



Making the Case for Green Cleaning

- Studies show that **25 percent of the cleaning products used in schools are toxic** and lead to poor indoor air quality, cancer, asthma, reproductive disorders and other illnesses and disease.
- **Asthma is a leading chronic illness among children and adolescents (1 in 10)** in the United States and is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism.
- An estimated **50 percent** of the nation's schools have problems linked to poor indoor air quality.
- Indoor air quality **negatively affects** a child's ability to consistently attend school and learn.
- Twelve states and the District of Columbia have passed **Green Cleaning in Schools legislation**.
- Green cleaning protects students and staff, increases furniture and facility lifespan, protects the environment and **saves the school district money!**
- Green cleaning is a **proven strategy** that creates a space where school communities can breathe easier!

For Your Information:

The EPA's *Tools for Schools* Action Kit provides technical solutions that address ways to effectively manage indoor Air Quality risks, such as:

- **Cleaning and Maintenance**
- HVAC
- Moisture and Mold
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Materials Selection

www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/
www.cdc.gov
www.greencleanschools.org

What You Can Do:

- Support a statewide policy that would require all schools in the Commonwealth to use third-party certified green cleaning products.
- Conduct a "checklist" in your school to identify which products are currently being used. Invest in training for custodial staff. Learn which products are needed, and when (cleaning versus disinfecting versus sanitizing).
- Purchase third-party certified green cleaning products for your school, which have been proven to work and save money. Taking this step improves human health and creates an environment for children to learn and thrive.
- Educate your community about the need for green cleaning products in the school setting.
- Contact Healthy Schools PA/Women for a Healthy Environment to learn more.



For more information please contact:

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