



## Act 68: Relating to the protection of students' health by requiring the use of safe cleaning products

### Sale of Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Products

- A distributor or manufacturer of cleaning products shall sell only cleaning products to schools that are:
  - > environmentally preferable cleaning products under state contracts with the Department of Buildings & General Services – or –
  - > certified as environmentally preferable by an independent third party.
- A distributor or manufacturer shall only sell to schools air fresheners that are certified as environmentally preferable by an independent third party.
- Contractors that provide cleaning services to schools shall only use environmentally preferable cleaning products and air fresheners as described above.
- The definition of “distributors” excludes retail stores.

### Exemption for Antimicrobial Pesticides

- This legislation does not regulate the sale, use, or distribution of disinfectants or other antimicrobial pesticides. These products are commonly used for kitchen sanitization, infectious disease outbreak control, clean up of bodily fluids, etc.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2012

### Transition to Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Products

- Schools may continue to use conventional cleaning products purchased before July 1, 2012 until supplies are depleted.
- Independent schools with fewer than 50 students are given a longer transition period:
  - > Distributors and manufacturers may continue to sell conventional cleaning products to independent schools until July 1, 2013.
  - > Independent schools may continue to use conventional cleaning products purchased prior to July 1, 2013 until supplies are depleted.

**Penalty:** No penalties are established under this legislation.

### Education and Outreach

- This legislation adds to existing law by requiring that the Vermont Department of Health’s Envision website include:
  - > a list of environmentally preferable cleaning products under state contract with the Department of Building & General Services, and –
  - > procedures on the use of environmentally preferable cleaning products.

- Annual workshops / trainings that are given will include instruction on green cleaning practices.
- A distributor or manufacturer of cleaning products shall provide a green cleaning training to each school district it provides with environmentally preferable cleaning products, provided at no cost to the school district.

### Select Definitions

**Air freshener** means an aerosol spray, liquid deodorizer, plug-in product, para-dichlorobenzene block, scented urinal screen, or other product used to mask odors or freshen the air in a room.

**Cleaning product** means an institutional compound intended for routine cleaning, including general purpose cleaners, bathroom cleaners, glass cleaners, carpet cleaners, floor care products, and hand soaps.

Cleaning product shall not mean an antimicrobial pesticide (disinfectant.)

**Independent third party** means either:

- A. A nationally recognized organization that has developed a program for the purpose of certifying environmentally preferable cleaning products.

The independent third party's certification program shall:

- 1) Define a manufacturer's certification fees;
- 2) Identify any potential conflicts of interest;

- 3) Base certification on consideration of human health and safety, ecological toxicity, other environmental impacts, and resource conservation as appropriate for the product and its packaging on a life cycle basis;
  - 4) Develop certification standards in an open, public, and transparent manner that involves the public and key stakeholders;
  - 5) Periodically revise and update the standards to remain consistent with current research about the impacts of chemicals on human health;
  - 6) Monitor and enforce the standards for the purpose of certification, and have the authority to inspect the manufacturing facility and periodically do so, and have a registered or legally protected certification mark; and
  - 7) Make the standards easily accessible to purchasers and manufacturers; or
- B. In the alternative, "independent third party" means any organization otherwise deemed by the Department of Health to satisfactorily assess and certify environmentally preferable cleaning products.