

# What's New Newsletter?

## New Simple Solutions M.C.S.

The new Simple Solutions M.C.S. Series is a mobile, self-contained cleaning system designed for portable cleaning applications such as restrooms, trash areas, and supermarket meat cases. The unit provides both cleaning and sanitizing functions as well as clean water rinsing, through its low pressure (<100 psi) spray nozzles.



The Simple Solutions M.C.S. is the latest evolution in the cleaning industry's search for the perfect mobile cleaning machine. Just fill the unit's 12 gallon water tank with fresh water, hook your Simple Solution chemicals up to the selector valve, and you're ready to go!

Once you've reached the cleaning site, select your chemical and spray nozzle, and start cleaning. When you're done, squeegee any remaining water to the floor drain and move on to the next location.

It's that easy!! And because it's easy, you've turned a de-motivating cleaning job into a task sure to be done consistently - and well!

## Eco-Fresh Hang Tag

Environmentally friendly compared to most gel or metered aerosol air fresheners, Eco-Fresh Hang Tags are manufactured with over 50% less energy than typical plastic steel containers. The final package requires very little cube thus saving resources.

VOC Compliant in all 50 states. No ozone depleting ingredients. 1/10 the VOC's of most aerosols.

Easy to recycle only one material versus many. No cleaning or separating needed and no harmful chemicals to dispose of.

Freshens the air with 100% more fragrance than typical air fresheners. Keeps any area smelling cleaner, longer.

The Eco-Fresh Hang Tag easily hangs from a variety of objects like stall door stop, toilet handle, etc. For greater placement options, use the suction cups. Also works well in standard fan cabinets.

Fragrances: Spiced Apple and Mango

Packaging: 12 tags per box



## Myers Supply

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## Green Logic Organic Ice Melt



Green Logic Organic Ice Melt is a premium product designed specifically to melt ice and snow using natural ingredients. Safe and easy to use, this is another innovative product that does not harm the environment.

This fertilizer based ice melt is effective to temperatures of -10°F (-24°C), safe on concrete, and can be used around children and pets. The long lasting, super concentrated formula has a neutral pH, unlike salts that cause nutrient deficiencies in surrounding vegetation and taint our water system.

**Myers Chemical & Supplies**  
Get more product info at: [www.MyersSupply.com](http://www.MyersSupply.com)

[MyersSupply.com](http://MyersSupply.com)

## ErgoWorx Touchless Microtek Cleaning System Trolley



Continental Commercial Products introduces the first truly Touchless Microfiber Cleaning System. We've taken the advanced science of Microfiber and created a complete system which will significantly reduce the risk of cross-contamination when cleaning and disinfecting rooms.

The ErgoWorx™ Touchless Microtek Cleaning System:

**EFFECTIVE:** Truly a touch free system, eliminating the cleaners contact with contaminated mop heads.

**INTUITIVE:** Easy to use, reduces cost and time for training.

**AFFORDABLE:** No costly wringers, pumps, trolley carts, etc.

- The newest addition to the ErgoWorx™ System, the Microfiber Trolley. This Trolley can be added to the SYS -5 to create a mobile cleaning system that is both compact and efficient. The 3" non-marking, all swivel casters provide finger touch mobility, ideal for tight hallways and small rooms. The MFT-5 is designed to accommodate common cleaning tools including a wet floor sign, microflex duster, wipes and RTU trigger sprayer bottles.
- The ErgoWorx™ System is designed to fit all the most popular plastic and stainless steel Janitorial Carts made in the U.S. today.
- The ErgoWorx™ Solution and Discharge buckets are made from Derma-Tek™, non-porous plastic so they are easy to clean and help maintain a professional appearance. The Auto-Discharge mop frame is made from strong and durable glass filled nylon.
- ErgoWorx™ is completely non-ferrous, so it is safe for use in areas with MRI equipment and will not rust or corrode.

## Saber Blade 12

The Saber Blade is a 12-inch upright micro-scrubber perfect for congested areas. A more hygienic and efficient alternative to mopping, the Saber Blade 12 cleans the dirt and leaves the floor dry for a quick and safe return to the area.

It is also only 24 pounds and has a low 4" profile that allows the scrubber to clean almost anywhere.

### The Saber Blade 12 features:

- Solution tank designed to be filled at any sink
- Squeegee blades on either side of the cylindrical brush for water pick up in any direction
- Solution and recovery tank that can be removed together or separately to simplify filling and dumping
- Easy to understand controls
- No tool brush and squeegee removal



## SDA Launches SDAScience.org

The Soap and Detergent Association (SDA) launched SDAScience.org, a website that shares publicly SDA's vast portfolio of research on the safety and benefits of cleaning products and their ingredients.

