



BUILDING SKILLS PARTNERSHIP



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U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL - LOS ANGELES

MAINTAINING GREEN CLEANING PRACTICES DURING COVID-19

WHO WE ARE

[Building Skills Partnership](#) (BSP) is a non-profit 501c3 collaboration between SEIU-USWW and responsible contractors that works to improve the quality of life of property service workers and their families by increasing their skills, access to education, and opportunities for career and community advancement. In partnership with USGBC-LA, BSP created the [Green Janitor Education Program](#), to offer janitorial workers a training on the fundamental concepts of sustainability and green cleaning in a commercial office space. Janitorial workers play an essential role in the commercial office setting and this program focuses on the safety and environmental and personal impact of workers in the building community.

Together, USGBC-LA and BSP would like to inform our partners on the best practices for continuing our collective efforts of creating more sustainable and green workplaces despite the current COVID-19 health crisis that may compel companies to forsake environmentally friendly practices in the name of safety. We believe that we can continue to uphold green cleaning practices that continue to work towards a sustainable future, while keeping everyone's health and safety a priority, including the janitorial service workers on the front lines.

WHAT ARE WE FINDING IN TERMS OF GREEN CHEMICALS AND GREEN CLEANING?

- Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.
- Disinfecting refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.
- The CDC recommends that prior to disinfecting all dirty surfaces, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM USGBC-LA AND BSP

USGBC-LA and BSP recommend CDC, WHO, EPA guidelines:

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

<https://www.who.int/>

<https://www.epa.gov/>

WHAT BSP IS RECOMMENDING ABOUT WORKER SAFETY:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for janitorial workers to protect themselves from exposures. Some PPE include: disposable gloves and gowns, masks, and safety glasses.
- Training for janitorial workers on all products' Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and their recommended use, especially as it relates to sanitizers and disinfectants.
- Using a responsible cleaning contractor that provides sick days and/or paid time off to janitorial workers who are cleaning their buildings and are feeling unwell or become diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Training on COVID-19 and best practices for staying healthy and safe.
- Verifying with your janitorial contractors that cleaning products are on the [EPA's List N](#), as they are considered to be the most effective against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19.

WHAT USGBC-LA IS RECOMMENDING ABOUT GREEN CLEAN PRODUCTS:

When considering EPA's list of products to use to clean your home or office, Green Seal recommends choosing products with the following active ingredients. These chemicals are known to be less hazardous to human health and do not cause allergic reactions, asthma, or exacerbate asthma:

- hydrogen peroxide
- citric acid
- lactic acid
- ethyl alcohol (also called ethanol or just alcohol), or
- isopropyl alcohol

On EPA's list of recommended disinfectants, the agency includes several products with these active ingredients, including:

- EnvirOx Critical Care
- Clorox Commercial Solutions® Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant
- OXIVIR™ WIPES (Diversey, Inc)
- OXY-TEAM DISINFECTANT CLEANER (Diversey, Inc.)
- URTHPRO Peroxide Multi Surface Cleaner and Disinfectant (URTHTECH, LLC)
- PURELL Professional Surface Disinfectant Wipes (GOJO Industries, Inc.)
- Peroxide Multi Surface Cleaner and Disinfectant (Ecolab)
- Peroxide Disinfectant and Glass Cleaner RTU (Ecolab)
- Clorox Pet Solutions Advanced Formula Disinfecting Stain & Odor Remover

Please follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully on these products as they only work well when used properly, don't forget the value of first cleaning high touch surfaces with traditional soap and water, and always use gloves.

NEXT STEPS - WHAT IS BSP DOING ABOUT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

BSP is offering a 2-hour training module for service workers to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This module focuses on the health and safety of workers who are on the front lines of sanitizing, disinfecting, and maintaining our work spaces. If you are interested in providing this training to the janitorial workers at your buildings, please contact Jocelyn Jimenez, jjimenez@buildingskills.org. Also, please visit our website www.buildingskills.org for more information.