

## Participate at Home

- Look for eco-friendly ingredients in cleaning products such as grain alcohol instead of toxic butyl cellosolve
- Use plunger “snakes” instead of chemical drain cleaner when unclogging sinks
- Check the Household Products Database for potentially to make sure you are using non-hazardous products
- Clean oven surfaces with a paste of water and baking soda



*According to the Environmental Protection Agency, poor indoor air quality is one of the top five environmental risks to public health.*

## Participate at Work

- Use green products—For the green product standard criteria, Check Green Seal, Inc., for its *Industrial and Institutional Cleaners Standard (GS-37)*
- Follow the leaders—many governmental, cleaning services and private businesses are using green cleaning products. Check websites such as [www.sfenvironment.org](http://www.sfenvironment.org) for approved janitorial cleaning products

## Parents for a Safer Environment

Parents for a Safer Environment (PfSE) a grass-roots organization, was formed after parents witnessed children being exposed to serious environmental hazards in childcare facilities in the fall of 2002. Parent volunteers from Moraga, Orinda, and Martinez and an Advisory Board of health and technical experts work to bring awareness of environmental hazards and solutions to the community.

*For more information, contact:*

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## Support PfSE

We bring information to improve children's health by voluntary work. In order to continue this work, we need your help. Thank you for your support. Your donations are tax-deductible via CEHN's Fiscal Sponsorship.

To donate, make checks out to:

**Pesticide Action Network** and place in the memo section, for: *PfSE Donation*

Mail to:

Parents for a Safer Environment  
P.O. Box 6673, Moraga, CA 94570-6673



# Cleaning for our Children

*greener. safer. life-preserving*



*“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”*

~Native American Proverb



pfse.net

## The “Dirty” Facts About Common Cleaning Products

- In 2003, 10 percent of all poison exposures reported to poison control centers involved cleaning products
- The EPA found certain pollutant levels to be two to five times higher inside homes than outside
- Air pollution contributes to lung disease, a disease that kills nearly 341,500 individuals every year
- Nearly 66 million live in areas with chronically unhealthy levels of particle pollution
- Long term effects of hazardous air pollutants (found in cleaning products and air fresheners) may include respiratory diseases, heart disease, and cancer
- Asthma, which is triggered by indoor and outdoor air pollution, annually accounts for over 10 million lost days school days in children

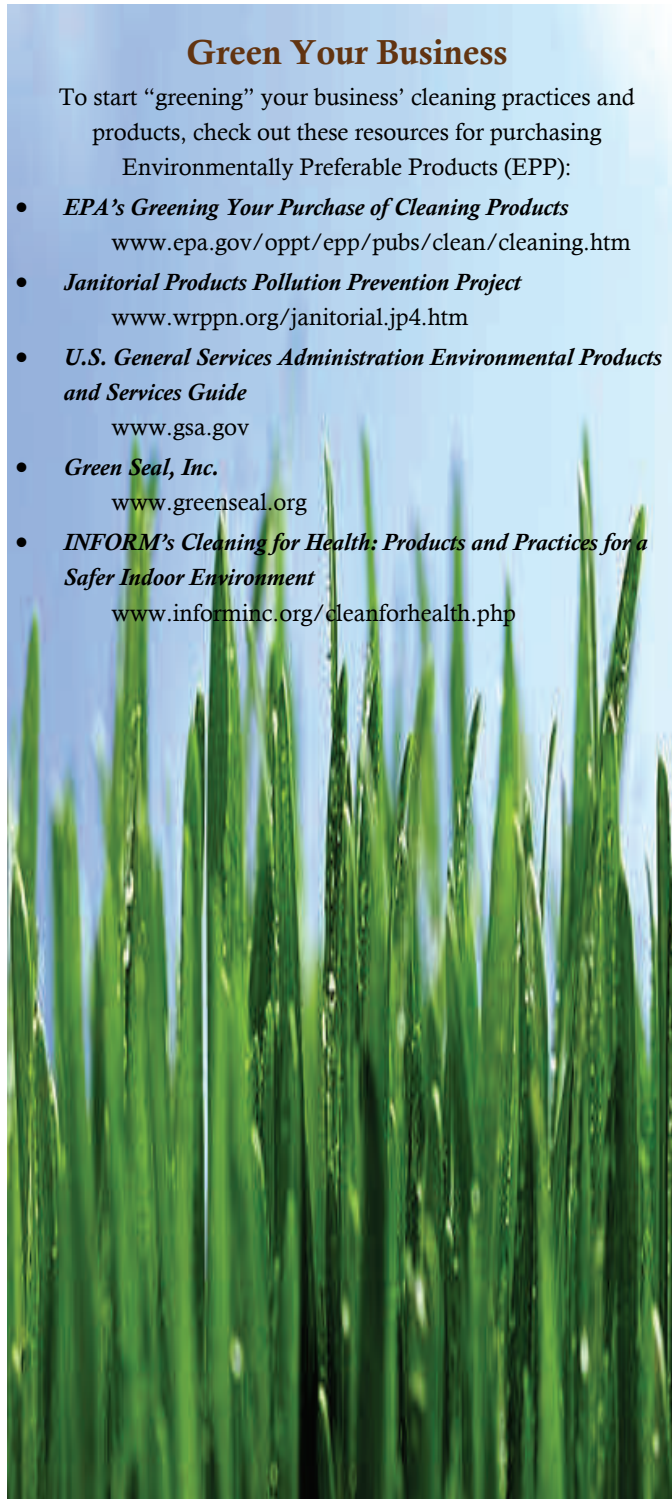


*Additional “Dirty” facts can be found at the American Lung Association website: [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org), or at [www.greenerchoices.org](http://www.greenerchoices.org)*

## Green Your Business

To start “greening” your business’ cleaning practices and products, check out these resources for purchasing Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP):

- **EPA’s *Greening Your Purchase of Cleaning Products***  
[www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/pubs/clean/cleaning.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/epp/pubs/clean/cleaning.htm)
- ***Janitorial Products Pollution Prevention Project***  
[www.wrppn.org/janitorial.jp4.htm](http://www.wrppn.org/janitorial.jp4.htm)
- ***U.S. General Services Administration Environmental Products and Services Guide***  
[www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov)
- ***Green Seal, Inc.***  
[www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)
- ***INFORM’s Cleaning for Health: Products and Practices for a Safer Indoor Environment***  
[www.informinc.org/cleanforhealth.php](http://www.informinc.org/cleanforhealth.php)



*Additional resources can be found at [www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org)*

## Why Go Green to Clean?

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are released in the air through cleaning products
- Certain cleaning product ingredients contain hazardous chemicals, which raise concern for specific populations, including wildlife
- Ingredients such as nitrogen or phosphorus can negatively effect water quality when poured down drains

### *What are Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)?*

*According to the EPA, VOCs are gases emitted from certain solids or liquids, which include a variety of chemicals, some having short- and long-term adverse health effects. Concentrations of many VOCs are consistently up to 10 times higher indoors than outdoors.*

## Green Cleaning Benefits

- Reduce hazardous exposure for all indoor inhabitants and cleaning service employees
- Improve indoor air quality
- Buying cleaners in concentrate limits packaging waste and transportation energy
- Reduces costs when it comes time to dispose of excess cleaners

*Additional resources can be found at the Environmental Protection Agency website: [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)*