

MOUNT PROSPECT SCHOOL DISTRICT 57

ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE SCHOOLS

The Board will provide District students and employees with environmentally safe and clean schools/facilities. Federal and State statutes, regulations and applicable agency guidelines will be followed.

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

Administration will monitor the use of building materials, cleaning agents, disinfectants, insecticides, pesticides and herbicides used within or on the grounds of District properties to ensure environmentally safe materials are used, whenever possible. At the same time, these materials must be effective in insuring that facilities are structurally sound, clean and pest free. Our green cleaning program strives to incorporate not only environmentally benign cleaners, but equipment, tools and procedures that limit environmental and human health impacts as well. A successful green cleaning program embraces the cleaning process and includes an emphasis on education and training of workers.

GREEN CLEANING STANDARDS AT MOUNT PROSPECT SCHOOL DISTRICT 57

In compliance with the State of Illinois Green Cleaning Schools Act [105 ILCS 140], District 57 is committed to a process of continual investigation into products, equipment, tools and procedures that are safe for our environment and health.

The purpose of these standards is to:

- limit faculty, staff, student and visitor exposure to toxic chemicals high in irritants
- protect the natural environment from hazardous chemical contaminants
- reduce energy and water use during the cleaning process

Changes in industry standards, new technology and an evolving market of new products will be taken into consideration when meeting these guidelines and procedures. Procurement guidelines for custodial supplies and paper products shall take price and performance into consideration in addition to the environmental life cycle and attributes of a given product.

Chemicals

Chemicals will be Green Seal certified or Green Seal recommended. If a Green Seal certified or recommended product is not available, then a product will be selected that is Environmentally Preferable, or that does not contain carcinogens and other hazardous chemical compounds. In accordance with Green Seal standards, chemicals designed for use in cold-water, shall be dispensed through a metered dilution system with all custodial staff receiving appropriate training on such equipment. Adequate dwell time (in accordance with manufacturer instructions) for chemicals is required to maximize efficacy and minimize product use.

The following Chemicals guidelines have been approved for use in District 57:

Glass/Surface Cleaners	Green Seal certified non-ammoniated cleaner will be used for glass as well as stainless steel and chrome fixtures.
Heavy-Duty Cleaners/Degreasers	Heavy duty cleaner/degreaser may be utilized for removal of difficult buildups of soap and scale. Used as Maintenance Tool during summer only.
Disinfectants	Disinfectants will be used only as needed at primary points of contact (e.g. fountains, sinks and toilets) and for blood-borne pathogen cleanups.
Carpet Extraction	Water based anti-foam solution will be used for carpet extraction.
Floor Cleaner	Daily metal-free detergent will be used on all hard floor/surfaces.
Hand Soaps	GreenSeal certified foaming handwash is used in facility restrooms. If facilities for hand washing are unavailable, alcohol-based sanitizers may be made available.

Custodial Paper Products

District 57 is committed to using Green Seal certified or United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) preferred towels and tissue that are 100% recycled. The use of post consumer paper waste can reduce the impact of these materials in landfills and preserve our ecology by reducing the impact on our forest environments. During the manufacturing process bleaching of paper is common. This process releases toxins into the water systems, effecting aquatic life. Instead of chlorine the green seal certified paper uses sodium hydrosulfite which is a better environmental choice. Additionally the dispensing systems help reduce waste by providing dispensing control. Our goal is to reduce waste from our facilities. All packaging is environmentally preferable and can be recycled as well.

Toilet Tissue	Green Seal certified or EPA preferred tissues that are 100% recycled will be used.
Paper Towels	Green Seal certified or EPA preferred towels that are 100% recycled will be used.

Waste Management and Recycling

Trash is removed promptly from all facilities. Removal of food and contaminated debris is given the highest priority, to ensure high sanitation standards are maintained throughout the District. Recycling services are provided to all district buildings in an effort to foster a sense of environmental responsibility among staff and student populations, without jeopardizing sanitation efforts. Recycling receptacles are located throughout the buildings with one large comingled recycling dumpster at each location. Recycling programs are in place at all schools consisting of the daily opportunity to recycle aluminum, glass, paper and plastic products as specified by our sanitation services provider. Occasional programs may be in place at different buildings providing opportunities to recycle additional materials, including but not limited to, batteries, printer cartridges and cell phones.

Staff Training

Custodial staff works closely with District Administration to ensure Green Cleaning guidelines are adhered to. New products are frequently reviewed by staff and recommendations are made for current district supplies. Staff is trained on efficient and effective cleaning procedures. Material Safety Data Sheets are available in the facility and custodial offices for product review and usage instructions. All products are clearly labeled with appropriate labels.

Purchasing Guidelines

The Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council encourages schools to follow the five principles listed below when purchasing supplies:

- Include environmental factors as well as traditional considerations of price and performance as part of the normal purchasing process.
- Emphasize pollution prevention early in the purchasing process.
- Examine multiple environmental attributes throughout a product or service's life cycle.
- Compare relative environmental impacts when selecting products and services.
- Collect and base purchasing decisions on accurate and meaningful information about environmental performance.

In addition, District 57 staff shall keep the following packaging and shipping guidelines in mind when ordering goods and supplies:

- Concentrated formulas with appropriate handling safeguards.
- Efficient packaging (e.g., light weight, reduced volume).
- Recyclable packaging.
- Recycled-content packaging.
- Refillable bottles.
- Pump sprays rather than aerosols.
- Packaging and dilution systems designed to reduce exposure to the product.
- Products shipped in bulk.
- Clear labeling and information on use and disposal.

Requests for Information

This report is designed to provide District stakeholders with a general overview of the District's Green Cleaning policies and procedures. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact the District business office at (847) 394-7300.