

'Your Guide to Clean' is a publication from Multi-Clean in partnership with authorized distributors. This newsletter is dedicated to help those in the cleaning industry become more informed and educated to help manage the cleaning process.

## ***Know How to Clean Green***

### **First in a Series of Articles about the Path to Green**

So your organization has decided to go green! This decision is a good one, but it is often without a solid plan or even a true understanding of what it means to go green.

### **A continuous path...**

Green Cleaning describes the more appropriate and encompassing process of going green. A big misconception is that going from traditional cleaning to green cleaning is like a on/off switch, you are either green cleaning or not. Thinking of green cleaning as a transition process done overtime in orderly steps makes the process less overwhelming. The green cleaning continuum (see illustration) is way to think about the process, starting with traditional cleaning and working your way green.



*Green Cleaning is defined as "Cleaning to protect health without harming the environment."*

### **What You Can Do?**

One of the simplest things you can do is conduct a cleaning chemical audit. The audit is simply an inventory of all the cleaning chemicals used in the facility and what they are used for of. You will be very surprised at the sheer number of chemical products, many of which do the same things! A chemical audit form and instructions can be downloaded by following this link:

[www.multi-clean.com/green.htm](http://www.multi-clean.com/green.htm).

Once you complete the audit, ask your supplier of cleaning products about viable alternatives that are safer for human health and the environment.

The next newsletter will discuss additional steps you can take on the path to green.

## ***Featured Product***

### **Ultra Stripper**



A strong stripper with low odor. Green Seal certified.



You can find this and other fine Multi-Clean products at:



B Miller Products Inc  
Hibbing Phone: (218) 263-8958  
Duluth Phone: (218) 724-8265  
or on the web: [www.bmillerproducts.com](http://www.bmillerproducts.com)

## **All About LEED**

Buildings owners that want to have their facility certified green can apply for LEED certification. The LEED certification process is currently broken down into new construction (LEED-NC) and existing buildings (LEED-EB). Green Cleaning only applies to LEED-EB. What is significant is that to achieve basic certification 36-39 points are needed. A total of 9 points of this comes from adopting green cleaning practices, a whopping 25% of the total points needed.

To learn more visit the U.S. Green Building Council's website at [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)

***LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.***

---

## **Training Resources**

ISSA and OSHA have partnered to reach out to those in the cleaning industry to help facilitate training and reduce accidents. The Safety and Health Portal provides a wealth of information on employer requirements and training resources including the following safety related topics:

Bloodborne Pathogens  
Haz Com  
Slips, Trips and Falls  
Personal Protective Equipment  
[www.issa.com/osha/](http://www.issa.com/osha/)



*Training issues have been identified as one of the top challenges facing in-house cleaning operations and building service contractors.*

---

## **Ask the Chemist**

**Q:** Can Disinfectants be certified by Green Seal?

**A:** According to the EPA, which is responsible for all registered disinfectant/pesticide labels, neither the Green Seal nor the Green Seal certification may appear on a registered pesticide product label or on non-labeled materials, such as specification sheets, technical data sheets, marketing brochures or any advertising.

The EPA reviews and approves logos for use on pesticide product labels on a case by case basis. The EPA does so to ensure that the logo and/or associated language meets their statutory and regulatory labeling requirements. The EPA conducted a review of the Green Seal and its certification and found that the logo and certification statement would not be appropriate for registered pesticide products.

The EPA is in the process of designing a program with similar intentions that will help consumers to better recognize pesticide products which have reduced risk factors for the environment and public health. This program is currently being coordinated and developed through the EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE) program and the EPA's Pesticide Reduced Risk Program. Further information on this program will be released in the near future.

