Martin Bros. DISTRIBUTING CO., INC.

Your Guide to Clean!
E-Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2 Date: December 2007

'Your Guide to Clean' is a publication from Multi-Clean in partnership with authorized distributors. This newsletter is dedicated to help those in the cleaning industry become more informed and educated to help manage the cleaning process.

Bringing Your Green Cleaning Efforts into Focus

Last issue, we discussed conducting a cleaning chemical audit and starting the process of selecting green chemical alternatives. This issue will begin to discuss some of the eight "green cleaning focal points" that will help you take the next step in developing a true green cleaning program. The focal points are different areas that must be addressed in each and every green cleaning program. These focal points are listed in table I below. To get more information on what is required for each of the focal points, read the article "The ABC's of Green Cleaning" by clicking ***HERE***.

Green Cleaning Focal Points	
Entryways	Special attention is given to the point where the bulk of contaminants enter a facility.
Hard Floor Care	A maintenace program that emphasizes routine, scheduled maintenance to extend finish life.
Carpet Care	A maintenace program that emphasizes routine maintenance to regularly remove trapped contaminants.
Efficient Use of Chemicals	A method of insuring that chemicals are diluted properly through a supplied measuring system or device.
Restroom Cleaning	A thorough and regularly scheduled maintenance program for restrooms.
Disinfection	A plan for appropriate use of disinfectants in areas where needed.
Dining and Break Rooms	Addessing these areas where bacteria, odors, and pests can accumulate.
Trash Collection & Recycling	A protocol for collection and disposal of trash and general recyling guidelines and policies.

Featured Product

Century Q 256

A broad spectrum quat based neutral disinfectant cleaner. Excellent cleaning, safe for floors. Effective on MRSA.

You can find this and other fine Multi-Clean products at:

Martin Bros. DISTRIBUTING CO., INC.

Martin Brothers Dist
406 Viking Rd, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
Phone: (319) 266-1775
or on the web: *www.martinsnet.com*

Using Chemicals Wisely

Green Cleaning also requires the efficient use of chemicals. In short, you must have proper measurement of concentrates to avoid waste.

Nothing accomplishes this better than a dispensing system which automatically blends the right ratio of chemical to water.

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Now That's Green!

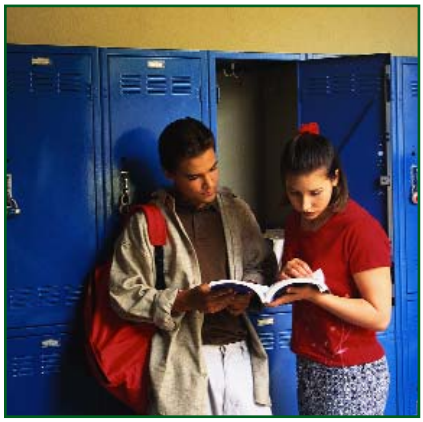
Did you know that most contaminates found inside a building come in through the front door? Green Cleaning focuses on prevention, therefore an entryway maintenance program that includes appropriate entrance matting and procedures for maintaining the area directly outside entrance doors is critical. By preventing dirt from being tracked in you will have better looking floors with less maintenance, less stripping and recoating.

Did You Know?

~ It costs approximately $500 to remove 1 lb of dirt from a facility.

~ 15 - 20 feet of entrance matting is recommended to remove 70-80% of dirt brought in on people's shoes.

Cleaning to Protect Health!
Using Disinfectants Responsibly



Disinfectants are designed to kill bacteria, some of which are harmful to people. Bacteria aren't all bad, in fact they are essential for life. Once a plant or animal dies, the remains bio-degrade via the action of bacteria. Our digestive system uses bacteria to process and eliminate food from our systems. Unfortunately, disinfectants cannot tell the difference between good bacteria and bad bacteria. Due to their natural toxicity to living organisms, disinfectants are not considered to be "green" chemicals. However, disinfectants are an essential part of a green cleaning program! Sound CONFUSING??? ...Read on!

All disinfectants have an EPA registration number because they are regulated as "antimicrobial pesticides". It is a violation of the law to claim that a disinfectant kills pathogenic bacteria without having an EPA #. Standard "quat" based disinfectants are highly effective and can be easily and safely used. In most cases they are considered "one step" disinfectants that clean and disinfect in one step. Bleach is sometimes used, but is corrosive to some surfaces, can destroy fabrics, and fumes can be irritating.

High Touch Surfaces	
Door Knobs/Handles	Switches
Water Fountains	Restroom Fixtures
Public Telephones	Bed Rails
Table Tops	Chairs
Restroom Dispensers	Toilet Seats

If green cleaning is about cleaning to protect health, think of all the people that get sick from germs spread from other sick people, particularly children in schools. The common cold and flu are excellent examples. This is where disinfectants and green cleaning come together.

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Where do I use disinfectants as part of my green cleaning program?

Think about surfaces that are frequently touched by many different people. These "high touch" surfaces are a means of passing sickness from one individual to the next. Using a disinfectant to wipe surfaces such as door knobs, faucet handles, etc. should be considered. Schools, hospitals, office buildings, nursing homes, basically any place where the public congregates, disinfectants can be an important part of a green cleaning program. Note that the EPA will not allow the use of Green Seal or other "green" certified logos on any registered disinfectants labels or marketing literature.

Green Cleaning Disinfectant Properties	
Mild pH – Near Neutral	In dilution, products are less irritating to skin and will not dull floors.
No NPE Surfactants	NPE surfactants are NOT readily biodegradable, and are possible endocrine disruptors.
Pleasant to Use	No noxious fumes.
Good Cleaning Ability	Effectively cleans surfaces.
Concentrated	A concentrated product is considered green.
Effective on Hepatitus A, B, C and HIV-1	Demonstrate effectiveness on bloodborne pathogens.
Effective on MRSA/VRE	Demonstrates effectiveness on drug resistant bacteria.
One Step Cleans and Disinfects	No need to pre-clean* most surfaces to disinfect.
No VOC's	Many disinfectants can contain solvents (**V**olatile **O**rganic **C**ompounds).

* Decontamination of blood or bodily fluid spills requires a pre-cleaning step.

Ask the Chemist

Q: What is MRSA?

A: Pronounced Merr-sa, it stands for **M**ethicillin **R**esistant **S**taphylococcus **A**ureus. The bacteria is resistant to normal anti-biotic treatment and has been mostly associated with serious infections in healthcare facilities. Recent news reports suggest that MRSA is finding its way into schools and other non-healthcare facilities, and is referred to as **C**ommunity **A**ssociated MRSA.

To learn more about CA-MRSA from the CDC, click ***HERE***.

To learn more about effective strategies and Multi-Clean products to control MRSA, click ***HERE***.

'Your Guide to Clean' E-Newsletter is published four times a year.