

Summary of Pennsylvania's Regulations of Chemicals in Cleaning Products

Website: <http://www.gggc.state.pa.us/>

Summary

1. Executive Order 1998-1. In March of 1998, Governor Thomas Ridge issued [Executive Order 1998-1](#) that established the Governor's Green Government Council. The Council is charged with the responsibility of facilitating the incorporation of environmentally sustainable practices cooperatively across all state agencies. The Council is responsible for providing advice and assistance in the preparation and review of agency Green Plans and the implementation of initiatives undertaken to fulfill these plans.

2. Green Buildings Operations and Maintenance Manual. The [Pennsylvania Green Buildings Operations and Maintenance Manual](#) is designed to help carry out Pennsylvania Executive Order 1998-1. This manual was prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services and Green Seal and intended to "green" the operations and maintenance of state government buildings and grounds. The manual is used as a tool for everyday operations in state buildings, and, among other things, makes recommendations for cleaning procedures and product selection.

Pages 83-90 of the [Manual](#) set forth criteria for purchasing green cleaning products. The recommendations cover 20 product categories including all purpose cleaners, bathroom cleaners, bathroom disinfectants, carpet cleaners, chrome cleaners, floor finishes and strippers, graffiti removers, lime and scale removers, urinal deodorizers, and disposable paper and plastic bags.

Pages 67-81 of the [Manual](#) contains a discussion of green cleaning practices including floor and carpet care, dusting and dust mopping, entryway systems, and restroom cleaning. Pages 91-101 set forth a general discussion on the benefits of green cleaning, general stewardship principles, and the role of suppliers, janitorial staff, and building occupants.

3. Green Procurement. In 2004, Pennsylvania specified by contract that all [janitorial dilution control](#) cleaning chemicals would be environmentally preferable as specified under [Green Seal GS-37](#).