

Purchasing

Purchase EPA Safer Choice or other Green Certified Cleaners

Interest from management to explore green cleaning opportunities for the business.

We recommend that companies purchase cleaning supplies that are either EPA Safer Choice or Green Seal certified cleaning solutions. A description of each certification type is listed below, as well as items that can be purchased that meet these criteria, with comparisons to everyday cleaning solutions found in businesses. **We don't recommend one product over another but wanted to provide sample items to demonstrate the cost competitiveness of green cleaning solutions to their non-certified counterparts.** We've also added language on how to communicate your green cleaning preferences to your building management or contracted cleaning service.



EPA Safer Choice

Products with the EPA Safer Choice label help consumers and commercial buyers identify products with safer chemical ingredients, without sacrificing quality or performance. About 1,900 products currently qualify to carry the Safer Choice label. Products must pass their stringent criteria to earn the Safer Choice label. The Safer Choice program reviews more than just product ingredients. EPA also looks at product performance, pH, packaging and more to ensure that products with the label are safer for you and your family.



Green Seal Certified

Green Seal certified cleaning products meet our comprehensive criteria for safer chemicals, Environmentally preferable packaging, and uncompromising performance. Among other attributes, cleaning products are verified to be:

- Non-toxic
- Low-VOC
- Carcinogen-Free
- Phthalate-Free

We recommend using EPA Safer Choice and/or Green Seal Certified all-purpose cleaners, disinfectants, and floor/general purpose cleaners for day-to-day cleaning operation. Green cleaning products have become mainstream and are cost-competitive to their traditional counterparts. They provide improved indoor air quality, fewer toxins entering the environment, less expensive, better for individuals sensitive to chemicals and much more. This is beneficial both to your cleaning staff and employees across the building.

Overview of Cleaning Products & Benefits

Cleaning Product Type	Traditional Cleaner Cost	Green Certified Cleaner Cost	Annual Savings*
All-Purpose Cleaner	\$0.12/fl oz	Simple Green: \$0.14/fl oz	\$0 – slight cost increase
Disinfectant Cleaner	\$0.14/fl oz	Aqua ChemPacks: \$0.08/fl oz	\$23/year
Floor/General Purpose Cleaner	\$0.15/fl oz	Aqua ChemPacks: \$0.08/fl oz	\$27/year

* Annual savings estimates generated by estimating that each bottle is 32 fl oz and at least 12 are purchased in one year

All-Purpose Cleaner: According to Environmental Working Group (EWG), traditional cleaners pose health risks and exposure to cleaning chemicals may include chemical burns, asthma which specific fumes can induce and common side effects like headache, throat infection, eye irritation, asthma.

The EPA Safer Choice Certified cleaners per fluid ounce (fl oz) price varies between \$0.09 to \$0.20. For instance, the Simple Green brand All-Purpose Cleaner, an EPA Safer Choice Certified cleaning solution, sells their solution at \$0.14/fl oz in (96 fl oz/bottle) quantities. On the other hand, traditional all-purpose cleaning products on an average cost around \$0.12/fl oz. While the price of green cleaning products here are a little more than the traditional cleaner, we still encourage switching to a more sustainable every-day cleaner. We've provided examples of all-purpose cleaners and pricing for consideration below.

Disinfectant Cleaner: The price of such cleaners per fl oz varies \$0.08 to \$0.20. For example, Aqua ChemPacs, an EPA Safer Choice Certified disinfectant, costs about \$0.08/fl oz when purchased in bulk. The traditional disinfectant cleaning products with similar quantity on an average cost around \$0.14/fl oz. Not only can purchasing sustainable disinfectants reduce cleaning product costs but can be safer for cleaning staff and employees. We've provided examples disinfectant cleaners and pricing for consideration below.

Floor/General Purpose Cleaner: The price for floor/general cleaners varies from \$0.01 to \$0.17 per fl oz. The Aqua ChemPacs disinfectant cleaner comes in a pouch packet which needs to be diluted in the mop bucket. Similarly, the disinfectant from Simple Green and Earth Force brands can be diluted in the spray bottles. As described above, the green certified cleaning solutions cost, on average, \$0.14/fl oz in (96 fl oz/bottle) quantities. The traditional floor/general purpose cleaners with similar quantity on an average cost around \$0.15 per fl oz. We've provided examples floor/general purpose cleaners and pricing for consideration below.

