

General Purpose Cleaners

Covered Products

This specification covers a wide variety of concentrated cleaners as well as related dilution and dispensing equipment, in addition to a limited number of ready-to-use cleaners. They are divided into the following sub-categories:

- A. **Concentrated Bathroom Cleaners, Non-disinfecting and Non-sanitizing Only** (including concentrated restroom cleaners, tub and tile cleaners, grout cleaners and whiteners, descalers, mold and mildew cleaners, and toilet/urinal cleaners, etc.)
- B. **Concentrated Carpet, Rug and Upholstery Cleaners** (including concentrated pre-spray, spot and stain removers, carpet shampoos and bonnet cleaners, etc.)
- C. **Concentrated Degreasers** (including concentrated cleaner-degreasers, grease trap cleaners, etc.)
- D. **Concentrated Floor Cleaners** (including concentrated neutral floor cleaners, dust and damp mop cleaners, etc.)
- E. **Concentrated General Purpose Cleaners** (including also all-purpose and multi-purpose cleaners, peroxide-based cleaners, etc.)
- F. **Concentrated Glass Cleaners** (including also window, mirror and computer screen cleaners)
- G. **Concentrated Enzymatic Restroom Cleaners**
- H. **Ready-To-Use General-Purpose Cleaners and Glass Cleaners** [products that do not require dilution before use](#)

Background

** This is an update/revision of the original specification ** Over the years, regulations have been established to consider environmentally green and sustainable product use due the composition of the ingredients in cleaning products covered by this specification. Guidance for the creation of this specification was drawn from the New York State Green Cleaning Law (~~EDN § 409-I~~ [New York State Education Law Section 409-i](#))

~~defines “green cleaning products” for use in schools. New York State has followed guidance from federal regulatory agencies and procurement standards such as Massachusetts’ green cleaning contract “Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Products, Programs, Equipment and Supplies Statewide Contract.” The products under this specification are evaluated by several organizations indicated below. Within New York State, the Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) oversees and regulates products that will have an effect on the environment. They also work with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP21) to review products on their impacts to the environment and public health. In continuance of New York State’s efforts to green their procurement, 1,4-dioxane in products covered by existing specifications is currently being evaluated. Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Article 35 restricts the amount of 1,4 dioxane in cleaning products. was passed to cover the restriction of cleaning products containing 1,4-dioxane in excess of limits set by NYSDEC. 1,4-dioxane is a byproduct of the ethoxylation process used to make surfactants and is classified as a carcinogen under the National Toxicology Program, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers it a residual concern to the environment. See [Article 35 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law](#)~~ECL Article 35~~ for 1,4-dioxane concentration limits and dates of effect.~~

Standard Setting and Certification Programs

American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) - is a standard-setting organization whose standards apply to components of the plumbing system. These standards, with a heavy emphasis on backflow prevention devices, are used by national and local codes throughout the country.

Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) - is a non-profit organization committed to improving the practice of occupational and environmental health through information sharing and collaborative research.

Green Seal - is a non-profit, independent, third-party standard setting and certification organization that follows the Guiding Principles and Procedures for Type I

Environmental Labeling adopted by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO 14024). Green Seal has developed environmental standards and certifies products for more than 40 major product categories. It has a number of standards for general purpose cleaning products.

UL EcoLogo - is an independent, third-party standard setting and certification program that follows the Guiding Principles and Procedures for Type I Environmental Labeling adopted by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO 14024). Since its establishment in 1988, EcoLogo has been recognized or referenced in more than 350 specifications and standards. It has a number of standards for general purpose cleaners.

Specifications

GENERAL PURPOSE CLEANERS

~~All affected entities shall purchase cleaning products that comply with the chemical restriction provisions of ECL Article 35.~~ [All affected entities shall purchase cleaning products that comply with the chemical restriction provisions of Article 35 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law.](#)

Third-Party Certifications

All general purpose cleaning products shall be certified by one of the following: Green Seal or UL Ecologo (applicable standards listed below).

A. Green Seal Standards

1. Green Seal GS-8 ([2020](#)), Cleaning Products for Household Use
2. Green Seal GS-34 ([2017](#)), Cleaning and Degreasing Agents
3. Green Seal GS-37 ([2020](#)), Cleaning Products for Industrial and Institutional Use
- ~~4.~~ Green Seal GS-53 ([2020](#)), Specialty Cleaning Products for Industrial and Institutional Use

B. UL EcoLogo Standards

NOTE: Products that only meet UL's other standards, such as GREENGUARD, do not meet the requirements of this specification unless expressly noted.

1. UL EcoLogo 2759 (2011), Standard for Sustainability for Hard Surface Cleaners
2. UL EcoLogo 2791 (2012), Standard for Sustainability for Drain and/or Grease Trap Additives: Biologically based
3. UL EcoLogo 2792 (2012), Standard for Sustainability for Cleaning and Degreasing Compounds: Biologically based **NOTE:** this standard does not prohibit asthmagens (unlike GS-37 and UL EcoLogo 2759). If a product is certified under UL EcoLogo 2792, it must also be devoid of asthmagens with the following designations: respiratory sensitizers (Rs or RRs), or generally accepted asthmagens (G) as defined by the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC), which can be found at <http://www.aoecdata.org/ExpCodeLookup.aspx>
4. UL EcoLogo 2795 (2012), Standard for Sustainability for Carpet and Upholstery Care Products

~~Concentrated Products and Dilution Systems~~

CONCENTRATED PRODUCTS AND DILUTION SYSTEMS

Agencies shall procure ~~Bidders shall make~~ dilution equipment which is made available free of charge for all concentrated cleaning products, including wall and mobile units. All concentrated cleaners must be ~~designed and packaged as~~ a Closed Loop Dilution-Control System that meets the following requirements:

- No open containers are allowed. The container must have "spill-resistant packaging" that requires coupling to a specially designed device in order to dispense the product.
- The container may not be able to be "practically accessed" during routine use. The packaging must not allow for access or exposure to the concentrated product after opening a cap or lid, or before or while connecting to the dispensing system.
- The container must contain a backflow prevention system that meets the current American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) 1055 standard.

Packaging

Packaging shall comply with Environmental Conservation Law section 37-0205.

Packaging shall not contain inks, dyes, pigments, adhesives, stabilizers, or any other additives to which any lead, cadmium, mercury or hexavalent chromium is intentionally added or contain incidental concentrations of lead, cadmium, mercury or hexavalent chromium which together are greater than 100 parts per million by weight (0.01%).

New York State encourages affected entities to adopt the following:

- The use of bulk packaging.
- The use of reusable packaging.
- The use of innovative packaging that reduces the weight of packaging, reduces packaging waste or utilizes packaging that is a component of the product.
- That all packaging remain the property of the supplier and not become the property of the affected state entity under any circumstance or condition. The vendor shall certify that the packaging material will be reused, recycled, or composted, and managed in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws.
- Packaging that maximizes recycled content and/or meets or exceeds the minimum post-consumer content level for packaging in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines.
- Packaging that is recyclable or compostable.

No general purpose cleaning products may be offered in aerosol containers.