

Spartan General Sales Meeting
December 4, 2003

**New Information On
Environmentally Preferable Cleaners**

**Where We Are. Where We're Going.
And What It Will Take To Get Us There**



THE ASHKIN GROUP

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**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



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“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

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**Cleaners: All Purpose, Glass and
Washroom**

- Green Seal: GS-37 Standard for Industrial
and Institutional Cleaners
- Biobased
- Concentrates (use dispensing equipment)

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Cleaners: Other

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

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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

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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

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Disinfectants & Sanitizers

Higher

Risk Continuum

Lower

- Chlorine / Sodium Hypochlorite
 - Very effective antimicrobial
 - Corrosive to eyes and skin
 - Damage floor finishes, carpets, clothing, etc.
 - Respiratory irritant
 - 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
 - Toxic to aquatic life
- Peroxide
 - EPA Sanitizer. Not a disinfectant.
 - Superior health & environmental profile compared to phenols and quats

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Miscellaneous

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

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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

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Cleaning Is More Than Chemicals

- Janitorial Paper
 - Recycled Content
 - Chlorine-free processing
- Equipment
 - Vacuum cleaners
 - Floor machines
- Non-chemical Cleaning
 - Micro-fiber cloths and mops
 - Steam

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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

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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

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Resources

- Center for a New American Dream
 - <http://www.newdream.org/>
- Green Seal
 - <http://www.GreenSeal.org/>
- Cal VOCs
 - <http://www.arb.ca.gov/consprod/regs/Cpreg.doc>
- Scorecard
 - <http://www.scorecard.org/chemical-profiles/index.tcl>
- Beyond Pesticides
 - <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/main.html>

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Resources

- Office of the Federal Environmental Executive
 - <http://www.ofee.gov/>
- Children's Health and Environmental Coalition (CHEC)
 - <http://www.chechnet.org/>
- EPA Office of Children's Health Protection
 - http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/ho_mepage
- The Ashkin Group
 - <http://www.AshkinGroup.com/>

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Making the world
a cleaner, safer, healthier place
... one building at a time.

Thank You

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