

NOTE: This is an old contract that will soon be phased out. King County's next cleaning products contract will be used to purchase products meeting the Green Seal standard for greener, effective cleaning products (products do not have to be certified by Green Seal, but must meet its Industrial and Institutional Cleaners Standard (GS-37)).

The decision to create the new contract based on the Green Seal standard resulted from analyses conducted by the Center for a New American Dream's cleaning products work group. The group included government representatives from Massachusetts; Santa Monica, California; King County, Washington; Minnesota; Seattle, Washington; Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; and others.

Every participant in the work group agreed to create a new cleaning products contract using the same environmental criteria. Establishing a single standard to define greener cleaning products has long remained one of the challenges preventing the cleaning products industry from developing greener products. Massachusetts is the first member of the work group to develop the agreed upon new cleaning products contract. See [http://www.comm-pass.com/Comm-PASS/Scripts/xdoc\\_view.idc?doc\\_id=014080&key\\_xx](http://www.comm-pass.com/Comm-PASS/Scripts/xdoc_view.idc?doc_id=014080&key_xx) for the actual contract language.

For more information, see the Center for a New American Dream's Web site at <http://www.newdream.org> or <http://www.newdream.org/procure/products/cleaners.html>.



## King County Environmental Purchasing Program

### Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Products

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#### Introduction

The cleaners we use in our homes and offices can be harmful to our health and our environment. In recent years, the [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#), the [Washington State Department of Ecology](#), the [Washington Toxics Coalition](#), the [King County Local Hazardous Waste Management](#)

[Program](#), and many others have been developing awareness of the consequences of the use of hazardous cleaning products.

Some of the attributes of cleaners that have been examined by these groups include:

Irritation potential	Chronic health risks
Biodegradation	Bioconcentration
Levels of volatile organic compounds (VOC's)	Flammability
Product packaging	Ozone depletion potential
Risks of cosmetic additives	Energy efficiency

As information about the risks that may be posed by cleaning products has become available, consumers have begun to explore their opportunities to use less harmful cleaning products. As a result, the cleaning-products industry has begun to produce new products that are less harmful to human health and the environment. Many of the users of these new products report that performance can be equal, or even superior, to conventional products. Some have even experienced fewer injury-claims, saving worker-health and expense. In addition, these new products often come in concentrated form which requires less packaging and can be more cost effective.

This area is still very new, but there is a growing body of information available on this subject. Today's bulletin contains internet links of projects, specifications and tips for using safer alternatives to toxics, including some case studies of cleaning products that perform well and are economical.

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### Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Specifications

There are many good examples of jurisdictions specifying and using environmentally preferable cleaners, such as State of Massachusetts, State of Minnesota, and the City of Santa Monica. Following are the specifications that the County (Transit Division) used in 1996. We hope to do something more comprehensive in the future. Follow the links in the Environmentally Preferable Cleaner Resources section (below) for more information about what other jurisdictions are doing.

#### King County Contract

A contract was established in 1996 by the King County Transit Division for Janitorial/Chemical Supplies. Following are excerpts from the bid document:

#### Hazardous Chemical Communication

In order to comply with WAC 296-62-054, Hazard Communication, the Contractor shall submit with the Bid a Material Safety Data Sheet

(MSDS) for all products containing any toxic products that may be harmful to the end user. The MSDS Sheet is to accompany the toxic product(s) to the specified delivery sites.

Include the following information in the MSDS:

- A. Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) numbers for every chemical that is listed in the MSDS.
- B. If the product is actually used diluted, the dilution rate should be so stated in the MSDS and the hazards and corresponding personal protection, etc. also be listed.
- C. A statement as to the intended use of the product.

#### Industrial and Hazardous Waste

The Contractor shall comply with all applicable local ordinances, state and federal statutes, and supporting rules and regulations governing the discharge of industrial waste to a public sewer, private sewer, or side sewer tributary to the metropolitan sewerage system

Contractor shall handle and dispose of all hazardous wastes in compliance with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations, including the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Washington Hazardous Waste Management Act, and applicable rules and regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Ecology governing the generation, storage, treatment, transportation or disposal of hazardous wastes.

