What's New Newsletter?

New Chariot i Scrub With EcoMode

Windsor has taken the industry's first stand-up platform automatic scrubber, the Chariot i Scrub, and made it even better. Providing more productivity and ease of use, Windsor introduces the next generation of Chariot iScrub—with added value, and at less cost.

Day Cleaning With EcoMode

The cleaning industry is trending toward day cleaning, or cleaning when the facility is occupied. Facility managers want to save energy by reducing the amount of electricity used at night. Buildings are also occupied for more hours of the day, making it necessary for cleaning professionals to accommodate an in-use environment more often.

The Chariot iScrub model was designed with day cleaning in mind.

- The EcoMode cleaning function operates at a significantly reduced sound level, measuring in at only 63 dBA making it ideal for noise-sensitive areas like hospitals and schools
- Swinging squeegee picks up 100% of water leaving a dry, safe floor
- EcoMode conserves water and extends cleaning time between tank refills by putting less water down
- EcoMode also extends battery life -and productive run time – by reducing pad pressure and reducing draw on the vacuum motor
- The unobtrusive design makes the Chariot unintimidating to people and its superior maneuverability allows it to be used without disrupting workflow

Solar-Powered Compaction System

BigBelly is the world's first and only solar-powered cordless compaction system. It uses the sun's energy to automatically compact trash at the point of disposal, dramatically increasing capacity by 5 times within the same footprint as ordinary receptacles. Increased capacity reduces collection trips and can cut related fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions by 80%.

The enclosed design keeps pests out and litter in. Safe and easy to use, the **BigBelly** has proven successful in urban streets, parks, colleges, arenas – and in all weather conditions. Also available with integrated recycling units. Made in USA. Contact your MYERS Sanitary Maintenance Consultant for more information.

Myers Supply
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New Energy Star ADS Low Temp

The decision making process to purchase a dish machine today has changed. Buyers are looking at energy efficiencies, environmental impact and cost of operation. ADS, well known for quality products and design innovations in ware -washing is leading the way by qualifying for **ENERGY STAR**.

ADS dish machines will allow operators to save money by significantly reducing energy and water consumption while providing the performance and results operators expect.

Myers Chemical & Supplies

Get more product info at: www.MyersSupply.com

5 Point Green Seal Cleaning System

Get your cleaning staff started right with GS 5-Point Green Seal Cleaning Starter Kit. Filled with Stearns top performing premeasured liquid cleaners, the Starter Kit also includes color-coded bottles, Material Safety Data Sheets and training material. Color coded products and packaging improves safety and simplifies training, even for the newest member of your cleaning team.

GS Extra Strength Cleaner Concentrate GS -37

HEAVY DUTY CLEANER / 72 X 2 oz

GS Extra-Strength Cleaner Concentrate is a non-flammable, medium-sudsing, heavy-duty all-purpose cleaner and degreaser with a readily biodegradable surfactant system. Superior penetration and removal of greasy soils. Fast, safe removal of ink, coffee, graphite, greases, and oils on all surfaces, including most clothing. Unlike harsh caustics and volatile solvents, *GS Extra-Strength Cleaner Concentrate* cleans safely without hazardous fumes and toxic by-products. It is ideal for use in food service areas, garages, and machine shops. *GS Extra-Strength Cleaner Concentrate* is non-toxic, non-butyl, phosphate free, and biodegradable.

GS Window Cleaner Concentrate GS -37

GLASS CLEANER / 48 X 2 oz

GS Window Cleaner Concentrate is a super concentrated window cleaner that leaves hard surfaces free of streaks, soils, smudges, and grease. *GS Window Cleaner Concentrate* is formulated without solvents, glycol ethers, or ammonia. Excellent performance on glass surfaces, windows, and mirrors. Safe on plastics and contains no VOC's. Packaged in recyclable plastic packs, *GS Window Cleaner Concentrate* is formulated to meet published standards of environmentally preferable industrial and institutional cleaners. These standards require low levels of human and aquatic toxicity, high levels of biodegradability and performance and reduced smog production potential.

