

GREEN CLEANING STANDARD

- George Brown College -

Preamble

In line with George Brown College's Green Plan, the goal of the College is to demonstrate best environmental sustainability practices in terms of the products and processes used in the College's Housekeeping program and thus ensure a college environment with indoor air quality that is comfortable, clean and safe.

From a health and safety perspective, the College's goal is to meet the Association of Physical Plant Administrators (APPA) Cleanliness Standard of 2.0. The College works to promote the highest standards and best practices in terms of Infection Prevention Control (IPAC) and at the Waterfront Campus the cleaning program for clinical areas meets the criteria set out by the Ontario Health Care Housekeeping Association.

Purpose:

Green Cleaning is meant to provide improved health and safety, increase productivity, and improve indoor air quality in every building. The intent is to reduce the exposure of building occupants and maintenance personnel to chemicals and particulate contaminants which adversely affect indoor air quality, human health, and the environment.

Scope:

This Green Cleaning Standard applies to all cleaning services carried out by College staff and service contractors, on College owned premises, including all three campus.

Goals and Strategies:

- Educate, train and motivate staff to work in an environmentally responsible manner; ensure that custodial staff is aware of the benefits and proper use of green cleaning products and aware of their responsibilities in applying this standard.
- All cleaning products used are to be certified environmentally friendly by either Eco-Logo or Green Seal with certain site specific exceptions where chemically assisted cleaning will be required.
- Tissue paper products and plastic bags will be certified environmentally friendly by either Eco-Logo or Green Seal. Alternative, non-forest based paper products, will be considered on a case by case basis to evaluate their environmental impacts.
- Hand soaps will be certified environmentally friendly by either Eco-Logo or Green Seal and contain no anti-microbial agents except where required by health codes and other regulations (e.g., food services and health care requirements).
- Other cleaning processes will reduce impacts on the environment such as the use of steam cleaning which uses no chemicals and minimizes water consumption.
- Develop a complimentary, comprehensive Green Housekeeping Program and operating procedures that would apply to all cleaning service contractors and cleaning staff. Green Housekeeping is the process of cleaning for a healthier workplace using cleaning products and techniques to improve the indoor air quality and the overall health of the workplace.