Purchase Products with Recycled or Compostable Content

Recycling is an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and divert materials away from the landfill. By recycling, landfills and incinerators greenhouse gas emissions are offset. Every single item we recycle results in significant energy savings because recycling takes advantage of this embedded energy. Every recycled material uses less energy than its virgin component. According to Eureka Recycling, a nonprofit organization, recycling paper results in 44% energy savings when new paper is produced. Therefore, purchasing items made from recycled content can reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

We recommend using paper products that are derived from recycled paper and trash bags made of recycled plastic due to their positive environmental impact and competitive cost compared to standard equivalent products available on the market. We researched effective paper products for various uses which are prepared from high post-consumer material, Green Seal Certified, and compostable in nature. Moreover, we've compared the pricing of these products to their traditional counterpart and provided examples of paper towels, tissues, napkins, and trash bags, pricing per roll, per sheet for consideration.

Paper Product Type	Traditional Item Cost	Recycled-Content Item Cost
Paper Towels	Sparkle: \$0.01/sheet	Genuine Joe: \$0.01/sheet
Facial Tissues	Presto: \$0.03/sheet	Seven Generations: \$0.04/sheet
Napkins	Tork: \$0.01/sheet	Seven Generations: \$0.02/sheet

Paper towels: The price for a paper towel varies from \$0.01 to \$0.07 per sheet. The Genuine Joe Towels are made from a high percentage of recycled post-consumer material. Tork brand's paper towel is a Green Seal Certified product which is made of 100% post-consumer material. Traditional paper towels made of virgin material on average cost around \$0.05 per sheet which is comparable to their recycled counterpart. A list of sustainable options, with pricing can be found below.


Facial Tissues: The price of tissues made with high content of post-consumer material varies from \$0.03 to \$0.08 per sheet with bulk orders as low as \$0.01 per sheet. The Seven Generation facial tissues are made of 100% recycled material out of which minimum 50% is post-consumer content. Similarly, the Kleenex brand produces Green Seal Certified tissue products. Traditional facial tissue products with similar quantity on an average cost similar as the Green Certified products. A list of sustainable options, with pricing can be found below.

Napkins: The price of paper napkins made of a high content of post-consumer or recycled material varies from \$0.01 to \$0.05 per sheet. For instance, the Seven Generation napkins are made of 50% post-consumer content. Moreover, the packaging is made of 50% pre-consumer recycled plastic. Similarly, the Green Seal Certified napkins from bambo Bamboo which are disposable and compostable. A list of sustainable options, with pricing can be found below.

Trash Bags (40-45 gal)	Hefty: \$0.40/bag	Reli Eco-Strong: \$0.28/bag
------------------------	-------------------	-----------------------------

Trash Bags: The price for trash bags made of recycled plastic varies from \$0.28 to \$0.65 per bag where the size of the bag varies between 13 to 60 gallons. For instance, the Reli. Ecostrong brands 45–50-gallon trash bags made from recycled content cost around \$0.28 per bag. On the contrary, the traditional trash bags of 50 Gallon run an average cost around \$0.40 per bag. A list of sustainable options, with pricing can be found below.


