



The benefits of eco-conscious cleaning practices

Across industries, businesses are taking a closer look at how their operations impact the environment. This growing attention to sustainability is being fueled by the increased demand for environmental transparency and the growing prevalence of Environmental, Social and Governance reporting (ESG).¹ Companies are taking a closer look at how they can better utilize resources, reduce waste and help improve workplace health.

As part of this process, many organizations are reviewing the products and materials they use daily, including those tied to cleaning and maintenance. Cleaning practices, while often routine, represent an opportunity to align operations with sustainability goals. For companies interested in using greener products, a wide range of solutions are available that offer benefits related to air quality, cleanliness, waste reduction and employee wellness.

What are greener cleaning products?

Greener cleaning products generally refer to items that are formulated or manufactured with reduced environmental impact.² This can include:

- **Biodegradable ingredients:**
These formulas are typically free from synthetic chemicals and are designed to break down naturally, reducing potential harm to waterways and soil systems during disposal.
- **Lower levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs):**
VOCs are chemicals that evaporate into the air and can affect indoor air quality.³ Products that minimize VOC content can help create healthier air in enclosed spaces.
- **Recyclable or minimal packaging:**
Many greener products are now packaged in containers made with recycled content or are designed for recyclability where facilities exist.
- **Reusable tools and supplies:**
Microfiber cloths, refillable spray bottles and washable mop heads are examples of durable alternatives that can reduce the need for single-use cleaning items.

These products are designed to work effectively while helping to reduce the impact on the environment.

Potential benefits of greener products

While every business has different goals and needs, there are some common areas where greener products may support workplace wellness and operational efficiency. Below are several potential benefits for those choosing to integrate these solutions.

1 Support cleaner indoor air quality

Many conventional cleaning products release VOCs that can linger in the air and impact indoor air quality.³ Poor air quality in enclosed environments has been linked to headaches, fatigue and respiratory discomfort.⁴ Greener products are often formulated with fewer or no VOCs, helping create fresher, cleaner air within the workspace. This may contribute to a more comfortable environment for employees and visitors, especially in spaces with limited ventilation.

2 Help fight the spread of germs

Greener doesn't mean less effective. Many greener cleaning products are specifically designed to target germs and viruses while avoiding harsh chemical ingredients.² Businesses that use these products may benefit from minimizing the presence of bleach, ammonia or synthetic fragrances. This is particularly relevant in shared environments such as restrooms, breakrooms and meeting spaces.

3 Conserve resources and reduce waste

Integrating recycled products into cleaning routines offers an effective way to help conserve resources and limit landfill waste. Solutions such as recycled paper towels and reusable cleaning supplies provide businesses with practical options to help lower their environmental footprint.

4 Create healthier work environments

Switching to greener cleaning products helps reduce exposure to toxic substances in high-touch areas like kitchens, restrooms and shared workspaces. A less chemically intensive environment can help enhance employee satisfaction, improve overall wellbeing and contribute to a stronger workplace culture.



The role of greener products in sustainability planning

For businesses focused on broader sustainability objectives, greener cleaning supplies can be one small, but visible, part of a larger strategy. While not every company may be ready to overhaul their entire facilities management program, making small adjustments to the types of products being used can support progress toward environmental goals in a practical way.

Better for business

As businesses continue to examine their role in supporting environmental sustainability and workplace wellness, cleaning practices are emerging as a relevant area of focus. For companies exploring this path, greener products offer practical and widely available options that can support goals around indoor air quality, waste reduction and resource efficiency.

Whether selecting recycled paper towels or switching to low-VOC cleaning solutions, these choices reflect a growing awareness of how everyday decisions can contribute to a more sustainable future—both inside and outside the workplace.



Explore the range of eco-conscious cleaning solutions from ODP Business Solutions at www.odpbusiness.com

¹ <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/consumer-packaged-goods/our-insights/consumers-care-about-sustainability-and-back-it-up-with-their-wallets>

² <https://www.epa.gov/greenerproducts/identifying-greener-cleaning-products>

³ <https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/volatile-organic-compounds-impact-indoor-air-quality>

⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/report-environment/indoor-air-quality#:~:text=or%20air%20conditioning,-Effects%20on%20Human%20Health,%2C%20heart%20disease%2C%20and%20cancer>