

June 4, 2012

To Whom it May Concern,

Many conventional cleaning products are made up of a wide variety of hazardous chemicals that have been shown to contribute to various illnesses including asthma and cancer. At Stark State College, the Physical Plant department has worked hard to eliminate these chemicals in favor of what's widely known as "green cleaning," cleaning with products and practices that are environmentally responsible and promote good indoor air quality.

Our goal is to reduce exposure of building occupants and maintenance personnel to potentially hazardous chemical contaminants that adversely impact air quality, occupant well-being, and the environment.

By combining the use of non-toxic cleaners that do not emit hazardous chemicals into the air with high-performance equipment such as high efficiency filtration vacuum cleaners, microfiber mops and cloths, walk-off mats at entrance points, we can significantly reduce the amount of pollutants brought into the building and thereby improve the indoor air quality for all of our building occupants.

Various studies show that at least two thirds of the dirt and dust in buildings is typically tracked in from outside and it often contains lead, asbestos, pesticides, organic matters, and other harmful substances. Walk off mats trap a significant portion of the dirt before it can be tracked around the buildings improving the indoor environment, reducing the cleaning time and increasing the life of adjacent flooring materials.

In effort to institutionalize these efforts, Stark State College implemented a Green Cleaning Standard & Plan that applies to the Main Campus and all satellite facilities operated by the college. The plan goes above and beyond simply requiring the purchase of green cleaning products and complies with LEED Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance (LEED-EBOM), Green Cleaning requirements. The full plan addresses quality assurance control processes, cleaning products, cleaning equipment, record keeping, hard-floor and carpet maintenance, entryway systems, hand hygiene, handling and storage of cleaning chemicals, use of chemical concentrates and dilution systems, vulnerable building occupants, staffing and training, and occupant feedback and evaluation of new technologies.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,
Stefanie

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