GreenNY Specification: Cloths and Wiping Rags

Last updated: May 28, 2025

Specifications

Covered Products

- Cloths, rags, and towels used for cleaning surfaces, equipment, or tools
- Non-paper shop towels

Exclusions

- Personal care washcloths and towels
- Dust mops and wet mops, see GreenNY Specification: Mops
- Paper towels and paper wipers, see GreenNY Specification: Paper Towels and Paper Wipers
- Sponges and scrubbers, see GreenNY Specification: Sponges and Scrubbers
- Surface cleaning wipes, see GreenNY Specification: Surface Cleaning Wipes

Minimum Requirements

Products MUST have the following sustainability attributes:

- Made of one of the following materials:
  - Reclaimed textiles (e.g., t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.)
  - Plant-based materials (e.g., cotton, cellulose, wood fiber, etc.)
  - Microfiber
- Not labeled with a California Prop 65 Warning
- Not labeled “disposable” or non-launderable
- Not labeled “antimicrobial” nor claim to kill bacteria, viruses, or other pathogens
- Not labeled as containing mineral oil or cleaning chemicals, including but not limited to soaps

Additional Desirable Attributes

Products are ENCOURAGED to have the following sustainability attribute:

- 10% post-consumer recycled content (PCRC) or higher
- Made by a Certified B Corp
- Made in the USA

Product Compliance with NY State Sustainability Policies

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Products meeting these GreenNY specifications comply with the following NY state sustainability policies:

- Executive Order 22: Leading by Example: Directing State Agencies to Adopt a Sustainability and Decarbonization Program
- Pollution Prevention Policy
- Purchase of Recycled Commodities for State Use

Resources

- GreenNY Sustainable Purchasing Definitions
- NY State Sustainability Policies
- GreenNY Sustainability Certifications and Standards

Sample Contract Language

To support compliance with NYS policies and GreenNY procurement requirements, contract managers are encouraged to incorporate the GreenNY Sample Contract Language into bid solicitations and contracts. The GreenNY sample contract language covers the following topics:

- GreenNY Sales Reporting
- Packaging Language
- Product Labeling per GreenNY Specifications
- Takeback Services
- Verification of Vendor Compliance with GreenNY Requirements and Documentation of Desirable Attributes and Other Environmental Claims

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Definitions

- **Disposable** – A product designed to be discarded after one use and is not intended to be washed or laundered.
- **Reclaimed Textiles** – Garments, fabrics, and other textile materials that are repurposed, reused, or recycled, offering numerous environmental benefits. The practice of reclaiming involves finding new life for materials that might otherwise be discarded, reducing the demand for new resources and minimizing waste.
- **Launderable** – The ability for a product to be washed or "laundered" in a washing machine.

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- **Post-Consumer Recycled Content (PCRC)** – A material that has served its intended use and has been collected in a municipal or commercial recycling program and incorporated into new materials or products. PCRC does not include pre-consumer recycled content (also referred to as post-industrial recycled content), which is material diverted from the waste stream during the manufacturing process.

Approved:

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