



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES SPECIFICATION

The District of Columbia is committed to procuring quality goods and services in a timely manner and reasonable cost that support the District in meeting its sustainability goals. Compliance with specification guidance is sufficient to meet PPRA Section 1101(a) environmentally preferable procurement requirements. Supplementary recommendations and additional context are provided here to assist in the implementation of the specification. To access solicitation documents with full contract language, [click here](#).



Scope

The environmental specification covers janitorial services for all indoor activities required to clean public buildings.

Supplementary Recommendations

To further improve the environmental performance of janitorial services purchased by the District of Columbia beyond the minimum requirements of the environmental specification guidance, purchasers should consider adopting the supplementary recommendations defined below.

Janitorial services shall be certified under the [Green Seal GS-42 standard](#), using the most recent version of the standard in effect at the time of purchase.

BENEFITS

\$75 MILLION

Per year is spent by U.S. institutions to address chemical-related custodial injuries. Using green cleaners can reduce injuries and lower costs.

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Tons of hazardous substances were eliminated by one corporation annually by using microfiber mops and using washable mats at door exteriors.

SOURCES

http://www.responsiblepurchasing.org/purchasing_guides/cleaners/index.php



Additional Information



Green Seal is a non-profit standard-setting organization certifying a range of products and services. [Green Seal standards](#) and certification are based on scientific testing and independent audits.

[Green Seal's Environmental Standard for Commercial Cleaning Services \(GS-42\)](#) ensures that cleaners use practices and products that protect the health of building occupants, custodians, and the environment. The GS-42 standard has requirements in six categories: planning; products, supplies, and equipment; cleaning procedures; communication; training; and labeling. The full text of the standard, certification checklist, and list of certified service providers can be found on the Green Seal website.

Many of the requirements in this specification are requirements from [Green Seal's Environmental Standard for Commercial Cleaning Services \(GS-42\)](#). GS-42 certification provides an easy way to identify environmentally preferable janitorial service providers along with added 3rd party assurance that requirements are being met. District purchasers are encouraged to consider including GS-42 certification as a requirement in the solicitation or to incorporate additional requirements from the GS-42 standard into solicitations.



Environmental Hotspots The most important environmental benefits associated with this specification

**POLLUTANTS/TOXICITY/
HEAVY METALS**

The training and practices required in this specification protect the health and safety of building occupants and custodians by reducing exposure to harmful ingredients. **GS-42** also includes guidance on powered cleaning equipment such as vacuum cleaners and propane-powered floor maintenance equipment to improve indoor air quality.

Significance to the District

SUSTAINABLE DC PLAN

Recycling and composting requirements support meeting [Sustainable DC Plan](#) Waste Goal 1: By 2032, send zero waste to landfills per year and reduce total waste generation by 15%.

LEGISLATION

Sustainable [Solid Waste Management Amendment Act of 2014](#) requires solid waste to be separated at the point of discard into recyclables, compostables, and trash and states that the District shall follow the solid waste management hierarchy to the maximum extent practical. [Healthy Schools Act of 2010](#), Section 501 requires the use of environmentally friendly cleaning supplies in public schools.

**LEED FOR EXISTING
BUILDINGS: O&M**

[LEED v4](#) specifies [GS-42](#) to meet the "[Green Cleaning Policy](#)" prerequisite. The following optional credits in LEED 2009 are encompassed in the [GS-42 standard](#): [IEQ3.1 – High Performance Cleaning Program](#); [IEQ3.2 – Custodial Effectiveness Assessment](#); [IEQ3.3 – Purchasing of Sustainable Cleaning Products and Materials](#); [IEQ3.4 – Sustainable Cleaning Equipment](#); and [IEQ3.5 – Indoor Chemical and Pollutant Source Control](#). **Option 2** might qualify for LEED credits depending on the specific processes and practices of the service provider.

For more information about sustainable specification guidance or the District's Sustainable Purchasing Program, please visit: <https://ocp.dc.gov/page/sustainable-purchasing-program> or call the OCP Procurement Center of Excellence at: [202.724.4477](tel:202.724.4477) or email sppdc@dc.gov.