

How do I know I am using environmentally friendly cleaning products?

Products with the EcoLogo, Green Seal Logo and Design for the Environment Logo have been reviewed by a third party to ensure that products have met a high standard of environmental sustainability.



Look for the label!



Not all environmentally friendly products are as sustainable as others.

It is important to read labels to ensure that the product you are buying products that are truly green.

It is important to remember that there are no guidelines in place that require all environmentally friendly products to submit for logo approval.



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Resources:

Health and Environmental Benefits of Green Cleaning Products. (N.D.) Retrieved from <http://www.ewg.org/files/GreenCleanHealth.pdf>

Green Seal Standards. (2012). Retrieved from <http://www.greenseal.org/GreenBusiness/Standards.aspx?vid=StandardCategory&cid=2>

Ecoloco. (N.D.). Retrieved from <http://www.ecologo.org/en/index.asp>

Design for the Environment. (2013). <http://www.epa.gov/dfe/pubs/projects/formulat/label.htm>



Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Products

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What are environmentally friendly cleaning products?

Environmentally friendly cleaning products or green products have less of an impact on the environment than traditional cleaning products. These products cause minimal or no harm to the environment. Environmentally friendly products must uphold and meet a certain level of standards.

These products are:

- ⇒ Free of ozone-depleting chemicals;
- ⇒ Less toxic to aquatic life;
- ⇒ Less likely to build up in the body;
- ⇒ Have fewer smog-producing chemicals;
- ⇒ Degrade quickly in the environment ; and
- ⇒ Are more concentrated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from shipping.

(Health and Environmental Benefits of Green Cleaning Products, N.D.)

Why use environmentally friendly cleaning products?

Environmentally friendly cleaning products are not only better for the environment but are also less toxic to the users. Environmentally friendly cleaning products do not contain carcinogens, heavy metals, 2-butoxyethanol, phthalates, mtkphosphates and alkylphenol ethoxylates. Many of these chemicals are typically found in traditional cleaning products and are able to survive wastewater treatment. This then provides a direct entry point for chemicals to enter rivers, streams and other water bodies. If green products are used instead there will be less, if any contaminates entering the water ways.

Where can I find environmental friendly cleaning products?

Store bought environmentally friendly cleaning products

Environmentally friendly cleaning products can be found in most stores that supply cleaning products. It is important to read labels carefully to ensure that products are truly green. Some environmentally friendly products may include:

- ⇒ Chlorox Green Cleaning Products

- ⇒ Method Products
- ⇒ Simply Green Products
- ⇒ IQ Cleaner
- ⇒ Sunlight Green Clean
- ⇒ Seventh Generation

Homemade environmentally friendly cleaning products

Many environmentally friendly products can be made at home saving money well benefiting the environment.

Cleaners can be made from:

- ⇒ Baking soda
- ⇒ White vinegar
- ⇒ Hydrogen Peroxide
- ⇒ Lemon juice
- ⇒ Olive oil
- ⇒ Liquid castile soap
- ⇒ All natural tea tree oil

These products can be combined in a variety of ways to make various cleaners such as: all-purpose cleaner, glass cleaner, laundry detergent and dish soap.