

# Green Cleaning

NYS Regulation (Chap 584, Laws of 2005) requires schools to procure and use environmentally sensitive cleaning and maintenance products under the guidelines provided by the Office of General Services (OGS)

**Green Cleaning:** Using cleaning products and practices that have less effect on human health and the environment.

## Five Steps to Green Cleaning

1. **Groundwork:** Build a Green Cleaning Team, develop a Green Cleaning Program, and build support for the program
2. **Assessments:** Conduct a Green Cleaning Baseline Assessment to compare existing cleaning practices with green cleaning practices
3. **Planning:** Identify and prioritize goals and objectives, document custodial resources and budget, establish a timeline, draft the program, and seek stakeholder comments
4. **Implementation:** Implement the program, communicate progress regularly, evaluate, seek feedback, and stay on track
5. **Evaluation:** Evaluate program progress and document lessons learned



## Purchase Green Cleaning Products

- Look for the GreenNY Icon (see right) that identifies products that meet New York State green procurement specifications
- For a New York State approved list of green cleaning specifications by product, a list of approved products and vendors, and other tools and resources, visit [www.ogs.ny.gov/greenny-purchasing-requirements-and-tools](http://www.ogs.ny.gov/greenny-purchasing-requirements-and-tools)



## Health Effects of Toxic Chemicals, Including Harsh Cleaners

- Acute exposure: chemical burns/serious injury to eyes, skin, lungs, headaches, and central nervous system effects
- Chronic exposure: Asthma, cancer, reproductive and developmental toxicity, and endocrine disruption



**New York State School Environmental Health Program**  
[www.health.ny.gov/SchoolEnviroHealth](http://www.health.ny.gov/SchoolEnviroHealth)