#### Prohibition on Asbestos-Containing Products

Asbestos-containing products shall not be provided to the County under this contract, unless no practicable alternative for the asbestos-containing product exists- and the Contractor obtains the written consent of the County. The Contractor shall notify the County in writing at least 60 days before it plans to supply the County with an asbestos-containing product The County shall respond to such notification within 30 days of receipt The Contractor shall comply with applicable state, federal and local labeling and other laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to asbestos-containing products, including, but not limited to, the State of Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act

#### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

##### General Scope

Many King County facilities are located on or near major waterways, therefore King County is continuing take innovative steps in using environmentally safe chemicals and janitorial cleaning products. The County will continue to require qualification testing of all new products before a contract is issued for any non-approved products. This Invitation will contain several schedules. The items listed in each schedule will be awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. Test results shall be provided at no expense to the County when requested. Although it is the County's objective to obtain the best products at the

lowest prices, the following factors will influence the final determination and should be noted.

- A. Environmentally safe and biodegradable products.
- B. Product safety and product storage safety.
- C. The contractors ability to service the contract and to address problems .

The County intends to establish multi-year contracts for Environmentally safe chemicals, such as cleaners, cleansers and polishes, in accordance with the following specifications.

#### Environmental Chemical Products

All vendors must comply with Paragraph 2-22, Hazardous Chemical Communication. The County will require the following:

- A. MSDS must contain percentages of hazardous constituents.
- B. MSDS must contain Hazardous Materials Inventory Systems (HNES) codes.
- C. MSDS must state intended use of the product.
- D. Products must not contain carcinogens (suspected or positive).
- E. Products must not contain Ethylene Chloride.
- F. Products must not contain butyl cleaners.
- G. Aerosol propellant must not be chlorinated fluorocarbons.
- H. Products must not contain chlorinated solvents.
  - 1. Product pH must be between 2.0 and 12.5.
- J. Vendors must accept return of all 55 gallon drums used for their product at no additional cost to King County.

#### Product Safety

The constituents of the cleaners, cleansers and polishes must not contain any of the chemicals listed in the Washington State Dangerous Waste Regulations, [WAC 173-303-9903](#). The cleaners, cleansers and polishes must not contain any carcinogens, suspected carcinogens or mutagens and it must not be flammable. In addition, the cleaners, cleansers and polishes supplied

by the Vendor must meet OSHA and any other federal, state and/or local safety requirements. The Vendor shall be held responsible for any damage to personnel, buses, or equipment directly traceable to these cleaners, cleansers and polishes.

Products whose Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) requires the use of respiratory protective equipment for use by personnel with not be acceptable.

### Spills

The Vendor is solely responsible for any and all spills or leaks during unloading or transporting of their product. The Vendor agrees to reasonably evacuate and warn those persons that may be affected by the spill and vendor shall clean up such spills or leaks to the satisfaction of the County and in a manner that complies with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. The cleanup shall be at no cost to the County.

### Product Information

All bidders offering products for chemicals not listed as approved, must submit proof of testing and/or product literature including, safety and handling instructions, recommended dilution rates and MSDS sheets meeting WAC 296-62-054. MSDS sheets shall include information on the percent of the total product that each hazardous component represents.

### Approved Products

As a result of previous testing, use and/or Product Testing Questionnaire approval, the following is a small sampling of products and/or manufacturers which have been identified as acceptable for Metro King County's use. Bidders must supply the Brand Name of products offered in order to be considered responsive.

Previously Pre-qualified Chemical Products:

Hillyard manufactured products 20/10 All Season (windshield cleaner)

Pioneer Eclipse products Gunk Green Clean (degreaser)

Chem Station VC2490 Chem Station VC2075

Mermaids Distributing Plexi Cleaner\* Zep's Reach

Drummond Dazzler Micro-Brush Pro Soap

Dynaco's Odor Control\* Dynaco's Clean All\*

Airkem Boraxo

Products which are not identified on the above list, and/or have never been tested, used or approved by the County and are determined to be the lowest bid offered will be subjected to the testing procedures as follows:

The bidder whose product has not been approved shall be requested to provide one (1) quart of their product in a plastic disposable container. The product will be laboratory tested for acceptability under the following criteria.

1. Aquatic Toxicity: The products must be tested for toxicity to aquatic organisms. To pass, no more than 20% mortality can occur at a concentration of 1,000 ppm.
2. Emulsion Stability: The detergent must not create an emulsion which is stable for more than 30 minutes in water. The fats, oils and grease (FOG) test involves testing 1,000ml. detergent solution (concentration = 1% of recommended mixture), with a 1,000 ppm addition of diesel and oil mix. The mixture is shaken and allowed to stand 30 minutes. Quality control will include blanks and spikes to untreated water to determine recovery. Acceptable test performance is less than 20 mg/L total fats, oils and grease remaining in emulsion.
3. The pH of the detergent in a solution at one percent (1%) of the recommended dilution concentration in distilled water must be between 5.5 and 12.5.

