

Green Clean Schools Act – Public Act 095-0084

What is Green Cleaning?	Green Cleaning simply means <i>cleaning to protect health without harming the environment.</i>	
What does this act do?	This act requires all elementary and secondary schools in Illinois to purchase only environmentally sensitive cleaning supplies. The Green Government Coordinating Council defined environmentally preferable in the <i>Green Cleaning Act Guidelines and Specifications.</i>	
What are the cleaning product purchase requirements under the law?	<p><u>Cleaning Product Category</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathroom Cleaners • Carpet Cleaners • General Purpose Cleaners • Glass, Window & Mirror Cleaners • Hand Cleaners & Hand Soaps • Paper Towels for cleaning 	<p><u>Certifications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Seal • Environmental Choice EcoLogo • U.S. EPA Design for the Environment Formulator Program • U.S. EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines for Commercial and Industrial Sanitary Tissue (<i>Paper Only</i>)
What else is included in the Guidelines?	Schools are encouraged to adopt comprehensive green cleaning programs. The Guidelines include recommendations for preferred products that are not covered by the requirements, including air fresheners, chrome cleaners, degreasers etc. The guidelines also include equipment recommendations as well as best practices.	
Do I need to dump my existing products?	No, you don't need to throw away your existing inventory of supplies. This law specifically states that "a school may deplete its existing cleaning and maintenance supply stocks and implement the new requirements in the procurement cycle for the following school year."	
What about disinfectants?!	The Guidelines give <i>recommendations</i> on environmentally preferable disinfectants but do not supersede any existing public health laws.	
When did this go into effect?	Public Act 095-0084 was passed into law on August 13, 2007. As of May 9, 2008, Illinois schools are required to purchase only cleaning products that comply with the requirements of the green clean guidelines. www.standingupforillinois.org/green/gs_schools.php	
What if my school doesn't comply?	While the law does not include specific punishments for schools that don't comply, we believe that green cleaning will eventually become part of schools' annual health, life and safety inspection. More importantly, this legislation was designed to protect the health of students and staff, and to help transform the already-changing market to promote healthier, more effective cleaning practices.	
Where can I get more information on green cleaning?	For more information on green cleaning in schools, visit the Healthy Schools Campaign at www.greencleanschools.org and www.greencleanillinois.org . And be sure to get your free copy of <i>The Quick & Easy Guide to Green Cleaning in Schools</i> , available online at both of these sites.	

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