GreenNY Specification: Sponges and Scrubbers

Draft Date: June 3, 2025

Specifications

Covered Products

Sponges, scrubbers, and scouring pads used for cleaning surfaces or dishes

Exclusions

- Bath, shower, and cosmetic sponges
- Cloths and sponge cloths, see GreenNY Specification: Cloths and Wiping Rags
- Floor maintenance pads, see GreenNY Specification: Floor Maintenance Pads
- Paper towels and paper wipers, see GreenNY Specification: Paper Towels and Paper Wipers
- Sponge mops, see GreenNY Specification: Mops

Minimum Requirements

Products MUST have the following sustainability attributes:

- Made of one or a combination of the following materials:
    - Cellulose or another plant-based fiber (e.g., walnut, coconut, sisal, etc.)
    - Plastic, with one or more of the following:
        - 20% post-consumer recycled content (PCRC) or higher
        - 50% total recycled content (TRC) or higher
    - Microfiber
    - Stainless steel (not steel wool)
- Not made of melamine
- Fragrance-free
- Not labeled with a California Prop 65 Warning
- Not labeled “antimicrobial” nor claim to kill bacteria, viruses, or other pathogens
- Not labeled as containing cleaning chemicals, including but not limited to soaps

Additional Desirable Attributes

Products are ENCOURAGED to have one or more of the following sustainability attributes:

- Single material
- Plastic components contain:
    - Greater than 20% PCRC

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    - Greater than 50% TRC
- Adhesive-free or contains a water-based adhesive
- Labeled “dye-free”
- Made by a Certified B Corp
- Made in the USA

Product Compliance with NY State Sustainability Policies

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
- Purchase of Recycled Commodities for State Use
- Pollution Prevention Policy

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

- **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.

- **Total Recycled Content (TRC)** – The sum of post-consumer and pre-consumer recycled content.

Approved:

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