New Information On Environmentally Preferable Cleaners
Where We Are. Where We’re Going.
And What It Will Take To Get Us There

Impact of Cleaning on the Environment
- 6.0 Billion pounds of Chemicals
- 4.5 Billion pounds of Paper
- 0.5 Billion pounds of Equipment
- 35.0 Billion Plastic Liners

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world.
In fact, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
Margaret Mead

Cleaners: All Purpose, Glass and Washroom
- Green Seal: GS-37 Standard for Industrial and Institutional Cleaners
- Biobased
- Concentrates (use dispensing equipment)

Cleaners: Other
- Cal VOC
- www.
- Biobased
- Concentrates (use dispensing equipment)
- Full Disclosure

Floor Care
- Metal-free
- Low VOC / Low Odor
- Phthalates
- Sustainable practices (minimize stripping)
  - Durable
  - 6 to 12 Coats
  - Routine maintenance
  - Entryway mats
  - Avoid high gloss finishes

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Hand Soap
- Avoid Antimicrobials, except where required by law or health code
  - Healthcare
  - Food preparation
  - Day Care
- Buy in bulk, clean and maintain dispensers

Disinfectants & Sanitizers
- Important to protect public health
- Use only when and where necessary
- Use the least “aggressive” product necessary to protect product users and the environment
- Concentrates (use dispensing equipment)
- Low VOC / Low Odor

Disinfectants & Sanitizers
- Chlorine / Sodium Hypochlorite
  - Very effective antimicrobial
  - Corrosive to eyes and skin
  - Damage floor finishes, carpets, clothing, etc.
  - Environmental concerns from production, contaminants, byproducts
  - Mixing can create poisonous gas
- Phenols
  - Effective against TB – HBV assumed
  - Corrosive to eyes and skin
  - Damage floor finishes and other surfaces
  - Strong pungent odor – respiratory irritant
  - Environmental concerns. Possible estrogen mimic.
- Quats
  - Typically not proven effective against TB or HBV
  - Less toxic than Phenols – eye, skin and surface corrosivity
- Peroxide
  - EPA Sanitizer. Not a disinfectant
  - Superior health & environmental profile compared to phenols and quats

Miscellaneous
- Aerosols
  - Flammable
  - Expensive
  - Replace with concentrates diluted into a spray bottle (use appropriate labels)
- IPM
  - Practice prevention
  - Use least toxic materials

Home Recipes
- “Natural” does NOT mean “good”
- All products have health and environmental impacts
- Can support bacterial growth when stored for long periods of time
- People do NOT follow mixing directions
- Lack appropriate labels and MSDS for I&I setting

Cleaning Is More Then Chemicals
- Janitorial Paper
  - Recycled Content
  - Chlorine-free processing
- Equipment
  - Vacuum cleaners
  - Floor machines
- Non-chemical Cleaning
  - Micro-fiber cloths and mops
  - Stream

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Next Steps
- Santa Monica
- Pilots
- US Green Building Council: LEED-EB
- Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E)
- Collaborative for High Performance Schools

Barriers To Success
- Greenwash
  - To mislead, cover up or gloss over damaging facts by appealing to environmental values.
- Irresponsible Companies
  - “we don’t use chemicals, our products are all natural…”
  - “the products you are currently using are making your workers sick…”
- Confusion
  - “Our product contains no…”
  - “Our product is EPA…”
- Unnecessary Regulations

Resources
- Center for a New American Dream
  - http://www.newdream.org/
- Green Seal
- Cal VOCs
  - http://www.arb.ca.gov/consprod/regs/Cpreg.doc
- Scorecard
- Beyond Pesticides
  - http://www.beyondpesticides.org/main.html

Resources
- Office of the Federal Environmental Executive
  - http://www.ofee.gov/
- Children’s Health and Environmental Coalition (CHEC)
  - http://www.checnet.org/
- EPA Office of Children’s Health Protection
  - http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/homepage
- The Ashkin Group