

# WHAT GREEN SEAL CERTIFIES

Commercial & Institutional Cleaning Services (GS-42, Edition 2.2)



## IT ENSURES YOU ARE DOING YOUR BEST FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND OUR PLANET

The standard covers both in-house and external cleaning services. It includes all custodial activities typically required to clean indoor areas of commercial, public, and industrial buildings, and areas directly outside building entryways. It does not cover residential buildings, or the maintenance of any exterior areas such as parking lots, grounds, or picnic areas.

	What's included	What it means
<b>COMPLIANCE</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Quality assurance</b> practices and record</li> <li>✓ <b>Environmental</b> impact practices and record</li> <li>✓ <b>Safety</b> practices and record</li> <li>✓ <b>Regulatory</b> compliance practices and record</li> <li>✓ <b>Green cleaning</b> services customer audit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validation from a respected, independent authority that your custodial team complies with all required practices and procedures.</li> </ul>
<b>OPERATIONS</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Comprehensive cleaning plan</b> documentation for every building</li> <li>✓ <b>General cleaning</b> practices and procedures for all building areas for routine, periodic, interim, and restorative purposes</li> <li>✓ <b>Green cleaning</b> practices and procedures for all high impact methods:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Disinfection</li> <li>○ Cleaning cloths usage</li> <li>○ Powered equipment usage</li> <li>○ Waste and recycling management</li> <li>○ Vulnerable populations sensitivity</li> <li>○ Indoor Plants</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ <b>Storage and handling</b> practices and procedures for all cleaning products</li> <li>✓ <b>Equipment maintenance</b> practices and procedures for vacuum cleaners and other powered cleaning tools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved occupant health from reduced exposure to dust and toxic chemicals.</li> <li>• Decreased incidences of occupant asthma attacks.</li> <li>• Safer indoor air.</li> <li>• Notable reductions in waste generation.</li> <li>• A higher quality service process through careful implementation.</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Internal</b> practices and procedures for cleaning staff feedback about workplace issues</li> <li>✓ <b>External</b> practices and procedures for cleaning staff communications with clients' building management and tenants</li> <li>✓ <b>Green cleaning</b> communication practices and procedures for high impact concerns:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pest control</li> <li>○ Construction and building improvements</li> <li>○ Building maintenance</li> <li>○ Vulnerable populations</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ <b>Product safety data</b> communication practices and procedures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Openness and integrity in communications between all parties.</li> <li>• Important information is available to all parties, enabling everyone to do their best work for occupants.</li> </ul>
<b>PURCHASING</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Cleaning products</b> usage                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Environmentally preferable</li> <li>○ Minimizes packaging waste</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ <b>Powered equipment</b> meets green industry standards</li> <li>✓ <b>Quarterly tracking and reporting</b> of all cleaning products and supplies purchases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High quality cleaning performance.</li> <li>• Reduced overall environmental impact of your building.</li> <li>• Minimal packaging waste for your building.</li> <li>• Exceptional value.</li> </ul>
<b>TRAINING</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Cleaning staff</b> training practices:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>New hires</b> (minimum requirement: 12 hours)</li> <li>○ <b>Safety</b></li> <li>○ <b>Site-specific</b></li> <li>○ <b>Annual</b> (minimum requirement: 24 hours)</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ <b>Procurement staff</b> training practices on green cleaning products, supplies and equipment</li> <li>✓ <b>Tracking and reporting</b> of all staff training required by the standard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaning staff is trained in the safe and effective handling and use of all cleaning products, cleaning procedures, use and maintenance of cleaning equipment, and all procedures needed to conform to this standard.</li> </ul>



A certified cleaning service ensures a quality operation carried out by a highly trained workforce who are skilled in effective green cleaning practices. Certified cleaning companies create a safer, healthier environment for custodial teams and building occupants.

Learn more about Green Seal's environmental leadership standards and certification programs at [GreenSeal.org](http://GreenSeal.org).

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