The bidder will be notified of the results on a pass or fail basis.

#### Detergent Requirements

The cleaner detergents that are acceptable under the criteria established in this document must meet the following requirements:

- The detergent must be a concentrated, moderate-sudsing, liquid, uniform, non-abrasive detergent compound.
- The detergent must be safe to use on ferrous and non-ferrous metals and be inhibited against aluminum corrosion.
- The detergent shall remain stable; not freeze, separate, sour, change in appearance, deteriorate nor lose detergency effectiveness for at least one (1) year stored in a closed container at 30deg. to 100deg. F.
- The detergent must not cause irritation to the County employees using the material.
- The detergent must be biodegradable and hold oils and grease in the emulsified state.
- The detergent must effectively remove stubborn grease and road grime from vehicle exteriors.
- Soap products Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) must be in compliance with OSHA and Washington State standards and

specifically state the information and percentage weight of each ingredient.

The County reserves the right to retain a sample of the original product supplied by the Contractor and periodically samples that is supplied under the contract to determine if the product continues to meet the required specifications.

#### Schedules

Items will be identified using descriptions from previous Vendors. These items may contain the current Vendor's product numbers/codes. AR bidders are invited to offer an "or equal" product. Every effort has been made to clearly identify the *type* of product requested. AR bidder's must include the Manufacturer's Part Number and the Brand offered. Failure to identify Brands and Numbers will make bid non-responsive.

Schedule 1-Brooms/Brushes/Sponges/Mops: Items associated with surface cleaning of buildings and buses. The descriptions may include just the item, i.e. Angler Broom. Bidders should provide brand name. Bidders may offer an "or equal".

Vendors are requested to submit all information pertaining to chemically treated mops and dusters offered.

Schedule 2- Cleansers: Items associated with surface cleaning of buildings and buses.

Schedule 3- Hand Cleaners: Items associated with care and cleaning of human body parts. No substitutes will be accepted for items containing the brand name Boraxo.

Schedule 4- Cleaners: Items associated with cleaning of buildings and buses. These items must meet King County Approval as stated in 6-6 and 6-7 once low bid has been determined.

Schedule 5- Furniture and Miscellaneous: Items associated with polishing and waxing of furniture and floors. This schedule also contains other miscellaneous items.

Schedule 6- Chemicals: Items associated with bus maintenance. Items in this schedule must meet all environmental safety issues.

King County reserves the right to award by line items per each Schedule or Total Schedule, which ever is in the best interest of the County.

#### Schedules Systems

Vendors must submit to the County any information describing appropriate and safe equipment for dispensing their product, this must include price. Chemicals which are to be delivered in 55 gallon drums must be removed by vendor when empty. Vendors must supply the County with removal plan.

Vendors who supply products in 55 gallon drums, must supply labels of their product which can be affixed to trigger spray bottles.

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Everybody agrees that there are some janitorial products that are better for the environment than others, but when we all try to agree on which attributes we want to specify for purchase, it gets complicated, in a hurry. The City of Seattle and the State of Washington have each recently adopted bidding criteria to begin developing some experience with environmentally preferable cleaners.

### **City of Seattle**

The City of Seattle is currently out to bid for *janitorial services*. They have included environmental criteria into the bid. Please see the [attached pdf file](#) for the environmental criteria used.

### **State of Washington**

The State of Washington recently awarded a contract for Environmentally Responsible Cleaning Products (#11399). [Please follow this link](#) to view the environmental criteria that they used in the bid document.

The contract award (minus the environmental criteria) is available on the state's website at: <http://www.ga.wa.gov/pca/contract/11399c.doc>

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## **Environmentally Preferable Cleaner Resources**

[Janitorial Products Pollution Prevention Project](#) (funded by EPA & others)

[Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\): Cleaning Products Pilot Project](#)

[State of Massachusetts: Copy of Request for Responses \(RFR\) for Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Products](#)

[State of Minnesota: Environmental Requirements to Cleaning Supplies Contract](#)

[Federal Service Supply and General Services Agency: Safer Products](#)

[City of Santa Monica: Sustainable City Toxic Use Reduction](#)

[Green Seal: Household Cleaners](#)

[Green Seal Choose Green Report: General Purpose Cleaners](#)

[Washington Toxics Coalition](#) E-mail: [info@watoxics.org](mailto:info@watoxics.org)

[King County Hazardous Waste Program: Less Toxic Household Cleaners Main page](#)

[Pierce County: Green Cleaning Kit Recipes](#)

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**For More Information**

Please follow the links above, in the Environmentally Preferable Cleaner Resources section.

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