

Defining Green Cleaning

Recently, one of our distributors met with the facility manager of a well-respected private club in Chicago, Illinois. The manager said the main reason she wanted to begin Green cleaning at the club was because she wanted only “natural” cleaning products used in the facility.

The distributor realized a better understanding of environmentally preferable cleaning products was needed. He told her that many products are “natural” but not healthy for human beings, plants, or animal life. After all, most of us know arsenic is a natural ingredient.

So how should we define Green cleaning? As with many things, the definition has evolved, especially in just the past couple of years. Many experts say Green cleaning is the use of cleaning chemicals, products, tools, equipment, and services that have a reduced impact on the environment when compared to traditional products used for the same purpose. This is essentially how it was defined more than 15 years ago by an executive order issued by then-president Bill Clinton.

Today however, we add just a little more to the Green cleaning definition. It includes the use of products, tools, and equipment that are more sustainable and derived from sustainable sources. This would mean, for instance, that parts for cleaning equipment are manufactured using less petroleum products, using more sustainable, replenishable sources.

Also, when disposed of, many parts, using our same example, can be re-used or recycled for new equipment. The same concept holds true for all cleaning products. This is a cradle-to-grave concept that is evolving.



So a good definition of Green cleaning is cleaning for health with procedures and tools, equipment, and chemicals that are derived from more sustainable sources and have a significantly reduced impact on people, building users, building occupants, other living things, as well as the environment.