



Disney World Nears the Green Cleaning Finish Line

Disney World's Healthy Cleaning Policy is a step in the right direction, but by continuing to use toxic cleaning chemicals and the lack of a comprehensive and transparent policy there is still work to be done.

By adopting a written comprehensive and transparent green cleaning policy, the public and Disney World would see real cost savings and protect the health and safety of employees and guests.

Why Is A Comprehensive Green Cleaning Policy Important?



- Chronic exposure to toxic cleaning chemicals can lead to asthma, allergies, certain types of cancers (including brain cancer and leukemia), and learning and behavioral disorders, resulting in long term social and economic impactsⁱ.
- In 2003 alone, 22 million people suffered from asthma, 12.8 million school days and 10.1 million workdays were missed due to asthmaⁱⁱ.
- According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, the annual expenditures for health and lost productivity due to asthma are estimated at nearly \$20 billionⁱⁱⁱ.
- In the article, *The Health and Finances of Better Cleaning* published in Building Services and Management in 2002, Steve Ashkin explained that recent research has shown that through better indoor air quality businesses can expect to see between a 0.5% to 0.7% improvement in worker productivity. This can be roughly be translated into 3 to 34 minutes per day, which could lead to significant cost savings at Disney World^{iv}.
- Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protects all people with disabilities including people with environmental impairments and people disabled by chemical sensitivities and other environmental disabilities^v.
- People with chemical sensitivities are a substantial and growing population. A series of federal and university-based studies have found that up to one-third of the U. S. population may react to everyday low level exposures with as high as 6% of the population chronically ill and disabled. A 2004 national survey found that 11.2% of Americans reported a hypersensitivity to common chemical products such as perfume, fresh paint, pesticides, and other petrochemical-based products, and 2.5% reported that they had been medically diagnosed with multiple chemical sensitivities^{vi}.

Disney World is known for creative problem solving. Now is the time to cross the finish line and implement a written comprehensive and transparent green cleaning policy!

What Does a Comprehensive Green Cleaning Policy include?

- A strong commitment to the precautionary principle because 96% of chemicals used in products have not been tested and very little is known about the short and long term impacts of these chemicals on children
- A holistic frame that states the reduction of toxic chemicals is the backbone of environment and health protection and includes non-chemical equipment such as microfibers, chlorine free high content post consumer recycled paper, and hard surfaces when appropriate
- Benchmarks and a detailed plan for regular assessments that clearly communicates true commitment and leadership to high standards and consistent improvement
- A list of chemical types that are of particular concern. Examples of chemicals of concern in cleaning products include but are not limited to volatile organic compounds, endocrine disruptors, known or suspected carcinogens, mutagens, asthmagens, mutagens, teratogens, and persistent bioaccumulative toxic chemicals
- Preference for independent third party certified products that include high standards in ingredient disclosure, standards that are regularly revised to include progress in product innovation, and a transparent process for certification and standard setting



To learn more about how we are encouraging Disney World on the issue of green cleaning visit:
www.chej.org/disney

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- ⁱ Grassroots Environmental Education. 2006. The Childsafe Guidelines: “Green” Cleaning Products for Schools.
- ⁱⁱ Akinbami, Laurie, M.D., *Asthma Prevalence, Health Care Use and Mortality: United States, 2003-05*, (2006) Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center For Health Statistics,
- ⁱⁱⁱ National Heart; Lung and Blood Institute, *Chartbook on Cardiovascular, Lung and Blood Diseases*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Health, 2007. <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/resources/docs/07-ctbk.pdf>.
- ^{iv} Ashkin, Steve. (2002) *The Health and Finances of Better Cleaning*, Building Services and Management.
- ^v <http://www.ada.gov/reg3a.html#anchor-36101>
- ^{vi} Mary Lamielle NCEHS, December 10, 2008. Letter to Mr. Quinn, Dr. Thompson, Missouri School Board Members, and Missouri Green Cleaning Committee Members in regards to state legislation SB 1181. <http://missourikidshealthcoalition.wetpaint.com/page/Mary+Lamielle+NCEHS>