



FAC59 Green Cleaning Products Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)



Statewide Contract Overview

This is a statewide contract for green cleaning products, programs, equipment and supplies, including green cleaning technologies. This is a multi-state contract available to Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Maine and Vermont in cooperation with the lead state of Massachusetts.

A key element in this contract is that virtually all the green chemicals included are required to be "Independently Third-Party Certified," which means that the environmental claims as well as the product performance have been tested and certified by an established and legitimate, nationally-recognized certification program. This also means that contract users do not have to analyze technical data and can be assured that the product will perform well. (The only chemicals without such certification are the disinfectants and various sanitizers, for which no certification is available).

How will my school / facility benefit?

- **Cost Saving Opportunities** - Competitive pricing
 - Save money by buying one product with different dilution rates depending on the use
 - Some equipment eliminates the need for chemicals
 - Ask about doing a pilot project / trial
- **Best Value** - Departments may obtain quotes to compare pricing, product selection and training opportunities from one or more vendors, or they may simply contact the selected contractor(s) of their choice to place orders.
- **Training** – All vendors perform training and offer tools to help departments track their purchases and benefits of switching to green chemicals.
- **Services at No Additional Charge** – All vendors offer and perform an initial facility assessment as a part of transitioning their customers to a green cleaning program. The contractors have also agreed to conduct an audit, or review twice per year in accordance with the APPA's "Custodial Staffing Guidelines" [at www.appa.org/index.cfm](http://www.appa.org/index.cfm) (or equal), to determine the appearance level of the facility.

Need more information?

- To learn more about the FAC59 contract, visit please visit www.comm-pass.com and search for document # FAC59.
- You may also contact Julia Wolfe, Environmental Purchasing Directors at Julia.Wolfe@state.ma.us.

Contract Duration: 8/1/2012 – 12/31/14

View the [Approved Products List](#) on the EPP Website at www.mass.gov/epp for an easy to read compilation of vendors, products and pricing.

What Products are Included?

- **Cleaning Chemicals** – all purpose, restroom, glass, carpet, floor care, appliance, degreasers, urinal blocks, odor control, and laundry detergent.
- **Hand Soap / Hand Sanitizers** – alcohol and non-alcohol
- **Janitorial Paper Products** – wide range of brands / types
- **Trash Can Liners** – plastic/recycled content & biodegradable
- **Equipment** – Vacuums, scrubbers, extractors, sweepers, etc.
- **Entryway Mats** – many brands and sizes of walk-offs
- **Disinfectants / Sanitizers** – performance-based selection
- **Supplies** – microfiber, energy efficient hand dryers, non-chemical scrubbing pads, mops, buckets, etc.
- **Vendor Services at No Charge** – FREE facility assessment, standard operating procedures, training on disinfection, tracking and recording your cleaning, communication strategy
- **Innovative Technologies** – energy efficient clean air technology, steam vapor cleaning (non-chemical)

What Vendors are on the FAC59 Contract?

Allston Supply Company
AmSan
Bio-Cascade
C&C Janitorial Supplies
Casey Engineered Maintenance Inc.
Corr Distributors
Eastern Bag and Paper
Foley Distributing
Hillyard / dba Rovic
Industrial Cleaning Products
Likarr Maintenance (Paper and trash liners only)
M.D. Stetson
Mansfield Paper Company (Paper and trash liners only)
Milhench, Inc.
New England Maintenance Depot
Simplex Janitorial
Vesta Vapore, Inc.
Zep, Inc.



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1. Will we have to pay more to use green cleaning products?

Absolutely not. There are hundreds of green cleaning products manufactured by most of the large recognized companies as well as local businesses. Competition has brought the pricing in line with traditional more toxic products. Even better, green products often are available in various dilution rates, which means you can buy just one product for several different cleaning tasks – and that can **save** you money!

2. Do green products work as well and kill germs?

General purpose green cleaners will remove dirt AND most germs. Disinfectants have ingredients that destroy bacteria and germs. While disinfectants can trigger asthma and cause other health problems, the products on FAC59 provide a reduced exposure to such ingredients. Vendors on contract offer training as part of their service to ensure best practices for using disinfectants, such as applying after the area has been cleaned.

3. Where can I get help on switching to green cleaning products using the statewide contract?

Training and Workshop Opportunities

There are several FREE training opportunities available to higher education and other contract users:

- **MAFMA University** – The MA Facility Manager's Association provides training sessions during the year, including one or two on green cleaning. See Visit www.massfacilities.org for info.
- **All vendors on the FAC59** contract offer training and a transition plan for contract users. Ask the vendor of your choice for information.

4. Is there an Approved Products List?

Yes. The list that contains all the products offered on FAC59 and can be found at www.mass.gov/epp. The purpose of this list is to assist users in finding and comparing green cleaning products, supplies, and equipment.

5. What is Executive Order 515 and does it apply to colleges and universities?

On October 27, 2009, Governor Deval Patrick signed Executive Order 515 that establishes an Environmental Purchasing Policy for all Commonwealth Executive Departments, which will help to conserve natural resources, reduce waste, protect public health and the environment, and promote the use of clean technologies, recycled materials, and less toxic products. Executive agencies are required to implement the directives, higher education, municipalities and others are encouraged.

6. What is so important about a third-party certification?

“Independent/Third-Party Certified” means that cleaning products have been certified by an established and legitimate, nationally-recognized program developed with the purpose of identifying environmentally preferable products. Any such certification program shall verify all green claims and test for the actual performance of the product. This final point is essential as it provides clear assurance to purchasers that the products really work.

7. What are the health benefits of using green cleaning products?

The National Association of School Nurses says:

- Reduced allergies and sensitivities
- Reduced absenteeism
- Improved indoor air quality
- Increased productivity
- higher test scores
- Ingredients in common cleaning products have been linked to triggering asthma episodes, cancer, effects on the nervous system, reproductive organs, kidneys, liver and hormones.
- Greater safety in handling for custodians and cleaning staff

For more information on Green Cleaning visit the EPP Website at www.mass.gov/EPP.