GS Neutral Cleaner Concentrate GS -37

NEUTRAL CLEANER / 72 X 2 oz

GS Neutral Cleaner Concentrate is a mild concentrated pH neutral floor cleaner designed for mopping floors and for cleaning all washable surfaces. It contains no caustic, abrasive, or any harsh ingredients that mar fine floor finishes. *GS Neutral Cleaner Concentrate* dissolves completely in cold water and works equally well in hard or soft water. It leaves floors sparkling clean without a film or streaks. Packaged in recyclable plastic packs, *GS Neutral Cleaner Concentrate* is formulated to meet published standards of environmentally preferable industrial and institutional cleaners. These standards require low levels of human and aquatic toxicity, high levels of biodegradability and performance, and reduced smog production potential.

GS Restroom & Bowl Cleaner Concentrate GS -37

BATHROOM CLEANER / 72 X 2 oz

GS Restroom & Bowl Cleaner Concentrate is non-corrosive and free of harmful acids. It will clean toilet bowls, urinals, tile walls, tubs, and sinks with ease and safety. When diluted properly, *GS Restroom & Bowl Cleaner Concentrate* will break down and remove daily accumulations of soils, limescale, and urinary salts with its high-foaming action. Fresh clean fragrance.

ISSA & Ashkin Meet With EPA

ISSA Director of Legislative Affairs Bill Balek and The Ashkin Group President Stephen Ashkin met recently with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) Work Group on Comparative Claims in Washington, D.C., to recommended a pilot program that would allow manufacturers to make "green" claims on disinfectants and sanitizers used in institutional settings.

The EPA currently prohibits manufacturers or distributors from labeling or marketing disinfectants or sanitizers as green. This policy is based on the EPA's determination that Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, or FIFRA, registration is sufficient assurance of a product's safety and effectiveness and that any additional claims may be misleading.

However, ISSA and The Ashkin Group both maintain that the professional cleaning industry has broadly accepted the use of green cleaning products and that facility service providers want to be able to identify and use environmentally preferable disinfectants and sanitizers.

"Ultimately, we provided the EPA with three different options to consider," said Ashkin. "They agreed to meet with us again in February 2009 and, if they decide to move forward, we will meet again in April and should have an idea of what the [implementation] timetable will be."

Under the first option, manufacturers could have their disinfectants/sanitizers certified by leading certification organizations as they do now for other cleaning products and market them as green certified.

Under the second option, green-certification labeling and identification would be allowed only through the EPA's Design for the Environment program.

Under the third option, manufacturers would be allowed to make "factual claims" about their products, such as that they are biodegradable or made from bio-based ingredients, as long as the claim could be substantiated.

Observed ISSA's Balek: "We remain confident that the EPA will carve a reasonable path forward, allowing the use of objective and verifiable claims of environmental preferability regarding disinfectants and sanitizers to the benefit of the institutional market."

OSHA Cracks Down On PPE Requirements

The final rule on Clarification of Employers' Duty to Provide Personal Protective Equipment and Train Each Employee was recently published in the Federal Register. The rule revises OSHA standards to clarify that, for employers to be in compliance, they must provide personal protective equipment (PPE) and hazards training for each employee covered by the standards.

Each employee not protected may be considered a separate violation and penalties assessed accordingly. This revised language is consistent with language in other standards for which per-employee citations have been upheld.

The final rule amendments do not add new compliance obligations. Employers are not required to provide new kinds of PPE or hazards training or use a different approach than what is already required. Additionally, employers are not required to provide PPE or training to employees not already covered by existing requirements.

"This technical correction to the PPE standard brings it in line with other OSHA safety and health standards," said Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Thomas M. Stohler. "By making this change, those few employers who egregiously violate the OSHA PPE standard can be held fully accountable for violations affecting each employee who is not provided proper PPE.

This kind of vigorous enforcement is a vital component of OSHA's balanced approach to workplace safety and health."

ISSA Updates Green Procurement Guide

To ensure that ISSA members have the most recent information, the association updated its Guide to Green Cleaning Product Procurement Policies, Initiatives, and Requirements in the United States.

The ISSA Guide to Green Procurement Policies is a comprehensive resource that summarizes the state, local, and federal government programs and policies that require or encourage the procurement and implementation of green cleaning products and services.

ISSA updated the Guide to include the latest information on:

- The USDA Bio-based Procurement Program, which recently issued guidelines for the designation of bio-based cleaning products
- The EPA Design for the Environment Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative (SDSI) that recently recognized more than 30 ISSA member companies for their environmental stewardship
- Missouri's green cleaning for schools guidelines and specifications that are presently being developed
- Maine's implementation of its green cleaning guidelines for schools.

http://www.issa.com/greenprocure

The U.S. EPA Encourages Recycling

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the average American discards about 4.6 pounds of trash every day.