"[SDAScience.org](http://SDAScience.org) puts valuable technical and scientific information at your fingertips," said Richard Sedlak, SDA Senior Vice President for Technical and International Affairs. "The research and data available here helps inform the public on the safety of cleaning products and their ingredients.

"Sharing this information is part of the long-standing commitment to product stewardship demonstrated by SDA and our members."

## Implementing A Green Cleaning Program

You did a thorough analysis. You've seen the health and financial benefits of instituting a green program at your institution. Now what do you do? It is important to take very specific steps when implementing a green program. Getting started the right way is key to the overall success of your program. Below are a few simple guidelines to help you implement a **SUCCESSFUL** Green Cleaning program.



**Obtain commitment** — Make sure everyone who works in the building understands that you are going green, the benefits and implications of the program, and the schedule for introduction. All levels of employees must be informed from the CEO to cleaning staff. The more support you receive in advance; the less resistance you will have during implementation.



**Promote, Promote, Promote** — Post notices and bulletins around your building. Write an article in the company newsletter. Even compose an article for the local newspaper. This will show the community your commitment to the environment and give your employees and tenants a sense of pride.

**Develop an implementation team** — Assemble a cross-functional team from management, purchasing, human resources, occupational safety and operations to develop a clear, concise program of implementation.



**Establish goals** — Identify what the most important achievable steps are and prioritize your goals.

**Establish an effective communication system** — Whether it is the company bulletin board, e-mail blasts, or other forms of communication, communicate on a frequent basis as to what will occur, why it will occur and when it will occur. Also, use this communication to gain input from members of the building.

**Identify building occupants or workers with special needs and sensitivities** — Individuals may be allergic to certain chemicals. Identifying those individuals upfront will help insure a smooth transition.



**Survey and evaluate your current cleaning products, equipment and procedures** — Use your current cleaning practices as your baseline. Set realistic goals to increase your green commitment over a certain time period. The Green Cleaning Training Workbook has an excellent survey to help you through this process.

**Institute a training schedule** — Explain to the workers what cleaners, procedures and equipment is being used and why. Make sure all applicable literature and MSD sheets are present for the staff to review. Making sure the cleaning staff knows how to use the products correctly is another key to a successful program.



**Create a pilot program** — Don't simply mandate green cleaning across every building of the campus or office park. Start small, choose a hall, or a wing. Understand the new procedures or chemicals. Adapt them to your specific cleaning location before instituting the program on a large basis.

**Develop an awards program** — Reward employees or occupants who have demonstrated the commitment to Green or offered suggestions to improve current practices.

**Continually monitor and assess your program** — Track your progress. Assess what is working successfully and what may not be working. Are you meeting your goals? Continually set new goals and objectives. Continue to expand your current program.



"Going Green" is a constantly evolving process. "Green" today will not be the "green" of the future. By following the guidelines listed above, you will begin the process of "green cleaning" which will lead to "better cleaning" in your facility. Myers Supply & Chemical has a complete line of cleaners, equipment and training programs to help you "green" your facility.



## Study: C. Diff Sickens More Than Previously Estimated

The life-threatening bacterium that causes diarrhea and more serious intestinal conditions, *Clostridium difficile*, is sickening many more patients than previously estimated, according to a new study released by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC).

“The National Prevalence Study of *Clostridium difficile* in U.S. Healthcare Facilities” indicates that 13 out of every 1,000 inpatients were either infected or colonized with *C. difficile*. Based on this rate, it is estimated that there are at least 7,178 inpatients on any one given day in American healthcare institutions with an associated cost of \$17.6 to \$51.5 million. The rate is 6.5 to 20 times greater than previous incidence estimates, according to the survey, released at APIC’s conference, “*Clostridium difficile*: A Call to Action,” in Orlando, Florida.

The APIC survey, the largest, most comprehensive of its kind, presents a one-day snapshot in time of the prevalence of *C. difficile* infection (CDI) in American hospitals. APIC’s 12,000 members collected data about all of their CDI patients on one day between May and August 2008. Survey results were collected from 12.5% of all medical facilities in the U.S. that care for virtually every type of patient, including those at acute care, cancer, cardiac, children’s, long-term care and rehabilitation hospitals. A total of 1,443 patients were identified with CDI from among the 648 participating hospitals.

CDI is most frequently associated with previous antibiotic use and is most commonly contracted by the elderly and those with recent exposure to hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare institutions. It is transmitted by hand contact with items contaminated by feces. In the last five years, a more virulent and antibiotic-resistant strain has developed which has been associated with more serious disease, treatment failures and deaths.

