

Less Toxic Cleaners & Cleaning Methods

Ken Allen, Washington County Facilities

Speech Notes: (MRSA)

Buildings and footages: We (Facilities) maintain

- 16 buildings
- Approximately 1,000,000 sq ft. (The building we are in now Cottage Grove SSC is approximately 37,000 sq ft. In a couple of more years we will have the courts expansion completed which will add an additional 300,000 sq ft. which we will be adding additional staff
- Now we are do this using 28 Utility Workers, 5 Techs and numerous contractors.

Changes in equipment and cleaners:

- Over the last 16 years that I have been here we have tried to find chemicals/equipment which are safer for employees, the environment and help increase productive. While still being able to get the job accomplished in a timely cost efficient manner.
 - Chemicals: we are trying to no longer use chemicals that have the potential to harm our staff or the environment. Such as certain strippers, sealers, acids etc...
 - We use sanitizers instead of disinfects when possible; but we still use disinfect as needed; depending on the situation or building (Law Enforcement Center versus Government Center) will determine sometime what we use.
 - Sanitizers are ready to use and do not leave residual that will harm people if used properly.
 - Disinfects are used in restrooms or housing units to make sure we are getting rid of as many viruses and bacteria as possible. We use a weaker disinfectant with a ten minute dwell time and we will also use a stronger brand with a one minute dwell time. (MRSA Law enforcement center)
 - Note: Personal protection and turn over time for cells.
 - We use salt based chemicals for removing hard water from sinks instead of harsh acids.
 - Machines that help increase productivity by accomplishing the job in a more efficient and timely manner such as our battered operated vacuum cleaners; wider path, curb brush and on board chargers) compared to our older vacuums; with bag that would put more dust into the air when you vacuumed, then we used the cup vacuums again when new they worked pretty good and then the cloth bag would fill with dirt and again you would start putting dust back into the room, we are using vacuum's that are removing 99.9% of the dust out of the air using three filter system and heppa filters.
 - Machines like the Host (liberator) we use for grouted floors (The chemical is a mixture of processed natural organic fibers moistened with a water/detergent/solvent solution).
 - Trap-n-dust: dust and dirt clings to the cloth better then dusters; allowing us to dust spaces when they are occupied. We can use these for dusting of furniture or dust mopping floors.

In concluding: We should never stop looking at new products/equipment that becomes available to us. These products can help protect the staff, the environment and also productivity.