecogent.ca/">http://www.ecogent.ca/</a>
Corr Distributors	Zinc Free and Low Odor									X	X			<a href="http://www.corrdistributors.com/">http://www.corrdistributors.com/</a>
Ecolab	QC Quik Fill Oasis Oasis Pro	X	X	X	X						X			<a href="http://www.ecolab.com/">http://www.ecolab.com/</a>
Enviro-Solutions	Enviro-Solutions (ES)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			<a href="http://www.enviro-solution.com/">http://www.enviro-solution.com/</a>
EnvirOx	H2Orange2		X		X									<a href="http://www.h2orange2.com/">http://www.h2orange2.com/</a>
Essential Industries	Green Essence Name Brand - Ask for Green Seal Certified	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		<a href="http://www.essind.com/">http://www.essind.com/</a>

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Franklin Cleaning Technology	Lightning Blend	X		X	X		X		X					<a href="http://www.franklintechnology.com/">http://www.franklintechnology.com/</a>
Fuller Brush Commercial Products	Earth-Gard	X		X	X					X	X			<a href="http://www.fullercommercial.com/">http://www.fullercommercial.com/</a>
Guardian Chemicals	E Series		X										X	<a href="http://www.guardianchem.ca/">http://www.guardianchem.ca/</a>
Handi-Clean	Proxie		X						X					<a href="http://www.handi-clean.com/">http://www.handi-clean.com/</a>
Hillyard Industries	Green Select	X	X		X			X		X	X	X		<a href="http://www.hillyard.com/">http://www.hillyard.com/</a>
Orbeco	Evolut-ION							X						<a href="http://www.orbeco.net/">http://www.orbeco.net/</a>
Ipax Cleanogel, Inc	Green Unikleen		X											<a href="http://www.ipax.com/">http://www.ipax.com/</a>
Johnson Diversey, Johnson Wax	Crew STRIDE Glance Freedom SC Aquaria	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X		<a href="http://www.jwp.com/">http://www.jwp.com/</a>
Kaivac	KaiO		X						X					<a href="http://www.kaivac.com/">http://www.kaivac.com/</a>
Maintex	High Sierra	X	X	X	X				X					<a href="http://www.maintex.com/">http://www.maintex.com/</a>
McKesson Medical Surgical	Envirologix	X	X	X	X									<a href="https://www.mckgenmed.com/">https://www.mckgenmed.com/</a>
Midlab, Inc.	Nattura	X	X		X									<a href="http://www.midlab.com/">http://www.midlab.com/</a>
Misco Products Corporation	elements	X	X	X	X				X	X	X			<a href="http://www.miscoprod.com/">http://www.miscoprod.com/</a>
Multi-Clean	#2 Multi-Shine #4 Foamy Mac #5 Century Maintenance #007 Double-O-Seven		X		X	X			X					<a href="http://www.minutemanintl.com/">http://www.minutemanintl.com/</a>

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National Chemical Laboratories	e-solution	X	X		X	X								<a href="http://www.nclonline.com/">http://www.nclonline.com/</a>
Neutron Industries	Eco-Choice		X											<a href="http://www.neutronindustries.com/">http://www.neutronindustries.com/</a>
NI Lodor	H2O2 Oxy-Force		X	X				X	X					<a href="http://www.nilodor.com/">http://www.nilodor.com/</a>
Pioneer Eclipse	EnviroStar Green	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X			<a href="http://www.pioneer-eclipse.com/">http://www.pioneer-eclipse.com/</a>
PortionPac Chemical Corporation	Most products- -Please ask for Green Seal Certified Products	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X			<a href="http://portionpac.portionpac-corp.com/">http://portionpac.portionpac-corp.com/</a>
Pro-Link	Pro-Link Green	X	X	X	X									<a href="http://www.prolinkhq.com/">http://www.prolinkhq.com/</a>
The Ramsey Company	Ramsey Freefall Ramsey Reflecta Ramsey Steamette Ramsey Skylight	X	X	X		X								<a href="http://www.ramseycompany.com/">http://www.ramseycompany.com/</a>
Rochester Midland	Enviro Care	X	X		X		X							<a href="http://www.rochestermidland.com/">http://www.rochestermidland.com/</a>
SafeSource	Most products- -Please ask for Green Seal Certified Products	X	X	X	X	X								<a href="http://www.safesourceproducts.com/">http://www.safesourceproducts.com/</a>
ServiceMaster Clean	Green for...		X	X	X		X							<a href="http://www.servicemasterclean.com/">http://www.servicemasterclean.com/</a>
Simoniz USA	Green Scene	X	X		X		X							<a href="http://www.simonizusa.com/">http://www.simonizusa.com/</a>
Sloan Valve Company	Waterfree Urinal Cleaner				X									<a href="http://www.sloanvalve.com/">http://www.sloanvalve.com/</a>
Share Corporation	D'Lox Wipe Away		X											<a href="http://www.sharecorp.com/">http://www.sharecorp.com/</a>

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Spartan Chemical Company, Inc.	Green Solutions Clean on the Go	X	X		X				X	X	X		X	<a href="http://www.green-solution.com/">http://www.green-solution.com/</a>
State Chemical Company	Ecolution		X											<a href="http://www.statechemical.com/">http://www.statechemical.com/</a>
Stearns Packaging Corporation	GS	X				X	X							<a href="http://www.stearnspkg.com/">http://www.stearnspkg.com/</a>
Triple S	EarthCare	X	X	X	X	X	X		X					<a href="http://www.triple-s.com/">http://www.triple-s.com/</a>
Ultra Chem Industries	Ask for Green Seal Certified Products	X	X				X							<a href="http://www.ultrachemlabs.com/">http://www.ultrachemlabs.com/</a>
Unisource	Respect	X	X		X	X								<a href="http://www.unisourcelink.com/">http://www.unisourcelink.com/</a>
Unisource/Jefco	CITROLENE CONQUER POWER-UP		X		X									<a href="http://www.unisource-jefco.com/">http://www.unisource-jefco.com/</a>
WAXIE Sanitary Supply	Green	X	X		X	X								<a href="http://www.waxie.com/">http://www.waxie.com/</a>
Wood Wyant	VERT-2-GO	X	X		X									<a href="http://www.woodwyant.com/">http://www.woodwyant.com/</a>
Zep Manufacturing	Green Link	X	X	X		X				X	X			<a href="http://www.zep.com/">http://www.zep.com/</a>

Please check Green Guard [www.greenguard.org](http://www.greenguard.org) or Green Seal at [www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org) for updated green product listings.