

Lead by Example Project Case Study:

Using Green Cleaners at HCMC

Environmentally preferable cleaning is a comprehensive approach to cleaning that combines chemicals, equipment, tools, disposables, and, most importantly, processes, training, and communication to produce an effective and safe cleaning program.

HCMC's Environmental Services main goal is to protect all building inhabitants and users, including the buildings and contents. They do this with a careful detail to operating/maintenance procedures and cleaning standards that are environmentally aware, yet saving the county money and other resources. Environmentally preferable cleaning does *not* mean accepting a lower standard of cleanliness in county facilities.

The active ingredients that were used were among the most toxic chemicals used in cleaning. Omega, the previous disinfectant was labeled as a corrosive and classified as a pesticide for storage and disposal. A number of specialty cleaners being used were also a safety concern.

From May 2004-May 2005, the Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) performed a pilot using green cleaners in the entire medical campus.

Workplace Safety

The switch to safer cleaning chemicals was a opportunity for the Safety Committee at HCMC to reduce workplace injuries. In 2003, 10% of employee injuries were related to chemicals. As part of the pilot, the Safety Committee tracked the reduction in Worker's Compensation claims related to chemical injuries.

Project Plan

HCMC replaced current cleaning chemicals with H2Orange2 (certified under Green Seal GS-37 and meets "hospital grade disinfectant" standards) by retrofitting 42 janitorial closets with the H2Orange2 dispensing unit. HCMC also eliminated as many specialty cleaners as possible.



HCMC, Minnesota's third largest hospital, implemented environmentally preferable cleaners and methods in its main medical campus in Minneapolis.



An Environmental Services employee cleans the floor with a microfiber mop at HCMC.

Quick Snapshot

Who

Hennepin County Medical Center

What

Purchased bulk dispensing supplies and chemicals to facilitate switching to green cleaners.

Benefits

- *Improved Indoor Air Quality*
- *Reduced employee injury from chemical exposure*
- *Reduced toxicity*
- *Reduced garbage and hazardous waste*
- *Improved employee and guest experience*

Grant Amount

\$5,200.00



- Continues on back-

Product Performance

The pilot was well-received by staff and visitors to HCMC. There were some concerns brought up during the pilot due to the H2Orange2's longer bacteria/viral contact kill time which is 5 minutes on hard surfaces. Harsher, non-environmentally preferable options have kill times of usually 30 seconds to 1 minute.

Due to changes in the HCMC janitorial contract, H2Orange2 was replaced with 3M's Twist N Fill product line. The change does not reflect negatively on the quality of the H2Orange2 products. Other facilities within the county successfully use H2Orange2 products.



An Environmental Services employee cleans the floor with vacuums equipped with HEPA filters at HCMC.

For more information on Hennepin County's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program or the Lead by Example Incentive Fund, please contact: Nathan Reinbold, 612-596-0993 or Paul Kroening, 612-348-6358



**Hennepin County
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Hennepin County Medical Center

Project Benefits

- Eliminated approximately 545 gallons of cleaners that are an EPA-registered pesticide from being poured down the drains and into the environment.
- Replaced other toxic specialty cleaners, carpet shampoo, carpet spotter, window cleaner, spic 'n span, 409 and stainless steel wipes, with a combination of a stronger dilution of H2orange2 and Mineral Shock.
- 17% reduction in the amount (gallon) of cleaners used.
- 7% reduction in the cost of cleaners.
- 80% reduction in chemical injuries for 2004. The 2 chemical injuries reported in 2004 were associated with another chemical that has not been replaced with an environmentally preferable alternative yet.

About HCMC

Hennepin County Medical Center is Minnesota's premier Level 1 Trauma Center with many nationally recognized programs and specialties. It is the third largest hospital in Minnesota, based on operating revenue. Hennepin is an essential teaching hospital for doctors who go on to practice throughout the state. It is a safety net hospital providing care for low-income, the uninsured and vulnerable populations.

Online Resources

Envirox (H2Orange2 and related products)

www.h2orange2.com/default.asp

Green Seal (Third Party Certification Agency)

www.greenseal.org