

Green Products & Equipment and Their Benefits

Thinking of implementing a green cleaning program? Here's a list of products and equipment to consider using. To make it easy for you, the ABM [GreenCare](#)[®] program can provide some or all of these items, depending on your needs and goals. Plus, we offer expert green cleaning services using our proven processes to ensure your green program's success.

Environmentally friendly cleaning chemicals.

General purpose, washroom, glass, and carpet cleaning products that meet Green Seal's Standard for Industrial and Institutional Cleaners (GS-37) or UL Ecologo standards.

Hand soaps that do not contain antimicrobial agents (e.g., triclosan).

Except where required by law or regulations (i.e., healthcare or food preparation), employing a strong antibiotic agent such as triclosan for everyday use is not recommended.

Source: <http://www.health-report.co.uk/triclosan.html>

Microfiber dusting cloths and flat mops.

- Microfiber material used in mops and dust cloths have microscopic "hooks" that act as claws, scraping up and holding dust and dirt. The material is very effective for cleaning, because the fibers quickly and easily capture dirt rather than just moving it around.
- Cleaning with microfiber products is environmentally friendly because chemical use can be minimized. Test results show microfiber can reduce bacteria levels by 96% yet requires less labor.





Proper door mats and entry systems.

Most pollutants in buildings are brought in from outside and spread throughout, so capturing contaminants at entryways is an easy way to keep the building clean, which in turn, minimizes the use of harsh chemicals and keeps the inside air cleaner. The most effective mats have rubber-reinforced face nubs and a crush-proof waffle design. A raised-rubber “water-dam” border traps dirt and water, keeping carpets and floors clean by working double duty, absorbing water while scraping shoes.

Efficient vacuums and floor care systems.

Vacuums that have the Carpet & Rug Institute’s Seal of Approval certification have gone through a stringent testing process that measures three key performance factors:

- Dust Containment - Must not release more than 100 micrograms of dust particles per cubic meter of air. This protocol evaluates the total amount of dust particles released by the brush rolls, through the filtration bag and via any air leaks from the system, and is more stringent than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- High performance vacuum cleaners have a significant impact on improved indoor air quality (IAQ). At the same time, vacuums that effectively remove and contain soil while keeping the carpet looking good will help carpets last longer. Ultimately, better performing vacuums provide a greater return on investment and ensure a healthier indoor environment.
- Backpack vacuums increase productivity. They’ve been proven by the International Sanitary Supply Association (ISSA) to double the speed of cleaning versus standard upright vacuums.
- Because vacuums are the most audible of daily cleaning tools, low decibel vacuums are preferred to protect hearing and minimize “noise pollution.” The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) recommends that cleaning equipment be no louder than 85 decibels. Good vacuums range between 61-70 decibels.
- High-speed burnishers with active vacuum attachments can capture fine particles and save labor costs.
- Carpet extractors and automatic floor scrubbers that reduce water consumption minimize impact on the environment and save costs.

High efficiency HVAC systems, using HEPA filters.

High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters remove a minimum of 99.97% of contaminants at 0.3 microns in size. In comparison, a human hair is about 60-75 microns in diameter. Particles less than 35 microns can't be seen with the naked eye. Pollen is in the 10-100 micron range, with dust at .5-5 microns. Particles under 5 microns can penetrate deep into the lungs.

Wise lighting solutions.

- Newer designs in lightbulbs, especially florescent, can reduce energy consumption by up to 75%.
- Occupancy sensors turn lights off automatically when no one is in a room.
- Daylighting uses natural light to illuminate buildings and is the most economical and environmentally responsible lighting technique available today.

Recycled paper products, such as tissue and paper towels.

These should meet EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines, Green Seal's Standards for Tissue and Towels and UL Ecologo standards for recycled content in janitorial paper products bleached without the use of harmful chlorine or its derivatives. Alternately, rapid renewable paper resources can be used.

Environmentally preferable paper dispensing systems.

- Products dispensed from large rolls minimize packaging and waste. Folded paper towels are discouraged.
- "Hands-free" paper towel dispensers reduce the potential for cross-contamination, control the amount of paper used, minimize waste and reduce maintenance time.

This list is not all-inclusive. ABM can design a program that addresses your specific needs, even if they are unusual or challenging. [Request more information on green cleaning today.](#)

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.



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