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**7 Surprising
Business
Benefits of
Adopting More
Sustainable
Cleaning Regimes**

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Balancing environmental diligence with high standards of cleaning and hygiene can be difficult challenge for facilities management teams. However, there are some advantages of adopting more sustainable cleaning regimes which can deliver excellent cleaning standards and realise some of the business benefits of this approach

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About the author

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Edward collaborate with customers to understand and define their challenges in achieving cleaning and hygiene standards, and then delivers innovative solutions, be it through products or services.

He works with frontline cleaning teams and management teams, work forces and executives to ensure customer-driven solutions.

Working with wet hands, and contact with soaps and cleaning materials is the most common causes of occupational contact dermatitis

1. Reduce risks in health and safety

- ▶ Risk prevention and assessment management remains a significant workload on a business' manpower and time resource. Utilising environmentally friendly cleaning products can significantly reduce the risks to your staff, primarily your line-level cleaning staff.
- ▶ Handling, transporting, storing and most importantly using conventional cleaning products can put your employees at risk of chemical burns and damage, especially to the skin and eyes. Adopting a sustainable cleaning regime is a quick and effective way to reduce these risks.

2. Cleaning power won't be sacrificed

- ▶ Another primary concern about adopting a sustainable cleaning regime is that the products themselves will be less effective than conventional cleaning products.
- ▶ Modern sustainable cleaning products are often developed by companies who collaborate with specialised developers and chemists, to ensure every product meets or exceeds the stringent hygiene and cleanliness requirements of specific industry sectors, including healthcare and food-processing.



3. You won't have to spend more money

- ▶ The prospect of spending more on sustainable cleaning products can be an unattractive option when organisations and businesses are constantly (and understandably) striving to keep costs low, and want to choose a range of products which are financially viable for their budget.
- ▶ A common misconception surrounding sustainable cleaning regimes is that they cost more than conventional cleaning products. As more and more sustainable cleaning product ranges have emerged in recent years, manufacturers have been able to drive costs down, so switching to these types of products is now both ecologically and economically sustainable.
- ▶ For example, a number of sustainable cleaning sprays use a specialised inbuilt dosing control mechanism to allow safe, mobile and easy dosing.



4. Cut or eliminate hazardous waste production

- ▶ The UK government stipulates a 'duty of care' such that businesses ensure they handle any hazardous waste in a way that causes no harm or damage.
- ▶ By avoiding the use of harmful chemicals in your cleaning products, you can significantly reduce, if not eliminate, the output of toxic and hazardous waste products generated by your facilities management activity, thereby reducing the cost of removing hazardous waste products safely.

5. Improve the health of your staff and clients

- ▶ Switching to eco-friendly cleaning regimes is a great way of helping to keep your cleaning workforce and any clients or customers who may come into contact with your cleaning products healthy and happy.
- ▶ The Health and Safety Executive has warned of the risk of conventional cleaning chemicals in association with a number of adverse health effects including dermatitis, headaches and dizziness, and clinical research has shown that conventional cleaning products can trigger asthma symptoms in susceptible individuals.
- ▶ Ensuring your cleaning staff are in good shape will improve both their quality of work and job satisfaction – there isn't much point in investing in an excellent range of cleaning products without a satisfied and capable workforce to use them!

6. It's in the name...

- ▶ Eco-friendly cleaning products reduce the ever-growing global burden that climate change, production of greenhouse gases and synthesis of toxic chemicals have created.
- ▶ When you care for the environment, your cleaning and hygiene practices can make a real contribution to preserving and protecting our natural flora and fauna for future generations.
- ▶ By investing in ecologically sustainable cleaning products, your organisation can help to prevent water pollution, air pollution and depletion of the ozone layer – giving you and your employees an extra reason to sleep well at night!
- ▶ You will also be seen to be contributing to your organisations sustainability programmes and reputation.

7. Enhance your reputation and impress your clients

- ▶ The chances are that customers and clients will come into contact with your cleaning services at some point or another, especially in public buildings and spaces.
- ▶ Switching to cleaning products which are ecologically sustainable, can allow customers and clients to see the pride your organisation takes in its image and daily maintenance, and reinforce your commitment to maintaining effective and sustainable health and safety standards.
- ▶ Boost your rating with assessment protocols like the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), and show off your certification for clients and customers to appreciate.

93% of global citizens will have a more positive image of an organisation which addresses social and environmental issues, and 90% will be more likely to trust that organisation



Conclusion

While switching to a sustainable cleaning regime may appear to be an inconvenience in the short term, the business benefits are real and are becoming increasingly meaningful. When price and efficacy don't have to be sacrificed, environmentally friendly cleaning products can be an economically and ecologically sustainable option for your organisation.





Learn how to get the best value from your cleaning operations

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