



**THE ORIGINAL GREEN  
SEAL OF APPROVAL  
SINCE 1989**

# **GS-40** Green Seal™ Standard for Floor-Care Products for Industrial & Institutional Use

## ***A Guide to Leadership in I&I Floor-Care Products***

Floor-care products are vital for maintaining an aesthetically pleasing indoor environment but may harm human and environmental health. Many chemicals found in these products can be hazardous to human and aquatic life, and both manufacturers and users may be exposed to harmful chemicals.

These products often contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), chemicals that can have short and long-term health effects, and contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone pollution.

Green Seal offers the GS-40 Standard as a comprehensive benchmark for sustainable floor-care products for industrial and institutional use, identifying those products that are leaders in the industry.



### ***Scope of GS-40***

This standard establishes requirements for industrial and institutional floor-care products including floor finish (floor polish) and floor finish stripper. This standard does not address general-purpose cleaners, floor sealers, and products that remove floor wax solely through abrasion.

### **Key Areas Addressed**

GS-40 protects water and air quality, health, and the environment by requiring products to be sold in concentrated form, prohibiting harmful chemicals, specifying sustainable packaging, and limiting VOC content. These criteria are intended to protect the health of building occupants and those using the product as well as lower the impact of the product on the environment.

The requirements in the standard cover:

- Product Performance
- Health and Environmental Protection
- Training and Labeling

### ***Product Performance***

Certified floor-care products must demonstrate effective performance, comparable or superior to that of nationally-recognized products in their categories. These products must meet requirements for slip resistance, removability, soil resistance, and detergent resistance, as applicable have a removal ease rating of “good” and limited slip resistance when used as directed. The performance is measured using industry-standard test methods.

**SUSTAINABILITY  
LEADERSHIP STANDARDS**



**INDEPENDENT  
THIRD-PARTY  
CERTIFICATION**



**SUSTAINABILITY  
RESEARCH &  
LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS**



**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
FOR INSTITUTIONAL  
GREENING**



## **Human Health and Environmental Protection**

GS-40 enhances the safety of floor-care products by requiring them to be non-toxic and non-irritating corrosive to skin and eyes. They cannot be formulated with harmful chemicals from a comprehensive list, which includes heavy metals, phthalates, carcinogens, mutagens, reproductive toxins, asthmagens, optical brighteners, and ozone depleting compounds.

Water quality is protected by setting limits on phosphorus content (to prevent eutrophication) and on environmental toxicity and bioaccumulation (to prevent harmful chemicals accumulating in the waterways).

The content of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) is limited in order to prevent ground level ozone air pollution and to protect the health of users. The standard also sets requirements for products to have recyclable packaging, identification of fragrances, and alternate testing methods to avoid new animal testing.

## **Training and Labeling Requirements**

Specific training or training materials on the proper use of the product must be offered. Both product labeling and training materials must contain clear instructions for use, dilution, refilling, disposal, recycling, appropriate precautions, and recommendations for the use of personal protective equipment. The product label shall include English and another language or English and a graphical representation or icons.

**This is only a summary of the standard.**

**The full standard is available for download at [GreenSeal.org/GS40](http://GreenSeal.org/GS40)**

For more information call: 202.872.6400 or email: [green seal@green seal.org](mailto:green seal@green seal.org)