“This study shows that *C. difficile* infection is an escalating issue in our nation’s healthcare facilities,” said William Jarvis, MD, principal investigator of the study and president and co-founder of Jason and Jarvis Associates, a private consulting firm in healthcare epidemiology. “Clearly, preventing the development and transmission of CDI should be a top priority for every healthcare institution.”

According to the survey, 54.4 percent of patients with CDI were identified within 48 hours of admission and 84.7 percent were on the medical services, meaning they were being treated for general medical conditions like diabetes, pulmonary or cardiac problems and were on wards throughout the hospital.

“Our results show that the majority of CDI patients are admitted to the hospital already infected,” said APIC 2008 President Janet E. Frain, RN, CIC, CPHQ, CPHRM, Director, Integrated Services, Sutter Medical Center in Sacramento, CA. “Hospitals need to be looking for patients with severe diarrhea, and if CDI is suspected, promptly institute appropriate precautions such as gloves, gowns and separating patients, to avoid spreading the infection. Early recognition of CDI is critical so that prevention measures can be implemented.”

To reduce the risk of transmission, APIC has published a “Guide to the Elimination of *Clostridium difficile* in Healthcare Settings.” APIC recommendations include a risk assessment to identify high-risk areas for CDI within the institution; surveillance program to outline activities and procedures to provide early identification of CDI cases; adherence to CDC hand hygiene guidelines; use of contact precautions (e.g., gloves, gowns and separating CDI patients from other patients); environmental and equipment cleaning and decontamination, especially items that are close to patients such as bedrails and bedside equipment; and antimicrobial stewardship programs with focus on restriction of antibiotics associated with CDI and unnecessary antimicrobial use. APIC’s evidence-based elimination guides translate CDC recommendations into practice.

“Healthcare providers must intensify efforts toward developing prevention strategies that can be consistently applied across the continuum of care,” said APIC CEO Kathy L. Warye. “Control of CDI requires adequate numbers of infection preventionists and environmental services personnel, and prevention practices need to be part of everyone’s job within the institution. As part of our Targeting Zero initiative, APIC will continue to call for the commitment of clinical and administrative leadership to providing adequate resources for infection prevention programs to better protect patients in our nation’s healthcare facilities.”

The APIC National Prevalence Study of *Clostridium difficile* in U.S. Healthcare Facilities will be published in the American Journal of Infection Control. For more information about the study, visit [www.apic.org](http://www.apic.org).



## Activate Institutional Bleach Dilution System

Institutions using diluted 5.25% bleach to disinfect surfaces now have a safer and more efficient means of mixing and applying bleach at the recommended 10% dilution. Myers Supply has just introduced the Activate 5.25% Institutional Bleach Dilution System featuring a unique two-bottle trigger sprayer that automatically dilutes 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with water to a 5,000 ppm solution as you spray, so the solution is always active and accurate when you pull the trigger. The user simply fills the water cartridge with tap water and locks in replaceable 11 oz. Activate bleach cartridges as needed. The innovative new system does away with the time and bother of having to mix a fresh bleach solution every day and eliminates the waste involved in daily disposal of any leftover bleach mixture.

Activates sealed bleach cartridges eliminate closed-cap concerns and the hazard of spilling bleach on skin, clothing, and carpets as well as the danger of breathing fumes while mixing bleach.

The Activate™ system features EPA-registered 5.25% Institutional Bleach, easy-to-install cartridges, a durable spray-head with an ergonomic 3-finger trigger, and easy to locate NFPA ratings on the label.

- No More Handling Bleach
- No More Spills or Waste
- Easy to Use Lock-In



## What can I use to clean and disinfect surfaces and devices to help control *C. difficile*?

Surfaces should be kept clean, and body substance spills should be managed promptly as outlined in CDC's "Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities." Hospital cleaning products can be used for routine cleaning. Hypochlorite-based disinfectants have been used with some success for environmental surface disinfection in those patient-care areas where surveillance and epidemiology indicate ongoing transmission of *C. difficile*. Consult the aforementioned guidelines for use conditions for generic sources of hypochlorite-based products for disinfection of environmental surfaces.

Note: EPA-registered hospital disinfectants are recommended for general use whenever possible in patient-care areas. At present there are no EPA-registered products with specific claims for inactivating *C. difficile* spores, but there are a number of registered products that contain hypochlorite.



