



EPP Rapid Research

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Training and/or Certification for Cleaning Services that use “Green Cleaning” Products

Clean House, Seattle, WA

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Request:

The “Clean House” service from Seattle, WA, called with an inquiry about whether their janitorial and cleaning service could become certified for their use of “green” cleaning products, since they work differently than traditional products.

Key Findings:

There are many standards and certifications for purchasing “green” products, such as Environmental Choice. Green Seal also has a certification for cleaning services as well as products.

For cleaning companies that want to train their own staff, there are many resources available on the internet, including organized training programs, videos, manuals, PowerPoint presentations and a variety of literature which can all be used to train a cleaning service staff. Some materials also give pointers on how to market green cleaning services and where to find and how to target prospects for the service (The Green Cleaning University).

Certifications:

Green Seal Environmental Standard for Cleaning Services

This Standard establishes requirements for cleaning service providers, including in-house and external cleaning services, to create a green cleaning program that protects human health and the environment.

<http://www.greenseal.org/certification/environmental.cfm>

Environmental Choice

This standard specifies which materials can be used, but not cleaning methods.

<http://www.environmentalchoice.com/English/ECP%20Home/Products%20&%20Criteria/Cleaning%20&%20Janitorial%20Products/Overview>

Training Resources:

Green Cleaning for Dummies

Contains a roadmap for setting up a green cleaning program.

http://www.issa.com/news/news_detail.jsp?newsid=1647

The Green Cleaning University

Offers a variety of on-line classes, PowerPoint presentations, videos and literature geared to those who want to offer green cleaning services and products.

<http://www.greencleaninguniversity.org/>

Inform - Strategies for a Better Environment

Cleaning for Health: Products and Practices for a Safer Indoor Environment

<http://www.informinc.org/cleanforhealth.php>

The Pennsylvania Green Building Operations and Maintenance Manual

Chapter on Cleaning Procedures, page 67.

http://www.dgs.state.pa.us/dgs/lib/dgs/green_bldg/greenbuildingbook.pdf

Green Clean Schools

Many resources on green cleaning procedures/materials.

http://healthyschoolscampaign.org/campaign/green_clean_schools/ask_steve.php