

Facts About "Buying Green"

WHAT IS IT?

- Environmentally Preferable Products are those products that have a lesser impact on human health and the environment when compared with other products. This comparison includes the whole life cycle: raw material acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse and/or disposal of the product. Thus, purchasing these products help to reduce the amount of waste, saves energy, and helps keep the air and water clean.

HOW WILL I KNOW?

- Green companies that offer environmentally friendly products usually have special labels on their items. If there is no specific label, look for environmentally friendly terms i.e. recycled material, plant-based, or even the ingredient labels being chemical free. Buying Green means looking for these labels and purchasing these items when you can. For several examples of labels to look for, please see the back of this Brochure.

DOES IT REALLY HELP?

- Buying green reduces the amount of waste.
- It also helps reduce the amount of dangerous chemicals released into the air by factories, disposition of materials and goods because green products have less or lower content of harmful chemicals.
- **SAVES MONEY:** Sure, you may spend a little bit more on energy efficient products, for example, but over time, you will save on your electric bill because these products are designed to reduce the amount of energy needed to run.

For more information please visit www.epa.gov

Contact Numbers

Please direct your questions to:

Green Procurement

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OR

EMS Coordinator (see below)

General EMS related questions

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GREEN PROCUREMENT

Environmentally Friendly Buying

Good For the Earth and Your Wallet



!!! ATTENTION!!!

The **Green Procurement Team** is looking for ideas ... what products do you purchase in order to do your job effectively? Have you checked to see if there is an environmentally preferable item available?

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USAG ANSBACH
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Main Focus...

When purchasing products for your home to be more environmentally friendly, you should look into buying green.

PAPER

- Most Americans on average use 749 pounds of paper per year. (stopwaste.org).
- By reducing the amount of paper you use, you are reducing the need to cut down trees, reducing solid waste that ends up in landfills, saving on energy and water required to make paper products, and helping to keep the air clean from gas emissions used in bleaching paper.
- The best paper products to use are recycled products. Recycled products are less harmful to the environment and are no more expensive than buying non-recycled products.
- Also, try using less or no paper products in your home, such as napkins, paper plates, and paper towels.

CLEANERS

- Chemicals released from cleaning products can cause a number of health related issues. It also attributes to global warming throughout its lifecycle.
- When you wash chemical cleaning products down your drain, some of the chemicals do not break down at treatment facilities causing water pollution.

- Even the packaging of chemical cleaning products is not environmentally friendly because they are often times not recyclable and become solid waste.
- There are ways you can help:
 1. Don't just look for "biodegradable", look for "biodegradable in a specific number of days" and "plant-based" labels.



2. Buy large containers to reduces packaging waste and saves you money. Concentrated formulas are a good way to save money and help cut down on solid waste.
3. Make your own cleaners with simple and cheap ingredients like vinegar and baking soda.

PAINT

- VOC (volatile organic compound) in paints is particularly harmful to the environment as well as your health. VOC contributes to ozone depletion and smog. It has also been linked to respiratory illness and memory impairment.
- There is a higher level of concentrated VOC indoors than outdoors as VOC is emitted as a gas. The most common example is formaldehyde.
- There are even products, such as paints and wallpapers, that absorb VOC.
- VOC free paint is more environmentally friendly because it reduces contaminants in the air, water, and ground.
- VOC free paint is very readily available and there are several companies that offer VOC free or Low VOC paint options.

Why else should you buy it?

All it takes is soap and water to clean the walls, rollers, and brushes as it is water-based.

ENERGY and WATER

- Buying energy and water efficient electronics and appliances is a good way to not only save you money, but help cut back on use and waste.
- "If every American replaced their 5 most frequently used light fixtures or light bulbs with Energy Star, we would save \$8 billion each year." (www.epa.gov)
- For a list of products that are energy efficient please visit energystar.gov.
- WaterSense is the equivalent of Energy Star in terms of reducing water use. Look to purchase or request major appliances with this label. Front-load washers are more efficient than top-load ones. Combined with doing only full loads of laundry and dishes, you could save a lot of money each year.
- Replacing the shower faucet in your house with a WaterSense one, is inexpensive, saves you money, and can save over 700 gallons of water each month.

What Can I Do?



- Purchase reusable products such as non-plastic water bottles.
- Use green cleaners or simply make your own cleaning supplies.
- Purchase products that are sold in semi-recycled or recycled packaging.
- Use recycled paper at the office, home, and school. Try to buy paper with the highest postconsumer content available.
- Buy organic food, or even better, go to your local Farmer's Market to purchase your groceries.
- When you are doing maintenance on your vehicle, don't use solvents or at least use environmentally friendly solvents.