

Facts About "Buying Green"

What is it?

Environmentally Preferable Products are products that have a lesser impact on human health and the environment when compared with other products. This comparison includes the entire 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, save energy and keeps the air and water clean.

What to look for?

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). For several examples of labels, please refer to 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.

Does It Really Save \$?

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

Guide To:



!!!ATTENTION!!!

The **Green Procurement Team** is looking for your 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 the home or office, you should consider looking into buying “green”. Not only would you be helping the environment, you will also save money over time. Consider the following when making your next purchases...

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 cutting down of trees,
 - solid waste from being landfilled,
 - 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.

CLEANERS

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

- Packaging of chemical cleaning products are also not environmentally friendly. They are often times not recyclable and become solid waste.
- **There are ways you can help:**
 - Look for packaging that is biodegradable in a specific number of days and “plant-based”.
 - Buying large containers helps reduce packaging waste and saves you money.
 - Concentrated formulas are a good way to save money and help cut down on solid waste.
 - 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.
- Formaldehyde is the most common form of gas emitted by high VOC paints.
- There are even products, such as paints and wallpapers, that absorb VOCs.
- VOC-Free paint is more environmentally friendly because it reduces contaminants in the air, water, and ground.
- VOC-Free paint is readily available for purchase, and at a cost no more than higher-concentrated of VOC paints.

Why should you buy VOC-Free products?

All it takes is soap and water to clean the walls, rollers, and brushes as it is a water-based product, making it safe for you, your family, colleagues and environment.

ENERGY and WATER

- Buying energy and water efficient electronics and appliances are a good way to save 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 [in energy costs].” (www.epa.gov)
- For a list of products that are energy efficient please visit energystar.gov.
- WaterSense is equivalent to Energy Star in terms of water reduction. 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 faucet is inexpensive, money saving 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 post-consumer 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.