

# Summary of New York State and New York City's Regulations on Chemicals in Cleaning Products

Website: <http://www.ogs.state.ny.us/bldgadmin/environmental/default.html>

## Summary

**1. Executive Order 134.** On January 5, 2005, Governor Pataki issued [Executive Order 134](#) that directs all state agencies to procure and use cleaning products that have “properties that minimize potential impacts to human health and the environment...”

The New York Commissioner of the Office of General Services (OGS), in consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) shall provide consultation and guidance to State Agencies to select and procure products that have positive environmental attributes such as:

- Biodegradability
- Low toxicity
- Low volatile organic compound content
- Reduced packaging
- Low life cycle energy use
- Ensure cleaning effectiveness

**2. Green Cleaning Products in Schools.** On August 23, 2005, Governor Pataki signed into law [S. 5435](#), legislation that requires the use of environmentally sensitive cleaning products in all schools in New York State.

The law authorizes the State Office of General Services to work with the State Education Department and the Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation to develop guidance for schools on the procurement and use of green cleaning products. Such guidance shall be based on, but not limited to, guidance issued by the U.S. EPA and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive.

The law applies to “elementary and secondary schools” defined as a facility used for instruction of elementary or secondary students by:

- Any school district, including a special act school district and a city school district in a city having a population of 125,000 inhabitants or more;
- A board of cooperative educational services;
- A charter school;
- An approved private school for the education of students with disabilities;
- A state supported school for the deaf or blind; and

- Any other private or parochial elementary or secondary school

The law takes effect on Sept. 1, 2006. Nothing in the law precludes a school from depleting existing cleaning and maintenance supplies purchased prior to the effective date of the law.

**3. Green Cleaning Guidelines.** To implement the Executive Order and S. 5435, the NYS OGS issued [guidelines](#) for the procurement and use of green cleaning products. Among other things, the guidelines address best cleaning management practices and also specify criteria to be used in the selection of green cleaning products. The following is an overview of the major product criteria addressed in the guidelines.

**a) Scope of Products Covered.** In general, the guidelines apply to only the following product categories:

- General Purpose Cleaners
- Bathroom Cleaners
- Carpet Cleaners
- Glass, Window, and Mirror Cleaners
- Hand Soaps
- Floor Finishes and Strippers
- Vacuum Cleaners

**b) Green Seal (GS-37) or Environmental Choice (CCD-146).** OGS has adopted the Green Seal Standard [GS-37](#) and [Environmental Choice](#) Standard CCD-146 for institutional and industrial general purpose cleaners, bathroom cleaners, carpet cleaners, and glass, window and mirror cleaners. Products certified to these standards are acceptable. In the alternative, companies that do not have certification for a specific product may submit an affidavit from a certified laboratory stating that the product meets or exceeds GS-37 or CCD-146.

**c) Green Seal (GS-41) or Environmental Choice (CCD-104).** OGS will accept hand soaps that are certified to Green Seal's [GS-41](#) or Environmental Choice's [CCD-104](#). In the alternative, companies that do not have certified green hand soaps can submit an affidavit from a certified laboratory stating that the product meets or exceeds GS-41 or CCD-104.

**d) Floor Finishes.** OGS has chosen not to adopt Green Seal's [GS-40](#) for floor finishes. Instead, for companies to qualify their floor finishes as green must submit certification forms from 3 different educational facilities that attest to the fact that the floor finish in question:

- Has been used in a heavily trafficked area;

- Has been used for 3 or more years in a heavily trafficked area without having to strip the floor;
- Retains its shine when burnished as little as once a month; and
- Does not powder when burnished.

**e) Vacuum Cleaners.** OGS has adopted the Carpet and Rug Institute [Green Label Standard for Vacuum Cleaners](#). Companies that do not have the Green Label certification for their vacuum cleaner may submit an affidavit from a certified laboratory that the vacuum cleaner meets or exceeds the Green Label standard.

**f) Sanitary Paper Products.** In August 2006, OGS revised its guidelines to exclude sanitary paper products from its scope. This decision was based on the fact that the underlying state statute only addressed concerns for exposure to chemical based products. However, the guidelines do reference Green Seal, Environmental Choice and EPA standards and guidelines at page 18.

The law took effect on Sept. 1, 2006.

**New York City, New York**

**Website:** <http://webdocs.nycouncil.info/attachments/70426.htm>

### **Summary**

**1. Background.** On December 29, 2005, Mayor Bloomberg signed into law the Green Cleaning Act, [Int. 552-A](#), that requires the City to conduct a green cleaning pilot program and ultimately will require the city to purchase green cleaning products. On the same date, the Mayor also signed into law [Int. 545-A](#) that requires the City to purchase green cleaning products and products composed of recycled content.

**2. Int.552-A.** The City is required to establish a pilot program to study the feasibility of using green cleaning products in city facilities. The City shall develop a list of cleaning products currently used in large quantities and shall select cleaning product categories currently used by city agencies that are suitable for inclusion in the pilot program. At a minimum, the following products shall be considered for inclusion in the pilot program:

- General purpose cleaners
- Bathroom cleaner
- Glass cleaners
- Carpet cleaners
- Floor finishes and strippers

- Air fresheners
- Disinfectants and sanitizers
- Graffiti removers
- Metal cleaners
- Furniture polishes
- Degreasers

For each product category in the pilot program, the City shall establish health and environmental criteria for selecting products, and then, based on these criteria, select environmentally preferable cleaning products for inclusion in the program. No later than three years from the date of enactment, a report detailing the feasibility of using environmentally preferable cleaning products shall be submitted to the Mayor.

Effective June 1, 2009, the City will be required to purchase and use green cleaning products to the extent and in the manner that such use is determined to be feasible through the pilot program.

**3. Int. 545-A.** Under Int. 545-A, scheduled to become effective Jan. 1, 2007, the City must purchase products that meet the recycled content requirements of the [EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guideline \(CPG\)](#). As it relates to the cleaning industry, the City must meet the recycled content standards of the CPG for commercial/industrial sanitary tissue, steel shower or restroom dividers, plastic trash bags, office recycling containers, office waste receptacles, mats, and signage.