



Guidance to Achieve Safer Chemicals Challenge for Green Cleaning

Version 2.0, December 2016

This document provides guidance for hospitals working to meet the requirements of the Green Cleaning goal of the Healthier Hospitals Safer Chemicals Challenge, Version 2.0.

We encourage hospitals to go beyond the Green Cleaning goal where possible. This document simply includes information to assess progress against the Healthier Hospitals Green Cleaning goal.

Green Cleaning Goal

Inventory cleaning products and purchase 90% Green Seal or UL ECOLOGO certified cleaning products in the following categories: carpet, window, all purpose, bathroom, and general floor care*.

* General floor care does not include strippers or finishes.

Goal Details

- Goal does not include hand soaps.
- Products intended for disinfection/sterilization are not included in this goal. It is important to determine whether disinfection/sterilization is needed and to use the appropriate level of disinfection/sterilization, depending on the situation. See **Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008**.
- Enzymes are allowed in Green Seal certified products. Enzymes can be asthmagens and, therefore, only Green Seal certified products without enzymes meet the goal. Green Seal certified products with enzymes have a labeling requirement so institutions can readily select products without this ingredient.
- Chemical-free technologies are acknowledged and given credit in the Practice Greenhealth awards, but they do not count toward the Healthier Hospitals green cleaning goal.

1. Carpet Products

- *Definition*

A product used to perform routine cleaning or spot cleaning of carpets and rugs. This category may include, but is not limited to, products used in cleaning by means of wet extraction, shampooing, dry foam, bonnet, or absorbent compound.

- *Products that comply*

Use Green Seal's Standard for Cleaning Products for Industrial and Institutional Use, GS-37, to find [certified products](#) that comply with this goal.

Use UL's Standard for Sustainability for Carpet and Upholstery Care Products, UL 2795, to find [certified products](#) that comply with this goal.

2. Window (Glass) Products

- *Definition*

A product used to clean windows, glass, mirrored surfaces, or dry erase boards.

- *Products that comply*

Use Green Seal's Standard for Cleaning Products for Industrial and Institutional Use, GS 37, to find [certified products](#) that comply with this goal.

Use UL's Standard for Sustainability for Hard Surface Cleaners, UL 2759, to find [certified products](#) that comply with this goal.

3. All Purpose Products

- *Definition*

A product used for routine cleaning of any hard surface, including impervious flooring such as concrete, stone surfaces, or tile. Another term used for this product may be multi-surface cleaner. It does not include cleaners intended primarily: for the removal of rust, mineral deposits, or odors; to strip, polish, or wax floors; or for cleaning dishes, laundry, toilets, restrooms, glass, carpets, upholstery, or wood. Other cleaners may be included if they meet the requirements and are marketed as general or all purpose cleaners.

Products that comply:

Use Green Seal's Standard for Cleaning Products for Industrial and Institutional Use, GS 37, to find [certified products](#) that comply with this goal.

Use UL's Standard for Sustainability for Hard Surface Cleaners, UL 2759, to find [certified products](#) that comply with this goal.

4. Bathroom Products

- *Definition*

A product used to clean hard surfaces in a restroom such as counters, walls, floors, fixtures, basins, tubs, toilets, urinals, or tile. Other terms used for these products may include bathroom cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners, or urinal cleaners. It does not include paper towels, toilet paper, garbage bags, or hand soaps.

- *Products that comply:*

Use Green Seal's Standard for Cleaning Products for Industrial and Institutional Use, GS 37, to find [certified products](#) that comply with this goal.

Use UL's Standard for Sustainability for Hard Surface Cleaners, UL 2759, to find [certified products](#) that comply with this goal.

5. General Floor Care

- *Definition:*

A product used for the care of hard floor surfaces. It does not include strippers, finishes, spray buffs, enhancers, or restorers.

- *Products that comply:*

Use Green Seal's Standard for Cleaning Products for Industrial and Institutional Use, GS 37, to find [certified products](#) that comply with this goal.

Use UL's Standard for Sustainability for Hard Surface Cleaners, UL 2759, to find [certified products](#) that comply with this goal.

Verification:

Both Green Seal and UL ECOLOGO offer certifications for products that meet specific environmental criteria, as described in each of their standards. Companies that obtain such certifications may label their certified products with the Green Seal and/or UL logo.

Implementation and Calculation Details

For this goal, you will need to:

- Complete a **Green Cleaning Product Inventory Chart (see Appendix A)**
- Consider using **Model Contract Language (see Appendix B)**
- Owned facilities as well as leased building contracts for products and/or cleaning services should be included to the extent possible for the targeted product categories.

