

Sustainability Guideline - 201904

Green Cleaning



Guideline Statement

The University of Texas at Dallas is committed to sustainability in custodial practices and purchasing in order to maintain buildings to the highest standard. As part of this commitment, UT Dallas has implemented a comprehensive Green Cleaning Program. University requires the custodial staff and contractors to perform cleaning in compliance with University's Green Cleaning Guideline. The Green Cleaning Guideline is a comprehensive program that reflects the criteria in [USGBC's LEED guidelines for Green Cleaning](#) and fulfills requirements set by the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education \(AASHE\)](#). The Contractor shall submit quarterly cleaning supplies, equipment and material reports indicating compliance with University green cleaning protocol.

A. Criteria

Cleaning Products

UTD's Custodial Department and contractors shall purchase at least 75% of all cleaning and janitorial paper products that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The cleaning products meet 1 or more of the following standards for the appropriate category:
 - Green Seal GS-37, for general-purpose, bathroom, glass and carpet cleaners used for industrial and institutional purposes.
- Disinfectants, metal polish, floor finishes, strippers or other products not addressed by the above standards meet 1 or more of the following standards for the appropriate category:
 - Green Seal GS-40, for industrial and institutional floor care products.
- Disposable janitorial paper products and trash bags meet the minimum requirements of 1 or more of the following programs for the applicable product category:
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (or local equivalent for projects outside of the U.S.) for Janitorial Paper and Plastic Trash Can Liners.
 - Green Seal GS-09, for paper towels and napkins.
 - Green Seal GS-01, for tissue paper.
- Hand soaps meet 1 or more of the following standards:
 - Green Seal GS-41, for industrial and institutional hand cleaners.
 - Environmental Choice CCD-104, for hand cleaners and hand soaps.
- Any products purchased that do not fall under the categories above must meet one of the standards below.
 - Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
 - Green Seal
 - UL ECOLOGO
 - U.S. EPA Safer Choice

Cleaning products include general purpose bathroom, glass and carpet cleaners; degreasing agents; biologically-active cleaning products (enzymatic and microbial products); floor-care products (e.g., floor



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finish and floor finish strippers); hand soaps and hand sanitizers, disinfectants, and metal polish and other specialty cleaning products.

Janitorial paper products include toilet tissue, tissue paper, paper towels, hand towels, and napkins. Other janitorial products and materials (e.g., cleaning devices that use only ionized water or electrolyzed water) should be excluded from both total expenditures and expenditures on environmentally preferable products to the extent feasible.

Equipment

UTD's Custodial Department and contractors shall purchase at least 40% of all powered janitorial equipment (purchased, leased, or used by contractors) that meet the following sustainability criteria.

- All powered equipment must have the following features:
 - safeguards, such as rollers or rubber bumpers, to avoid damage to building surfaces;
 - ergonomic design to minimize vibration, noise, and user fatigue, as reported in the user manual in accordance with ISO 5349-1 for arm vibrations, ISO 2631-1 for vibration to the whole body, and ISO 11201 for sound pressure at operator's ear; and
 - as applicable, environmentally preferable batteries (e.g., gel, absorbent glass mat, lithium-ion) except in applications requiring deep discharge and heavy loads where performance or battery life is reduced by the use of sealed batteries.
- Vacuum cleaners must be certified by the Carpet and Rug Institute Seal of Approval/Green Label Vacuum Program and operate with a maximum sound level of 70 dBA or less in accordance with ISO 11201.
- Carpet extraction equipment, for restorative deep cleaning, must be certified by the Carpet and Rug Institute's Seal of Approval Deep Cleaning Extractors and Seal of Approval Deep Cleaning Systems program.
- Powered floor maintenance equipment must have vacuums, guards, or other devices for capturing fine particles, and must operate with a maximum level of 70 dBA, in accordance with ISO 11201
- Propane-powered floor equipment must have high-efficiency, low-emissions engines with catalytic converters and mufflers that meet the California Air Resources Board or EPA standards for the specific engine size and operate with a sound level of 90 dBA or less, in accordance with ISO 11201.
- Automated scrubbing machines must be equipped with variable-speed feed pumps and either (1) on-board chemical metering to optimize the use of cleaning fluids or (2) dilution control systems for chemical refilling. Alternatively, scrubbing machines may use tap water only, with no added cleaning products.

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B. Required Reporting

- Total expenditures on janitorial and cleaning products.
- Expenditures on cleaning products that are Green Seal or UL ECOLOGO certified and/or Safer Choice labeled
- Total expenditures on janitorial paper products.
- Expenditures on janitorial paper products that are FSC, Green Seal, and/or UL ECOLOGO certified

C. Standards and Terms

Forest Stewardship Council

The [Forest Stewardship Council \(FSC\)](#) is an independent, non-profit organization that protects forests for future generations. FSC Chain-of-Custody certification traces the path of products from forests through the supply chain, verifying that FSC-certified material is identified or kept separated from non-certified material throughout the chain. FSC Forest Management certification confirms that a specific area of forest is being managed in line with the [FSC Principles and Criteria](#)

Green Seal

[Green Seal](#) is an independent, non-profit organization “dedicated to safeguarding the environment and transforming the marketplace by promoting the manufacture, purchase, and use of environmentally responsible products and services”. Green Seal certification is based on multi-attribute environmental standards that meet the ISO 14024 standards for eco-labeling.

Safer Choice Label

Formerly known as Design for the Environment (DFE), the [Safer Choice label](#) is the US Environmental Protection Agency’s program to identify products with safer chemical ingredients.

UL ECOLOGO

The [UL Environment ECOLOGO](#) program certifies products, services, and packaging for reduced environmental impact. ECOLOGO Certifications are voluntary, multi-attribute, lifecycle based environmental certifications that meet the ISO 14024 standards for eco-labeling.