## Bleach for *C. difficile* environmental disinfection

Environmental contamination of *C. difficile* is due to persistence of spores that can be highly resistant to routine disinfectants and can survive on dry surfaces for many weeks or months. The rate of surface contamination increases in proportion to the *C. difficile* status, severity of diarrhea, and incontinence of patients in the area. Environments of asymptomatic carriers have lower rates than those of patients with symptomatic disease. Patient-care items such as reusable electronic thermometers have been implicated in outbreaks, and dedication of single use items to individual patients can eliminate this source of contamination. "High touch" surfaces in patients' bathrooms (eg, light switches) have also been implicated in outbreaks and should be targeted for enhanced environmental cleaning.

No well-controlled trials of disinfectants have been conducted; however, use of both unbuffered and phosphate-buffered hypochlorite solutions (bleach) has been shown to decrease rates of *C. difficile* contamination, and some studies suggest that cleaning with bleach may lower CDAD rates.

Although no disinfectants are registered with the Environmental Protection Agency with a claim for *C. difficile* spore inactivation, the HICPAC Guideline for Environmental Infection Control in Healthcare Facilities recommends "meticulous cleaning followed by disinfection using hypochlorite-based germicides as appropriate."

## LEED 2009 Passes Member Ballot

LEED 2009, the long-awaited update to the internationally recognized LEED green building certification program, has passed member ballot, and will be introduced in 2009 as the next major evolution of the existing LEED rating systems for commercial buildings. It includes a series of major technical advancements focused on improving energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions, and addressing other environmental and human health outcomes.

LEED 2009 will also incorporate highly anticipated regional credits, extra points that have been identified as priorities within a project's given environmental zone. LEED has also undergone a scientifically grounded re-weighting of credits, changing allocation of points among LEED credits to reflect climate change and energy efficiency as urgent priorities. This will be one of the most significant changes to the rating system, and will increase the importance of green building as a means of contributing immediate and measurable solutions toward energy independence, climate change mitigation, and other global priorities.



LEED 2009 incorporates eight years worth of market and user feedback in the form of precedent-setting Credit Interpretation Rulings, which will ensure clarity for project teams. Coupled with a credit alignment structure designed to create a more elegant and harmonized rating system, LEED 2009 will reset the bar for the certification of high-performance green buildings.

Process innovation in how new technical advancements are incorporated into LEED will also be introduced alongside LEED 2009, including a "pilot process" for individual credits that will allow major new technical developments to be flexibly trialed, evaluated, and incorporated into LEED.

"The conclusion of the balloting process marks the culmination of tireless work done by representatives from all corners of the building industry," said Brendan Owens, Vice President, LEED Technical Development, U.S. Green Building Council's. "We have the deepest gratitude for our volunteer leaders, and for their bold steps towards resetting the bar for green building leadership and challenges the industry to move faster and reach further."

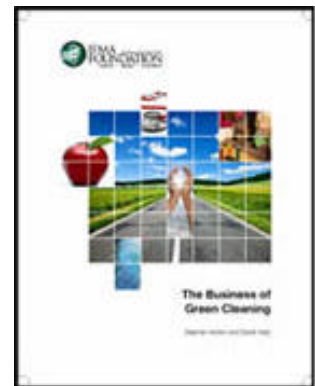
The first public comment period for LEED 2009 opened in May 2008, followed by a second in late August. USGBC had received nearly 7,000 comments from members and stakeholders at the conclusion of the second public comment period on September 2. The final step is the consensus development process for LEED 2009 was to be balloted for a pass/fail vote among USGBC's 18,000 member organizations. LEED 2009 successfully passed member ballot on November 14. Detailed information about specific proposed technical changes to the rating system can be found in the background documents that accompany the public comment forms on USGBC's Web site. <http://www.usgbc.org>

## New Green Cleaning Book Released

A new green cleaning book by Stephen Ashkin and David Holly, "The Business of Green Cleaning," has just been published and is now available to facility professionals. Ashkin, founder of the Green Cleaning Network and president of The Ashkin Group, is the leading advocacy organization promoting green cleaning in the professional cleaning industry. Holly is Director of Contractor Services for The Ashkin Group.

"The Business of Green Cleaning" is designed to help facility managers and others make a successful, trouble-free, and uncomplicated transition to a green cleaning program. The book features scores of practical green cleaning tips and a collection of 25 public - and private-sector green case studies from around the world.

"What makes this book so important is that it was commissioned by the IFMA (International Facility Management Association) Foundation and comes with the credibility of IFMA," says Ashkin. "It is specifically designed for IFMA members who are the ultimate 'customer' of the cleaning industry. As more facility managers transfer to green cleaning, this book will allow them to do so easily and with confidence."



The book is now available on the IFMA's online bookstore:

<http://www.ifma.org/eseries/source/Orders/index.cfm?section=orders&activeSection=Orders>



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