Calculation Details NOTE THIS IS DONE BY PRODUCT CATEGORY
Numerator: dollars for Green Seal or UL ECOLOGO cleaning products in target category
Denominator: dollars for all cleaning products in target category
Measure = numerator/denominator * 100

Appendix A: Green Cleaning Product Inventory Chart

This chart was developed to provide a template for inventorying the cleaning products in your health care facility/system. The intent is to use this form as a survey tool and to track progress.

Product Name and Manufacturer	
Product Type	
Storage Location, Floor/Unit	
Name of Building	
Certified by Green Seal, UL ECOLOGO, other (list certification name)	
Unit size (quart, gallon, liter, etc)	
Amount in stock (# of units)	
Price	
Location(s) where product is used	
Uses dilution equipment? Y/N	
Dilution rate (ready-to-use=RTU)	

Appendix B: Model Contract Language

The following model contract language may be used to specify certified cleaning products meeting the Healthier Hospitals Safer Chemicals Challenge Green Cleaning goal criteria for health care facilities:

[Organization name] is committed to protecting the health of patients and staff and supports the use of cleaners that are certified to be environmentally preferable while maintaining the highest levels of performance. All cleaning product categories listed below shall be Green Seal (GS-37) or UL ECOLOGO (UL 2759, UL 2795) certified cleaners.

- All Purpose Cleaners - include definition from above guidance
- Bathroom Cleaners - include definition from above guidance
- Glass Cleaners - include definition from above guidance
- General Floor Care Cleaners - include definition from above guidance
- Carpet Cleaners - include definition from above guidance

Appendix C: UL Products Included in the Green Cleaning Goal

Not all products in the relevant UL standards are covered by the Green Cleaning goal. UL Ecologo products use this logo:



UL 2759 Hard Surface Cleaners <i>formerly CCD 146</i> overlaps with GS-37	UL 2795 Carpet and Upholstery Care Products <i>formerly CCD 148</i> overlaps with GS-37
bathroom cleaners	extraction
general purpose cleaners	dry foam
industrial cleaners	pre spray
window and glass cleaners	bonnet solutions and dry absorbent particles and solvent
	spot cleaners
	defoamer
	deodorizers (powder or liquid)
	sanitizers
	protectors/stainguards
	shampoos

Appendix D: Green Seal Products Included in the Green Cleaning Goal

Not all products in the relevant Green Seal standard are covered by the Green Cleaning goal. The only products covered in the Green Cleaning goal are highlighted below. Green Seal products use this logo:



GS -37 Green Seal Products
Carpet cleaner products
Carpet spot cleaning products
Dry erase board cleaning products
Floor cleaning products
General-purpose cleaner and multi-purpose cleaning products
General-purpose and mirror cleaning products

Appendix E: Chart to Assist in Determining Products Included in the Green Cleaning Goal

If your vendor provides information on your green cleaning product categories using the UL Ecologo and Green Seal categories, for calculation purposes, please see the chart below.

Not all products in the relevant UL standards are covered by the Green Cleaning goal. The only products covered in the Green Cleaning goal are highlighted below.

UL 2759 Hard Surface Cleaners <i>formerly CCD 146</i> overlaps with GS-37	UL 2795 Carpet and Upholstery Care Products <i>formerly CCD 148</i> overlaps with GS-37
boat and bilge cleaners	dry foam
cleaners for cooking appliances	pre spray
dish washing detergents	bonnet solutions and dry absorbent particles and solvent
degreasers	spot cleaners
general purpose cleaners	defoamer
industrial cleaners	deodorizers (powder or liquid)
vehicle cleaners	sanitizers
window and glass cleaners	protectors/stainguards
	shampoos

Green Seal Products Included in the Green Cleaning Goal

Not all products in the relevant Green Seal standard are covered by the Green Cleaning goal. The only products covered in the Green Cleaning goal are highlighted below.

These products are included in GS-37	These Products are Excluded from GS-37
Carpet cleaner products	Air fresheners
Carpet spot cleaning products	Boat cleaning products
Dry erase board cleaning products	Cleaners/degreaser marketed as suitable for cleaning soils in production and maintenance
Floor cleaning products	Deck and outdoor furniture products
General-purpose cleaner and multi-purpose cleaning products	Dish cleaning products
General-purpose and mirror cleaning products	Disinfectants or sanitizers
	Drain additive/cleaning products
	Floor finish and finish stripper
	Furniture polish products
	Graffiti remover
	Hand cleaners
	Household versions of those included in acceptable list
	Laundry care products
	Metal cleaning products
	Motor vehicle cleaning products
	Oven cleaning products
	Paint removers/thinners
	Specialty cleaning products
	Upholstery cleaning products

