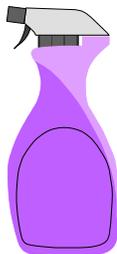


This newsletter is a communication of the PNNL Voluntary Protection Program, who is supporting PNNL's ISO 14001 Program effort in support of integrated worker safety, health, and environment.



## Sparkle and Smell Often Spell Hazards

It sparkles. It shines. It smells just like we've been taught it should smell to be clean. **But under that sparkle may lurk some hazardous chemicals.** The cleaning industry has covered up nasty chemical smells with perfumes and trained us to relate their perfume to a clean smell.

According to Green Seal, an organization developing standards for environmentally preferable products, "**Cleaning products are among the most hazardous chemicals you will find in your home or office** and are therefore regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission." General purpose cleaners can be corrosive, flammable, irritating, and toxic. **They may contain phosphates, volatile organic compounds, and many other hazardous materials.**

- To address potential hazards to its janitors and staff, **PNNL developed specifications for environmentally sound cleaning products** that were risk-free to the staff and environment. (37803)
- Following submission of a request for proposal, **PNNL evaluated, selected, and began using the most environmentally friendly products proposed.**
- The result is sometimes a different smell and look than we are used to. What is not apparent is **how much healthier the products are for staff.**

For more information on PNNL's "Green" Cleaning Products Program, contact Kevin Christensen (376-1716).

## Environmentally Sound Product Resources

- Janitorial Projects Pollution Prevention Project  
(<http://www.westp2net.org/janitorial/jp4.htm>)
- PNNL Green Custodial Products: Selection Process and Specification  
(<http://www.pnl.gov/esp/greenguide/custodialproducts/>)



## Reducing Toxic Chemicals at Home

Toxic cleaning chemicals can be eliminated from your home by making careful choices at the supermarket.

- **Baking soda** can neutralize acid, deodorize, extinguish grease fires, and scrub shiny materials without scratching.
- **Cornstarch** can be used to clean windows, polish furniture, shampoo carpets, and starch clothes.
- **Mineral oil** can be used as a furniture polish. (3A041)
- **Steel wool** is an abrasive strong enough to remove rust and stubborn food residue and to scour barbecues.
- **Vinegar** can dissolve mineral deposits and grease, remove mildew or wax buildup, polish some metals, and deodorize. It can clean brick or stone and is an ingredient in some natural carpet cleaning recipes. It can also remove the metallic taste from coffeepots and shine windows without streaking.