Green Certified All-Purpose Cleaner Options

No.	Product Name	Product Image	Description	Price (per product)	Price (per Fl oz)
1	Citrus All-Purpose Cleaner		<p>Dilution: 1 Pac per quart. Weight per Pac: 3 grams.</p> <p>12 per jar plus 1 spray bottle</p> <p>Quickly removes dirt, grease, and grime. For use on floors, walls, counters, equipment, and painted areas.</p>	\$34.70	\$0.09
2	Boulder Clean All-Purpose Cleaner, Valencia Orange, 28 oz		<p>Features: Rinse-free, Sulfate-free, Paraben-free, Phthalate-free, Pleasant Scent, No-mess, SLS-free</p> <p>This grime-busting, all-purpose, plant-based punch against spills and stains without toxic chemicals.</p>	\$3.99	\$0.14
3	Simple Green All Purpose Cleaner, 32 Fl oz (Pack of 3), Original, 96 Fl oz		<p>All-purpose concentrated cleaner removes dirt, grease, and stains</p> <p>Cleans counters, carpet, floors, fabric, equipment, and vehicles.</p> <p>U.S. EPA Safer Choice certified product</p> <p>Size: 32fl oz each bottle</p>	\$13.41	\$0.14
4	All Purpose Cleaner		<p>It's essential to keep a go-to cleaner on hand that tackles tough messes, and cuts grease, grime, and dirt everywhere in your home. It even works as a stainless-steel cleaner or laminate floor cleaner.</p> <p>23 Fl oz</p>	\$4.50	\$0.20




Green Certified Disinfectant Options

No.	Product Name	Product Image	Description	Price (per product)	Price (per Fl oz)
1	Disinfectant Cleaner (EPA Registered) - Green		<p>Size: 20 per jar plus 1 bottle sprayer</p> <p>Dilution: 1 Pac per quart. Weight per Pac: 0.1023 oz.</p> <p>EPA registered.</p> <p>A neutral cleaner designed to provide effective cleaning, deodorizing, and disinfection for hospitals, nursing homes, hotels, schools, restaurants, homes, and other institutions.</p>	\$52.92	\$0.08
2	Simple Green® d Pro 5® Disinfectant - 5 Gallon Bottle		<p>The most versatile all-purpose cleaner available. Hospital-grade disinfecting.</p> <p>For clinics, schools, and food processing facilities.</p> <p>EPA registered.</p> <p>Size: 5 gal., for 6 bottles</p>	\$117	\$0.18
3	Disinfecting Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner		<p>Fragrance free and Dye free, Disinfecting Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner is for cleaning non-porous, hard surfaces. The powerful foaming action cuts through mold and mildew stains, and it has the trifecta of sanitization cleans, deodorizes, and disinfects.</p> <p>Available Sizes: 23 Fl oz</p>	\$4.50	\$0.20




Green Certified Floor Cleaner Options

No.	Product Name	Product Image	Description	Price (per product)	Price (per Fl oz)
1	Disinfectant Cleaner (EPA Registered) - Green for mop buckets		<p>Aqua ChemPacs EPA Safe Choice</p> <p>4X100 Count Pouch Dilution: 1 Pac per 2 Gallons.</p> <p>Same effective product as Formula 18. ChemPacs increased in size for mop bucket dilution.</p>	\$1,157	\$0.01
2	Simple Green® Lemon - 1 Gallon Bottle		<p>The most versatile all-purpose cleaner available.</p> <p>Industrial strength, 20% more concentrated than the original formula.</p> <p>Plastic Jug Pump and Spray Bottles available.</p> <p>Size: 1 gal., for 6 bottles</p>	\$22	\$0.17
3	Earth Force® Kleenall Neutral Cleaner		<p>Pleasant scented, all-purpose cleaner providing excellent results in hard or soft water.</p> <p>May be used with automatic scrubbers. NSF A4 registered.</p> <p>Listed with the EPA's Safer Choice program.</p> <p>Available Package Sizes 5 Gallon Pail 635705SADFE 4/1 Gallon Case 635741SADFE 55 Gallon Drum 635755PADFE</p>		




Eco-Friendly Paper Towel Options

No.	Product Name	Product Image	Description	Price (per product)	Price (per sheet)
1	Genuine Joe Multifold Towels		<p>Size: 4000 Count (Pack of 4) Color: White Brand: Genuine Joe Unit Count per pack: 4000 counts Ply Rating: 1-Ply Special Feature: Embossed, recycled</p> <p>Made from a high percentage of recycled post-consumer material.</p>	\$118.00	\$0.01
2	Sparkle Paper towel		<p>Brand: SPARKLE Unit Count: 24.0 Count (2640 sheets) Ply Rating: 2-Ply Special Feature: Recycled Material: Paper</p>	\$26.36	\$0.01
3	Tork Hand Towel Roll, Natural, Universal, Large, 100% Recycled, 1-Ply, White, 6 Rolls x 800 ft		<p>Brand: Tork Unit Count: 6.0 Count Sheet Count: 800 Ply Rating: 1-Ply Special Feature: Recycled</p> <p>Green Seal Certified (Climate Pledge Friendly) The paper towels are created with 100% recycled materials</p>	\$57.00	\$0.07