This trash goes mostly to landfills where it is compacted and buried. But within your trash are many valuable resources that can be recycled and reused, such as glass, aluminum, paper, yard clippings and even food scraps. As the population grows and the amount of trash created continues to grow, so will pressure on our landfills, our resources and our environment.

If you're looking for a way to join the "going green" revolution, recycling is an easy activity that produces significant results. Check with your municipality to find out how to get started. November 15 – America Recycles Day is a great time to begin.

Recycling is not a new phenomenon, according to the National Recycling Coalition, ". . . before the 1920s, 70 percent of U.S. cities ran programs to recycle certain materials. During World War II, industry recycled and reused about 25 percent of the waste stream."

More recent statistics indicate that the nation's composting and recycling rate rose from 7.7 percent of the waste stream in 1960 to 17 percent in 1990. Currently the number hovers around 33 percent. The higher we go, the more energy we save.

If you think your contribution doesn't matter, you are wrong. Last year the amount of energy saved from recycling aluminum and steel cans, plastic and glass containers, newsprint and corrugated packaging was equivalent to the amount of gasoline used by almost 11 million cars or the amount of electricity consumed by 17.8 million Americans in a year.

Closer to home think about this: Americans throw away about 28 billion bottles and jars every year. Just by recycling one glass container, enough energy is saved to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours. It all comes back to you! Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

NCL announces partner status with EPA

National Chemical Laboratories Inc. announces its intention to remove all bio-accumulative surfactant systems from all cleaning and maintenance chemical formulations over the next 36 months, according to a press release.

This announcement is made in conjunction with NCL's recently awarded Partner Recognition Status with the U.S. EPA's Design for the Environment Safer Detergents Stewardship Initiative (SDSI), the release stated.

Since 1994, NCL has spearheaded efforts to provide the sanitary maintenance industry with products that minimize impact on both human health and the environment, the release noted. NCL President Harry Pollack said: "This recognition from the U.S. EPA's Design for the Environment underscores our full commitment to provide green solutions for the industry and to support programs that champion environmentally responsibility and a positive human health profile."

Preventing "C.diff": Cleaning Is Essential

Hygiene is the best defense against today's superbugs, MRSA and VRE. But it is also the best known shield against the next germ threat, Clostridium difficile or "C. diff." C. diff. killed more patients in England in 2006 than MRSA, and the same hyper-virulent strain, dubbed ribotype 027, has invaded some hospitals in the U.S. and Canada. In fact, despite almost no news coverage until 2007, C. diff has been causing trouble for several years.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracked a nearly twofold increase in C. diff infections from 1996 to 2003. Two statewide studies in Oregon and Massachusetts found C. diff infections increasing at an even faster pace. In the Montreal area of Canada, C. diff increased fivefold from 1997 to 2004. Worse still, in both Canada and the U.S., the mortality rate from this disease is rising. Therefore, it's more important than ever to prevent it with rigorous hygiene, education of caregivers, and prudent use of antibiotics.

So what do we need to know about this bacterial villain? Outside of hospitals, it is normally found in the gastrointestinal tracts of about 5% of the general population. It doesn't usually cause trouble because other bacteria keep C. diff from getting out of control. In hospitals, the story changes. When a patient is put on antibiotics, the balance of bacteria in his gastro-intestinal system is affected, and C. diff. may take over, causing severe, watery diarrhea and inflammation of the colon.

It's the out of control nature of watery diarrhea that allows C. diff to spread so fast in a hospital. Although a small number of patients come into the hospital with C. diff spores in their bodies, many more ingest the germ through oral-fecal contamination, meaning traces of one patient's feces enter another patient's mouth. How could such a thing happen? The only answer is inadequate cleaning. Patients pick up the C. diff spores off contaminated bedrails, IV poles, tables, and other surfaces, virtually anywhere their hands can reach. Then they touch their lips, or touch their food and swallow C.diff along with their dinner roll. Caregivers unwittingly carry C. diff spores on their hands, uniforms, and equipment from patient to patient.

