

Eco Products : what you need to know about...

Environmentally friendly cleaning products



What do we mean by green when it comes to cleaning products?

In general terms green cleaning products are those with environmentally friendly ingredients and those designed to protect human health and not damage the environment. For those wanting to do the right thing and not be a part of the

growing problem of global pollution and environmental degradation the first step is the responsible selection and use of green cleaning products.

There are plenty of manufacturers out there looking to exploit the current emotive publicity on the use of disposable plastics and other harmful chemicals especially those

used for cleaning. But can they be trusted? There are some manufacturers that develop products such as oven cleaners and dishwasher chemicals, which are allegedly green but look closely and they are not!

What to look for:

There are five basic questions to ask when looking at the integrity of green cleaning products.

1. What is it made from? Legislation has banned many carcinogenic materials. Products should be biodegradable to EU guidelines (less than 80% after 28 days).
2. Is it based on natural raw materials? This means plant based formulas such as root vegetables, bio ethanol (derived from natural sugar by fermentation), naturally occurring enzymes etc.
3. Does the label explain in easy to understand language what it is made from? They must not be classified as dangerous to the environment.
4. Is it safe when it enters the waste system? Products that are based on non-pathogenic bacteria digest organic matter by producing enzymes that break down waste safely. Corrosive and caustic products will have an impact on septic tank and reed bed systems as they break down the natural, good bacteria in these systems.
5. Is the packaging recyclable? It should have a recycle packaging logo on the bottom of the bottle



What to avoid:

Products that are green should not contain the following as they are seen as harmful to the environment: phosphates, EDTA, alkyl phenol ethoxylates, plastic-based abrasives.

What to do:

Obviously most operators look at cost v performance when it comes to cleaning products. But increasingly the environmental credentials of cleaning products will be called into question and with careful buying decisions there is no need to sacrifice performance for eco friendliness. There are some simple home rules to stick to

when considering environmentally friendly products for effective and hygienic cleaning.

- Check that manufacturers are transparent about the raw materials used in their products, and that they only use low carbon footprint materials, which are safe to the environment, effective and performance based.
- Choose product concentrates. These reduce packaging, reduce waste and reduce transportation carbon footprints.
- Reusable containers and reusable heavy duty labeling reduce landfill waste.



What you need to know about warewashing... from Winterhalter

'Warewashing: what you need to know about...' is a series of brief reports that give users the information they need to understand various aspects of warewashing. Winterhalter aims to advise customers on every aspect of warewashing – because there's a whole lot more to it than putting the dirties in a stainless steel box. Installing a warewasher, whether it's a backbar glasswasher or a flight conveyor system, needs to take account of, for example, getting the dirties to the wash area, storing them after cleaning, and so on. The systems we build may include tabling and other fabrication, all of it designed to help staff do the job safely and efficiently.

Winterhalter BLUe range of green chemicals

Winterhalter's BLUe range includes a huge choice of specialist products formulated specifically for the foodservice industry – from washing up liquids, cleaner degreasers, descalers and concentrated cleaner sanitiser, universal warewashing detergent and antibacterial foam soap.

Most of the cartons used for the BLUe range are made of recycled board, while the spray flask packaging contains post-consumer recycle. Plastic containers are recyclable and all the packaging is designed to be as easy to recycle as possible. For example, plastic containers have plastic labels, rather than paper ones, and flasks are fitted with all-plastic triggers.

Replacing standard cleaning products with concentrates, and using refillable flasks, has a significant impact on packaging use.

A single 2 litre bottle of concentrate yields 100 x 750ml flasks when diluted.

The BLUe products are manufactured under an environmental management system approved to ISO14001. They use formulations containing raw materials from renewable resources. For example, the C110BLUe washing-up liquid uses vegetable-derived surfactants, rather than those originating from oil.



Winterhalter provides a total solution for warewashing, from pre-sales advice to after-sales service, training and maintenance. Alongside its market-leading dish and glasswashers, the company's range includes utensil washers, advanced water treatment machines, cleaning chemicals and detergents. For further details, call Winterhalter on 01908 359000, see www.winterhalter.co.uk, or www.winterhalter-scout.biz or email info@winterhalter.co.uk.

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