

Western Kentucky University Green Cleaning Program

Improving Health and Safety for All: WKU is “Going Green”

Understanding the importance of the health and safety impacts that our staff's cleaning had on the staff, our customers and the work environment as a whole, we felt that it was important to seek healthier and safer means of providing the custodial services to our clients, as well as to do our part in the positive effects that our services would have on our community's environment. As management, we began looking in to the green cleaning process and worked with our vendors to seek information on products and equipment available to help us in this transition towards Green Cleaning WKU's campus facilities.

Cleaning Chemicals

Western Kentucky's Green Cleaning Program was implemented in Fall 2005. With the initial implementation, we removed numerous cleaning products (non “Green”) and replaced them with our core cleaning products: Glass cleaner, neutral cleaner, and disinfectant (EPA Approved). All cleaning products are purchased weekly to reduce amounts being stored on campus. The below products are those that are used to provide housekeeping services to all interior spaces:

3M Glass Cleaner	Green Seal Certified GS-37
3M Neutral Cleaner	Green Seal Certified GS-37
3M Quat Disinfectant	EPA Approved
Ecolab Hydris System	Sustainable – Non Toxic Chemicals

Disinfectants are only used in ‘high touch’ areas to reduce and eliminate the spread of dangerous germs and bacteria. In addition, in conjunction with the WKU Health Services department, signs of proper hand washing are posted and shared with the campus community to promote good health practices.

Other Green Certified cleaning chemicals used to clean / maintain WKU facilities include:

FAST Foam – Used in automatic floor scrubbers for daily / nightly maintenance of hard surface flooring.

3M 3 n 1 Cleaner – Used in the buffing process to maintain hard floor surfaces shine and durability; this is a project type service done on a rotation basis.

3M Extraction Cleaner – Used in the carpet extraction and bonneting services.

Scotchgard Stone Floor Protector – Used in some locations for terrazzo floors.

This product is not ‘green certified’ but is considered as “environmentally Preferable” due to maintaining the natural state of the terrazzo.

Note: All products above also help us to be more sustainable and save on energy to heat water – they require “cold water only” through our dispensing systems!

Paper Products, Hand Soap

In addition to the above products being used in all WKU facilities, we believe that implementing every opportunity to promote improved health and safety for our WKU campus community, all paper products (toilet paper and hand towels) and hand soap in restrooms, kitchens and labs are also “Green Certified”.

Trash Collection and Recycling

All trash can liners used across campus are 100% recyclable and are only replaced as they become ‘soiled’ to reduce restocking costs and assist in the . In addition, in combined efforts with WKU Recycling and Surplus Unit, your Building Services team member will collect your recyclable materials on a rotation basis, as communicated on their webpage and via their email communication. Join the WKU recycling efforts to reduce, reuse!

Green Cleaning Equipment

Since implementation of the initial start-up of our Green Cleaning Program, we have also added Green Cleaning Floor Care practices, to include Green Certified Equipment (described below) in our program. Below are some exciting new pieces of equipment and how they are helping us to provide service to your working and learning areas “green”!

BOOST Floor Machine

This equipment is used in our floor maintenance program on an annual (or as needed) basis and reduces the need for harmful, strong-odor floor stripper for the removal of wax. By using this equipment, we ONLY have to use water and still get amazing results in which you can enjoy. Note: Floor stripper is ONLY used in areas that this machine can not access.

Tennant Auto Scrubbers (T3, T5 – Using FAST and eco H20)

These floor scrubbers provide daily / nightly maintenance to all hard floor surfaces to eliminate the need for tugging mop buckets and swinging mops in large open spaces. In addition, both machines use ONLY green cleaning chemicals or water only for our cleaning purposes – therefore providing a reduction in chemical costs, and require less impact physical labor for our cleaning team members.

Advance Aqua Clean Extractors

These machines are used on an annual (or as needed) basis in the carpet maintenance across campus. They have been given the CRI Bronze Seal of Approval as being ‘green equipment’

Windsor Clipper 12 Extractors

These machines are used on an annual (or as needed) basis in the carpet maintenance across campus. They have been given the CRI Platinum Seal of Approval as being ‘green equipment’.

Windsor Sensor XP Vacuums

Used in all carpet maintenance across campus; ***frequency of vacuuming is expected daily / nightly spot vacuuming, with through detailed vacuuming once weekly (or as needed)***. They have been given the CRI Bronze Seal of Approval as being 'green equipment'. HEPA filters for improved air quality.

ProTeam Supercoach Back Pac Vacuums

Used in numerous locations / applications to include carpet maintenance care, and stairwell maintenance. Green Seal Certified / HEPA filters for improved air quality.

WKU Building Services Team Member Training

All Building Services Team members receive new hire training for proper use of all chemicals, as well as proper use of all equipment and cleaning procedures. In addition, we use Method of the Week training which provides refresher trainings on various processes and procedures required in their daily cleaning tasks, including refresher training on our cleaning processes and chemical use /safety.

Quality Assurance Efforts

To ensure that we are meeting the expected cleanliness levels of the University interior areas, quality assurance (Q&A) inspections are completed weekly; with a completed goal for full inspections of all Building Services team members' assigned areas to be completed within a 5-6 week time frame. Monthly Q&A reports are provided to the WKU Facilities Management Director and WKU Client.

Future Goals and Directions

Our mission is to provide a safe, clean, living and learning environment for all of our campus visitors, students, faculty and staff. This includes ensuring that good communication is provided to campus of our efforts and what they can do to help make WKU a "Green Campus"!

In 2012, WKU's newest facility, Gary Ransdall Hall, was awarded LEED GOLD certification for that facility. Our 'green cleaning' practices helped to push us from Silver to Gold! We are committed to continue to be innovative and active in our continuation of our Green Cleaning Program to further enhance the well-being of our campus customers, students, and all faculty and staff members by which to actively seek new and innovative means to continue our Green Cleaning efforts and the positive impact it provides to everyone.

Note: Various information is provided on Facilities Management's webpage, Recycling and Surplus webpage, and the Office of Sustainability's webpage to assist in getting the word out and to encourage the campus community's (and Bowling Green Community) support and combined efforts both in Green Cleaning and other amazing sustainable efforts being done here at WKU.

<http://www.wku.edu/sustainability/index.php>

http://www.wku.edu/facilities/bsa_3column.php

<http://www.wku.edu/recycling/>