A 2006 study in the Journal of Hospital Infection showed that one-third of blood pressure cuffs rolled from room to room carried C. diff spores on the inside of the cuff. It's a short trip from a patient's arm to their fingertips and their mouth. Occasionally patients also get C. diff from inadequately cleaned rectal thermometers and endoscopes.

Environmental cleaning is so important that when it is not done regularly and rigorously, placing a patient in a room previously occupied by a patient with C. diff can be a fatal mistake. At Thomas Jefferson University Medical Center in Philadelphia, where C. diff was raging, three patients occupying the same room consecutively came down with C. diff. One died as a result.

Preventing "C.diff": Cleaning Is Essential

In July and August, of 2005, eight infants in the neonatal intensive care unit at Intermountain Healthcare in Provo, Utah contracted C. diff. All eight infected infants had shared one of three beds in a corner of the NICU. The longer the hospital stay and the closer one is to a patient with C. diff, the greater the risk of contracting it.

Training environmental services staff on how to clean more thoroughly is essential. At Case Western Reserve and the Cleveland VA Medical Center, researchers cultured commonly touched surfaces such as bed rails, telephones, call buttons, toilet seats, and bedside tables in the rooms of patients with C. Diff. After routine cleaning, 78% of the surfaces were still contaminated with C. diff spores. But once researchers disinfected the rooms, including surfaces commonly overlooked by cleaners, with bleach, only 1% of surfaces were still contaminated.

Dr. Carlene Muto and her colleagues at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center –Presbyterian faced a 400% increase in C. diff infections in the year 2000. They responded with a comprehensive strategy that emphasized rigorous cleaning with bleach and rapid identification and isolation of C.diff positive patients to prevent the bacteria from spreading to other patients. (Additional interventions included reliance on soap and water rather than alcohol-based sanitizers to clean care-givers' hands, and controlled use of antibiotics beginning in 2003). This comprehensive strategy worked. By 2006, C. diff rates were down 71%, and severe cases of C. diff associated diarrhea fell by 89%.

At Intermountain Healthcare, after the eight infants contracted C. diff, the affected corner of the NICU was "cleaned from top to bottom," according to researchers there, including rockers and scales. "We launched extensive staff education related to C. difficile and its ability to be found on environmental surfaces," and "the importance of washing hands with soap and water when caring for a patient with C. difficile," they reported. The results? Not one new case of C. diff in the NICU in the next two years.

Educating hospital personnel on how patients are exposed to C. diff spores is essential. A study at one hospital found that resident physicians and other medical personnel were woefully under informed about C. diff. For example, 39% didn't know that C. diff spores could be transmitted from patient to patient on equipment such as stethoscopes and blood pressure cuffs. Nearly 20% incorrectly thought C. diff was a blood borne pathogen, and almost 9% incorrectly believed it was transmitted through the air. Only about one third of medical professionals knew that cleaning hands with soap and water was essential, because alcohol sanitizers are often ineffective against C. diff. This knowledge gap is dangerous to patients and costly to hospitals.

Looking Ahead: Though more research needs to be done, preliminary results suggest that adding a lactobacillus acidophilus milk product to the daily diet of patients on antibiotics may be effective at reducing antibiotic-associated diarrhea (AAD), including diarrhea caused by C. diff. A double blind study certain probiotics are effective, compared with a placebo, in reducing the incidence of antibiotic associated diarrhea by about half in patients on a variety of antibiotic regiments. The study suggests that some specific organisms may help restoring the normal balance of bacteria in the gastro-intestinal system to spare patients from life-threatening diarrhea. If more research confirms these initial findings, hospitals may want to consider adding a nutritional supplement routinely to the diets of patients on antibiotics.

Based on an assessment of the increased length of stay required to treat C. diff patients in Massachusetts, researchers estimated "conservatively" that in 2005 alone, treating C. diff added $3.2 billion to the cost of treating hospital patients nationwide.

Cleaning the hospital environment, educating personnel about C. diff., and controlling antibiotic use are essential to meet the C. diff challenge. In addition, hospitals need to consider two other strategies. One is rigorous hand hygiene for patients. Nonambulatory patients are frequently handed a food tray, but have no way to clean their hands before dining. Their hands are contaminated with C. diff spores, which they ingest as they eat. Whenever and wherever C. diff threatens, patients need to be helped to clean their hands routinely before meals.

rid Committee to reduce infection deaths **http://www.hospitalinfection.org/**