

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING (EPP)

The State of Vermont is a national leader in the development and application of environmentally preferable purchasing and control of hazardous material use. Environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) means the purchase of “products and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. This comparison may consider raw material acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, re-use, operation, maintenance, or disposal of the product or service” (Presidential Executive Order 13101; US EPA; generally accepted by industry).

We have established specific goals and objectives aimed at providing sound environmental stewardship, protecting human health, reducing state operating expenses associated with the use and control of regulated hazardous materials, and reducing potential liability attributable to environmental impact.

GREEN CLEANING PRODUCTS

Vermont has been purchasing green products for many years however in an effort to ensure that agencies and departments of the state are provided with the most comprehensive selection of products at the most competitive pricing, we recently participated in a cooperative solicitation with four other northeast states to further support our contracting efforts for purchasing green cleaning products. The result of this effort resulted in new contracts for Green Cleaning Products being awarded. The contracts also provide for product education and training by the vendor, and are available to schools and political subdivisions of the state.

BENEFITS OF GREEN - COST AVOIDANCE

In addition to the very positive environmental protections afforded by the use of such products, you also need to consider the potential adverse outcomes that are avoided by use of more intrinsically safe products. They reduce exposures of both custodial staff and occupants to harmful chemicals and the consequences of exposure are considerably less. There is less degradation of indoor air quality by use of these products indoors and the potential threats posed by the accidental releases of EPP custodial products are significantly less than those of conventional cleaning products. Some conventional cleaning products have chemical and physical characteristics that qualify the products as hazardous waste, and these more hazardous substances require use of more expensive and extensive personal protective equipment, and VOSHA required first aid provisions such as numerous strategically located eyewashes and increases employee training to allow for the safe use the products.

Summary of Vermont
Environmental Safety and Occupational Health Criteria
For Custodial Cleaning Chemicals

Critical Product Exclusion Criteria are mandatory for products used in state facilities:

- No Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic Chemicals;
- No Carcinogens, Mutagens and Teratogens;
- No Ozone-Depleting Compounds;
- Low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs);
- No Hazardous Waste Characteristics;
- No Phosphates or Phosphonates;
- No Combination Cleaner-Disinfectants.

Desirable Product Criteria further define and assist in the selection of safer and more environmentally sound choices for cleaning products. Considerations include:

- Vapor pressure
- Inhalation Toxicity
- Ingestion Toxicity
- pH
- Skin Absorption
- Combustible Liquid
- Bio-based
- Petroleum Containing Products
- Fragrances and Dyes
- Biodegradability
- Aquatic Toxicity
- Renewable resource.

Asthmagens and Respiratory Irritants disclosure was requested of suppliers, and reviewed for consideration of contract award.

Other considerations include:

- Dispensers, containers, packaging delivery systems, labeling
- Concentrates
- No aerosol containers.