



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY BUILDING CUSTODIAL & SUPPORT SERVICES

Green Cleaning Policy

The mission of WMU's Physical Plant, Building Custodial & Support Services department (BC&SS) is to provide a safe, clean, and healthy environment for our students, faculty, staff and visitors. BC&SS continuously puts forth an effort to maintain a position at the forefront of cleaning maintenance technology by employing safe, effective cleaning methods and equipment. BC&SS is strongly committed to "Green Cleaning" through its use of chemicals, equipment and techniques that are environmentally friendly. Our policy encourages all members of the University community to participate, support and help sustain this commitment to the environment. Green Cleaning encompasses a number of elements: choosing cleaning products and equipment that are not detrimental to the environment are cost-effective, and effective in their application as cleaning maintenance tools in order to provide our students and the taxpayers a valuable return on their investment. BC&SS is also committed to providing on-going and up-to-date training for all our employees to further ensure and express our commitment to make environmentally conscious cleaning a "Best Practice" for the department.

Purpose

To ensure students, faculty, staff, and visitors are not exposed to any potentially hazardous chemicals or other potentially hazardous situations. To ensure that where and when chemicals, other cleaning agents, and cleaning equipment are in use that every effort has been made to limit and/or minimize any potential adverse effects which may diminish a facility's indoor air quality or otherwise affect negatively the building user's well-being.

Goals and Strategies

The Building Custodial & Support Services department at Western Michigan University has established many "Green Cleaning" goals and strategies to help emphasize environmentally safe, low-impact cleaning maintenance practices. BC&SS recognizes and understands its responsibility to the environment, as well as the need to provide leadership as vigilant and knowledgeable facility and environmental stewards for the University community. BC&SS seeks to improve its operations whenever and wherever possible by:

- Educating, training, and motivating the custodial staff to work in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Reviewing with and coaching all custodial personnel about their responsibility to maintain and practice our environmental policies.
- Consistently working to make the most efficient use of energy, water, and human resources while at the same time providing a safe, clean, and sanitary environment for the students, faculty, staff and visitors within which to pursue higher learning and related University activities.
- Maintain compliance with all current, relevant legislation and industry standards.
- Use cleaning products that meet the Green Seal standard GS-37 and/or products with low-volatile organic compounds whenever possible and applicable.
- Use products that meet EPA standards of high, post-consumer recycled content.
- Use equipment with the most cost effective, efficient filtration.
- Use concentrated cleaning products whenever available.
- Use chemicals in conjunction with chemical systems which provide dilution automatically and accurately using cold water.
- Use of products that are packaged with recyclable materials.
- Prohibiting the use of phosphate and aerosol products.