

## How does your school add up on the Cleaning for Healthy Schools Checklist

[www.cleaningforhealthyschools.org](http://www.cleaningforhealthyschools.org)

**Note.** *Cleaning for Healthy Schools is an approach to facility maintenance that relies on preventing cleaning problems through the use of less toxic cleaning products, state of the art cleaning practices, and advanced technology to clean buildings while protecting the health of workers and other building occupants. Below is a list of recommended best practices to improve school environmental conditions through your cleaning practices. Use this checklist to assess what you are doing now and what components you need to implement a comprehensive cleaning for health program. Utilize the other training materials and resources available in the Cleaning for Healthy Schools Toolkit to implement your cleaning for healthy schools program.*

### Do you have best practices and/or regulations in place?

- Green Seal GS-42 Best Practices for contract Cleaning Services
- Local/State regulations for School or Child Care Indoor Air Quality Management, and if not, have you adopted the voluntary US EPA *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools* Kit (see [www.epa.gov/schools](http://www.epa.gov/schools))
- Get ahead of problems: set up a system to track building complaints and their resolutions  
Maintain the heating and ventilating systems to reduce or eliminate airborne contaminants, such as bacteria, dusts, molds

### Do you prevent dirt in your facility?

- Keep walks/parking areas clean and swept/shoveled so shoes stay clean and dry; minimize road sand & salt
- Place 'walk-off' mats at each major entrance (doorway width, 3-4 strides long); clean them daily
- Provide cubbies or student lockers for storage of personal items; have regular desk and locker clean-out days
- Restrict all snacks and food to one or two designated areas in the building
- Keep classroom plants away from air supply
- Keep accessible, sealed garbage/recycling bins away from the building's fresh air intakes; keep bins clean
- Use durable, hard surface, easy-to-clean materials for furniture, floors and walls
- Don't use new or used (donated) upholstered furniture
- Keep classroom clutter down so custodians can reach under and behind classroom furniture; leave classrooms ready-to-clean every day
- Provide classroom teachers with simple environmentally preferable cleaners for wiping up small spills quickly

\_\_\_ *If you are planning a major renovation or a new facility, design the facility that will be easy to keep clean.*

### Does your school discourage?

- \_\_\_ pets in classrooms
- \_\_\_ classroom cleaning products brought from home
- \_\_\_ room air fresheners and all cake-toilet deodorizers

### Are products and equipment updated and in place?

- \_\_\_ Cleaning chemicals for general everyday use: use only independent third-party certified cleaning chemicals
  - one concentrate can be diluted for many tasks, such as bathroom/ restroom cleaner; all-purpose cleaner; carpet spotter/extraction cleaner; glass & window cleaner; neutral floor cleaner; one heavy duty cleaning product
- \_\_\_ Hand soaps: use only independent third-party certified, foaming hand soap (no anti-bacterial soaps)
- \_\_\_ HEPA filter vacuum cleaners (*tip: use best filters recommended by vacuum manufacturer or buy new vacuums that use HEPA filters*): air flow > 90 CFM to capture 96% of particulates 0.3 microns in size
- \_\_\_ High-filtration floor care equipment
  - floor buffers; cord electric & battery burnishers
- \_\_\_ MICROFIBERS: cloths; dusting tools; wet mops & dry mops to pick up small particles and help remove germs
- \_\_\_ Mop buckets or mopping systems that keep clean water and dirty water separate
- \_\_\_ Multi-level scrapper walk-off mats with nitrile rubber backing
  - inside of entryways (and outside where possible)
  - span the entire entryway; 15 - 20 feet long, where applicable; rotated for weather conditions
- \_\_\_ Powered equipment
  - sound levels less than 70 dB
  - vacuum attachments
  - high efficiency/low emission motors
  - microfiber pads where appropriate
- \_\_\_ Specialty cleaning products
  - environmentally preferable disinfectant products; restrict use of disinfectants
  - independent third-party certified floor care products
    - wax strippers; floor sealer & finish;
    - environmentally preferable graffiti remover
    - environmentally preferable mineral build-up remover (toilets etc.)
    - environmentally preferable white board cleaner and markers

\_\_\_ Training programs

- best practices training for responsible school officials and custodial workers
- bloodborne pathogen & chemical right-to-know training
- Cleaning for Healthy Schools Toolkit training and certified products training
- equipment operator training
- multi-lingual training for non-English speaking work staff
- teacher and other support staff training

\_\_\_ Trash and Recycling programs

- standardize waste receptacle sizes
- proper size liners for receptacles
- dedicated receptacles for recycled product types

\_\_\_ Washroom Paper Products

- post-consumer waste recycled content for boxed facial tissue, toilet paper and dispenser roll or multifold towels
- chlorine-free, independent third-party certified / sustainable forestry practices / controlled-use dispensers
- tissue & towels on large rolls

**Checklist from National Collaborative Work Group on  
Green Cleaning and Chemical Policy Reform in Schools**

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