



# The Need for Green Cleaning Solutions

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# The Need for Green Cleaning Solutions

## Did you know?

The need for green cleaning solutions makes sense when you consider that Americans spend 90% of their time indoors and exposure to pollution can be up to 100 times greater inside than out. (1) Companies going green can positively impact the annual maintenance of buildings where we work and live, which now requires:

- 6 Billion lbs. of cleaning and coating chemicals
- 4.5 Billion lbs. of janitorial paper products (or 50 Million trees)
- 1 Billion plastic trash can liners
- 1 billion pounds of janitorial equipment

Source: Greener Cleaning Playbook: <http://greensportsalliance.org/resource-center/>

Implementing green cleaning solutions supports other green activities that help reduce the large amounts of energy and water that buildings consume. According to the U.S. Green Building Council, buildings in this country account for:

- 73% of electricity consumption,
- 38% of greenhouse gas emissions, and
- 13.6% of potable water consumption.

Corporations going green help decrease atmospheric emission from the use of energy, thereby reducing acid rain, ground-level ozone, smog and global climate change.

## Companies Going Green Reap Benefits

### Economic Benefits

- Improved bottom line
- Reduced operating costs
- Optimized life-cycle economic performance
- Increased building valuation and ROI
- Decreased vacancy, improved retention
- Reduced liability

### Health & Productivity Benefits

- Enhanced occupant comfort and health
- Improved employee performance and productivity
- Reduced absenteeism and turnover

### Community Benefits

- Reduced natural resource consumption
- Minimized strain on local infrastructures and improved quality of life
- Public recognition for environmental stewardship

## ABM Knows Green Cleaning

If you are concerned about the environment and the health of your facility, ABM offers ABM [GreenCare®](#), our customizable, green cleaning program. Whether you've become an expert on cleaning green or are just wondering where to begin, we can help.



Want to start small? We can begin with basic green cleaning options, such as switching to Green Seal certified cleaning products. ABM GreenCare® can also take a broader approach to cleaning green and include things such as recycling programs and touchless water conservation equipment. Whatever route you choose, there are simple steps you can take to decrease pollutants spread throughout your facility and to promote indoor air quality. [Green cleaning provides benefits](#) to businesses, buildings, occupants, visitors, and the environment.

For our clients working toward [LEED](#) (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, your ABM GreenCare® program from ABM will include use of the green cleaning products and procedures required to earn points toward certification. By being able to speak intelligently to our clients about this continuing trend as it relates to janitorial, we truly become a partner in achieving your green goals.

## What Does Cleaning Green Entail?

First, a definition: Green Cleaning is cleaning to protect health without harming the environment.

In recommending a green cleaning program for you, ABM takes a holistic view of your facility. We consider the purpose of the facility and the activities that take place in and around it. We study each aspect of "green" building operations and maintenance in the context of your goals and the benefits you expect to derive.

The ABM green cleaning process ensures the success of your program. Basic principles of ABM GreenCare® include:

- Focus on entryways inside and out
- Minimize particles and chemicals in the air
- Use chemical management systems
- Ensure proper vacuuming
- Focus on preventative measures



- Focus on touch-points
- Apply disinfectant in restrooms properly
- Promote safety and prevent cross-contamination

Key points that guide ABM when implementing effective green cleaning solutions include:

- Look at the facility holistically – All areas are interconnected through building automation, HVAC systems and even foot traffic.
- Go beyond appearances – Dirt, pollutants and allergens are not readily seen, but can drastically affect indoor air quality (IAQ).
- Reduce pollutants – Pollutants can be dirt, germs, pesticides, chemicals or dust.
- Minimize exposure – Do what you can to enhance air quality and keep environmental toxicity to a minimum.
- Minimize waste – Use only what is needed.
- Promote Safety – Use green chemicals. Ensure proper use and storage of chemicals and equipment.
- Educate and Communicate – Companies going green should inform employees, building occupants and stakeholders of program goals. Let them know how they can contribute to a cleaner, safer facility.

Let us show you how these principles work together to make your building a top performer.

## Start today with these simple green cleaning steps

If you want to go green, cleaning offered through our ABM GreenCare® program will help you become safe, sustainable and clean.

You can begin by switching to healthier cleaning products and methods. Whatever options you choose from the many we offer, ABM GreenCare® is the environmentally responsible way to take care of your facility and its occupants.

Depending on your need, ABM stands ready to implement proven cleaning green methods at your facility, including the following.

### Use of Green Cleaning Chemicals and Products

Get sustainable with cleaning chemicals. Replacing traditional cleaning chemicals is a simple way to make your surroundings healthier without increasing costs. ABM GreenCare® uses Green Seal certified or environmentally preferable products (or similar products of your choice). We only employ chemicals proven to clean effectively, while being safer for our people, your people and the environment. In addition, our green cleaning methods include the use of concentrated formulas and proper onsite dilution. Concentrated chemicals come in smaller containers for less waste and easier shipping (less fuel) while still providing the cleaning power needed at your site.



You can also go green with cleaning supplies and tools. Microfiber dusting cloths and flat mops outperform traditional materials and can often be used to remove soils without the need for chemical compounds. Microfiber capture and remove pollutants instead of just moving them around. This miracle of technology can be laundered and reused, minimizing waste.

### Use of Effective Janitorial Equipment

For environmentally sustainable carpet cleaning, ABM prefers Carpet & Rug Institute approved (“Seal of Approval”) vacuum cleaners. These highly efficient, pollutant-capturing vacuums improve indoor air quality. They also increase the life span of carpets. Another environmentally friendly carpet cleaning option includes the use of carpet extractors and automatic floor scrubbers that reduce water consumption and chemical residues in the carpet.

### Use of “Green” Paper Products

To enhance your green program, ABM recommends paper products (e.g., paper towels, tissue) that are whitened without the use of chlorine or its derivatives and meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards for recycled content:

- EPA CPG, Green Seal, UL Ecologo and rapidly renewable paper products
- Products dispensed from large rolls to minimize packaging and waste
- “Hands-free” paper towel dispensers
- High-capacity dispensers that promote waste-reduction by controlling towel usage

### Other Considerations

We can help you:

- Implement an effective recycling program
- Create a green communication program so that building occupants understand they are part of the process
- Implement and communicate an indoor plant policy
- Install touchless water conservation equipment and more energy-efficient HVAC systems

We also offer other “green” maintenance services that go beyond cleaning green. Just ask us!

Through our ABM GreenCare® program, ABM becomes your green cleaning expert, always keeping up with the latest trends and processes. That way, you can be sure your green cleaning program contributes to the success of your business.

### About ABM

ABM (NYSE: ABM) is a leading provider of facility solutions with revenues of approximately \$5 billion and over 100,000 employees in over 300 offices deployed throughout the United States and various international locations. ABM’s comprehensive capabilities include facilities engineering, commercial cleaning, energy solutions, HVAC, electrical, landscaping and parking, provided through stand-alone or integrated solutions. ABM provides custom facility solutions in urban, suburban and rural areas to properties of all sizes — from schools and commercial buildings to hospitals, manufacturing plants and airports. ABM Industries Incorporated, which operates through its subsidiaries, was founded in 1909. For more information, visit [abm.com](http://abm.com).



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