



INDEPENDENCE THROUGH OPPORTUNITY

OPERATIONS SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

Challenge Custodial Services Sustainability Initiative

Our mission is to provide a safe environment for the operation of services at our Customer locations. We will fulfill our mission while using environmentally responsible cleaning products, equipment, and sustainable processes.

Purpose

This Sustainability Initiative affirms our commitment to be a responsible member of each Customer location and communicate our dedication to provide a safe and healthful environment and expresses our vision for the future.

Our Goals

Use environmentally preferred products. It is our responsibility to safeguard the environment and public health.

Practice conservation. We will conserve energy, water, and other resources while providing high quality service.

Support sustainability. We will use products and procedures which allow for the systematic reuse of materials and reduction of waste.

Environmental safeguards and strategies employed to meet our goals:

1. Most aerosols, abrasive powder, and flammable products have been removed from the workplace.
2. The cleaning product line has been minimized. We use either Green Seal approved products or products with low-volatile organic compounds (VOC). A tracking system is established to monitor chemical use.
3. 65% of our hand soaps do not contain antimicrobial agents. (triclosan and triclocarban)
4. All products used by Challenge Custodial Services are packaged in cardboard and plastic containers that are recycled after use.
5. Disinfectants are used only minimally on skin-contact areas in restrooms and for cleaning blood and body spills.
6. Cleaning frequencies and work schedules have been optimized for areas of greatest use.
7. Daily floor care maintenance is performed on a set schedule to prolong floor finish life. Periodic floor stripping and refinishing projects are performed as needed rather than on a set schedule to conserve resources and minimize the use of chemicals.
8. The broad use of new-technology to include reusable microfiber cleaning cloths, wet mops and dust mops minimizes waste, reduces the use of chemicals, and increases the effectiveness of the cleaning procedures.
9. Cleaning chemicals on custodial carts are dispensed from color-coded containers and bottles with manufacturer's labels and directions.
10. A separate, wet mop is used in restrooms only.



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11. Personal Protective Equipment including protective gloves, safety goggles or eyewear, dust masks, and nonslip footwear is provided to all custodians and required when cleaning, mixing chemicals, working overhead and when stripping floors.
12. Flip-top applicators, foam applicators, and coarse-spray only from trigger sprayers are required when applying chemicals to avoid the inhalation of fine particulates and the overuse and waste of cleaning products.
13. Safeguards and sustainable strategies are emphasized in all custodial training as all employees are encouraged and supported to work in an environmentally responsible manner. Employees are directly involved in the testing of new products and equipment.
14. Chemical management systems are employed wherever possible to facilitate the proper dilution of chemical products and limit employee exposure to chemical concentrates.
15. Chemical dilution systems are mounted in some custodial storage rooms and in all custodial warehouses
16. High-performance entrance mat systems are provided by customers as required to trap dirt, moisture, and pollutants before they can migrate into the buildings. The mat systems are cleaned regularly to retain their effectiveness.
17. Dual, large-roll paper towel and toilet tissue dispensers are used where applicable to minimize packaging and waste. Paper products must meet the EPA standards for post-consumer recycled content:
 - a. Paper Towels – 40% post-consumer recycled content.
 - b. Toilet Tissue – 20% post-consumer recycled content.
18. High density trash liners are used only on a minimal basis in vending areas.
19. 80% of our vacuums are high filtration vacuum cleaners and are used and carry the Carpet and Rug Institute's Seal of Approval for vacuums. These vacuum cleaners employ HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filters, sealed casings and hose connections, disposable paper collection bags, are ergonomically designed and operate at a sound level of less than 70dbA.
20. Low-moisture carpet extractors with high pressure and high vacuum are used frequently to decrease drying time, extend the life of the carpet, and protect against mold and mildew. Air movers are used to facilitate faster drying times. (Contract at FMC requires truck mounted carpet cleaner)
21. Powered floor scrubbing machines are equipped with variable-speed feed pumps, onboard chemical metering, and other low-moisture and metered-solution systems to optimize the use of water and cleaning chemical.
22. Electrical-powered cleaning equipment is preventively-maintained on a set schedule. Properly maintained equipment is safe and efficient to operate and has a prolonged working life.

Our Vision

Challenge Custodial Services will advance our goals by emphasizing environmentally safe and effective practices and use of products. We will test the application of new advances in the industry and will adopt and implement concepts that lead to greater sustainability and the conservation of our resources.