

POLICY _____

PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
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7423 – GREEN AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS CLEANING

The Pequannock Township Board of Education, recognizing the importance of the safety and health of the district’s students, teachers and staff, does hereby adopt the following policy regarding products used to clean and maintain school facilities within the district.

Background and Intent

Many chemicals commonly found in cleaning products used to clean and maintain schools pose significant and unnecessary health risks for children as well as teachers and staff. Exposure to some of these chemicals has been associated with an increased incidence of asthma, allergies, certain types of cancer, learning and behavioral disorders, endocrine disruption, chemical sensitivity, and kidney or liver damage. In addition to these potential health impacts, certain cleaning chemicals can negatively impact air and water quality or may be acutely toxic to marine life. The Board believes it is not necessary to jeopardize the health and safety of our students, teachers and staff, or to pollute our environment, when many less toxic or nontoxic alternatives are available.

Therefore, the intent of this policy is to reduce student, teacher and staff exposure to these chemicals and reduce environmental pollution by stipulating procurement, implementation and evaluation policies for “green” cleaning products which ensure the highest levels of safety, efficacy and economy.

Classification of Products

The Director of Facilities is hereby directed to classify cleaning products specified for purchase and use in district school facilities into one of the three following categories:

1. Type I products are those which are used daily for routine cleaning in classrooms, restrooms, hallways and cafeterias, including all-purpose cleaners, window cleaners, and floor cleaners.
2. Type II products are those which are used to sanitize or disinfect in bathrooms, gymnasiums, nurses’ offices, kitchens, etc.
3. Type III products are heavy-duty restorative cleaners which are used for floor stripping and finishing, graffiti removal, degreasing and heavy-duty carpet cleaning.

Specifications:

1. Products classified as all-purpose cleaners (Type I) shall meet or exceed the following specifications, as warranted in writing by manufacturers and vendors:

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- Products have no or low VOC content.
 - Products are non-reactive, non-caustic and non-corrosive in end use formulation (preferable with a pH of 4.0 to 9.)
 - Products are not delivered in aerosol cans with petrochemical propellants
 - Products do not contain known, probable or possible carcinogens, mutagens or teratogens as designated by federal law
 - Products do not contain non-food-grade dyes
 - Products do not contain disinfectant or antibacterial chemicals (e.g., triclosan)
 - Products meet or exceed Green Seal GS-37 Standard.
2. Products classified as sanitizers and disinfectants (Type II) shall meet or exceed the following specifications, as warranted in writing by manufacturers and vendors:
- Products shall be EPA registered.
 - The district realizes the need to use such products but that use will be limited as follows: products containing sodium hypochlorite, quaternary ammonium compounds, or phenolics will only be used in specific areas, for specified reasons and only when children are not present as outlined in the district's green cleaning plan.
3. Products used for heavy duty restorative cleaning (Type III) shall meet or exceed the following specifications, as warranted in writing by manufacturers and vendors:
- Products shall NOT contain styrene
 - Products shall NOT contain "heavy metals" including zinc, chromium or nickel
 - Products shall NOT contain petroleum solvents.
4. The Business Administrator may develop purchasing strategies that use products and equipment that meet the following standards:
- Green Seal's GS-37 environmental standard for industrial and institutional cleaners;
 - Green Seal's CS-40 Floor care products for industrial and institutional use;
 - EcoLogo's CCD-146 standard for Hard Surface Cleaners;
 - US EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines for janitorial paper products and plastic trash bags.

Implementation Guidelines

1. Up to 90% of the dirt in schools is brought in on the soles of shoes. Walk-off mats (15 feet minimum) are part of an effective green cleaning program, and should be installed at all school entrances.

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2. No parent, teacher or staff member may bring into a school facility any consumer product which is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize or disinfect unless permission is granted by the Superintendent or designee.
3. All hand soaps will be certified green by a recognized third party such as Green Seal or EcoLogo.
4. Type II disinfectant products shall be used only for body fluid spills or in areas where there is a high potential for direct contact with body fluids or when a public health concern requires their use. These products contain registered pesticides and should never be used for general cleaning purposes or when children are present.
5. Type III restorative products shall only be used when facilities are not in use (vacation breaks) or over long weekends, when buildings can be properly ventilated before children, teachers and staff return.

Training

Custodians shall be trained in hazards, use, proper dilution, safety, maintenance and disposal of cleaning chemicals, dispensing equipment, and packaging. The Facilities Department shall provide awareness training to school staff on the Green Cleaning policies on an annual basis.

The school nurse shall be consulted regarding any special health concerns, such as student allergies in the development of the classroom and cafeteria schedules and cleaning practices.

The Facilities Department shall ensure the safe handling, storage, and disposal of cleaning products and other hazardous chemicals.

Effective Date and Notice

The district shall undertake to inform all parents, teachers and staff of this policy and the reasons for its adoption. All custodial staff shall be informed of the policy and trained in the use of “green” cleaning products. The District shall inform all applicable vendors of this policy. Existing stocks of non-complying products shall be disposed of as directed by the Director of Facilities.

Adopted: 7 May 2018

Revised and Adopted: 17 August 2020