

# Toronto District School Board

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Operational Procedure PR701

Title: **GREEN CLEANING**

Adopted: January 21, 2013

Revised:

Reviewed:

Authorization: Director's Council

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## 1.0 OBJECTIVE

To outline the standards and procedures associated with Green Cleaning.

## 2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

Chief Facilities Officer

## 3.0 DEFINITIONS

*Green Cleaning* is a method of providing cleaning services in an environmentally sustainable manner that supports the TDSB Go Green Climate Change Action Plan.

*EcoLogo* is a respected environmental standard and certification mark. It provides assurance that the products and services bearing the logo meet stringent standards of environmental leadership.

*Sustainable cleaning* are practices that reduce the impact of cleaning chemicals and practices on the environment.

## 4.0 PROCEDURES

### 4.1. Green Chemicals

Wherever possible, all cleaning chemicals used will:

- Be certified as a an EcoLogo Product or equivalent
- Meet the criteria of being neutral pH, with minimal impact on humans and the environment
- Come in a form that reduces overuse
- Come in a manner that reduces packaging
- Come as a concentrate, whenever possible
- Be tested using a standard protocol for effectiveness

- Be included in all TDSB EcoSchools certification information

#### 4.2 Green Cleaning Practices

All cleaning practices are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that:

- Practices incorporate green products, procedures and equipment
- Practices minimize the use of chemicals e.g. apply floor finish restorer and “buff” floors on a regular basis instead of annual stripping and refinishing
- Practices are documented in the TDSB Caretaker’s Handbook
- Training on revised practices is provided as required

#### 4.3 Green Equipment

All caretaking equipment used will:

- Be tracked in inventory
- Have records of maintenance
- Have Carpet and Rug Institute Seal of Approval rating of gold or silver for carpet care products
- Be tested using a standard protocol for effectiveness

#### 4.4 Testing Protocols

- All new supplies and equipment will be reviewed and tested prior to district wide usage to determine whether they meet existing green standards and if they are consistent with TDSB Occupational Health and Safety practice
- All chemicals will be evaluated by the TDSB Occupational Health and Safety Office prior to testing. Team Leaders who wish products tested will submit the request through the Caretaking Supplies Committee, including a completed Health & Safety Evaluation – Caretaking Products form
- All chemicals and equipment will be tested at least four sites across the district and be evaluated using formal criteria with written evaluations

## 5.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

### Policy

P028: The Environment

### Other

Ecologo Standards <http://www.ecologo.org/en/criteria/>

Ministry of Education Green Clean Program Resource Guide

<http://www.ecologo.org/en/criteria/>

Carpet and Rug Institute Seal of Approval Criteria <http://www.carpet-rug.org/commercial-customers/cleaning-and-maintenance/seal-of-approval-products/index.cfm>