Eco-Friendly Facial Tissue Options

No.	Product Name	Product Image	Description	Price (per product)	Price (per sheet)
1	Seven Generation. 100% Recycled Facial Tissue		<p>Made from 100% recycled paper with a minimum of 50% post-consumer content. These tissues are also hypoallergenic.</p> <p>Seven Generation facial tissues are Green Seal Certified (Climate Pledge Friendly).</p> <p>Available Sizes: 85 count</p>	\$2.99	\$0.04
2	Kleenex® Perfect Fit Facial Tissue Cylinders		<p>Kleenex facial tissues are Green Seal Certified (Climate Pledge Friendly).</p> <p>Designed for runny noses and watery eyes, everyday tissue among national brands features soft, durable, thick 2-layer facial tissues in a convenient travel pack.</p> <p>Pack of 4 (50 sheets each)</p>	\$9.29	\$0.05
3	Presto! Ultra-Soft 3-Ply Premium Facial Tissues, 264 Count (4 Packs of 66)		<p>Brand: Presto!</p> <p>Special Feature: Ultra Soft</p> <p>Number of Items: 4</p> <p>Sheet Count: 264</p> <p>Ply Rating: 3-Ply</p>	\$6.62	\$0.03

Eco-Friendly Napkin Options

No.	Product Name	Product Image	Description	Price (per product)	Price (per sheet)
1	100% Recycled Paper Napkins, Unbleached		<p>Seventh Generation unbleached Paper Napkins are soft and durable - and can go right to the compost pile at the end of the meal.</p> <p>Made from 100% recycled paper with a minimum of 50% post-consumer content. Packaged in minimum 50% pre-consumer recycled plastic.</p> <p>Available Sizes: 500 count</p>	\$10.79	\$0.02
2	Ibambo Bamboo Everyday Disposable Compostable Napkins		<p>Climate Pledge Friendly</p> <p>Color: Light Brown Size: 1000 Napkins Material: Bamboo Brand: Ibambo Ply Rating: 2-Ply</p>	\$53.97	\$0.05
3	Tork White Soft Napkin		<p>Climate Pledge Friendly</p> <p>Color: White Size: 6000 CT Material: Compostable Brand: Tork Ply Rating: 2-Ply</p>	\$76.80	\$0.01

Recycled Content and Compostable Trash Bag Options

No.	Product Name	Product Image	Description	Price (per product)	Price (per bag)
1	33 Gallon Recycled Trash Bags		33x39", 1.5 mil, Box of 100 bags (5 rolls/box) At least 80% recycled plastic Black trash bags	\$31.99	\$0.32
2	Reli. Compostable 13 Gallon Trash Bags		Eco-Friendly (24"x30"): Compostable (ASTM-D6400) in municipal and industrial composting facilities Compostable ASTM-D6400 certified (Made with 30% Plant-Based Materials) Tear-Resistant (0.9 mil): Tough 13-gal trash can liners made for a leak-proof disposal	\$47.95	\$0.32
3	Reli. EcoStrong 40-45 Gallon Trash Bags		GO GREEN: Recyclable & Made from Recycled Content (min. 20% post-consumer recycled) - SCS Certified PREMIUM QUALITY, WHOLESALE QUANTITY & PRICE: 125 Bags (40-45 Gallon) for long-lasting value THICK (1.5 mil) & WELL-SIZED (40"x46")	\$34.99	\$0.28
4	Aluf Plastics Gallon Size 55-60		Brand: Aluf Plastics Capacity: 55 Gallons Unit Count: 100.0 Count Material Feature: Recyclable, Heavy Duty Plastic garbage bags are made from at least 80% percent recycled material.	\$65.35	\$0.65