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FOCUS ON GREEN CLEANING
Sourcing more sustainable cleaning products.

HAND HYGIENE
Superbugs and Antibiotic Resistance. For the last century, medical professionals and microbiologists have waged a war against germs of every type. With the breakthrough of antibiotics, the world in which we live has changed.

PEST CONTROL
Maintaining a pest-free facility from the outside-in. Landscaping can add value and charm to any property - but its appearance reaches past people to pests, which savour the food, shelter and water the landscaping can provide.

CSSA TODAY
CSSA Girl Power builds walls for a cause. Female members of the Canadian Sanitation Supply Association took part in Habitat for Humanity Toronto’s 2013 Women Build campaign.

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IN THE FIELD
Laundry departments “CAN” make a difference. Like most healthcare facilities in Ontario, the facility operates with many budgetary restraints. After an operational reduction of 28 hours weekly in 2008, the stress of the laundry department was becoming unbearable.

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INDUSTRY NEWS
News highlights from the industry.

Students spend approximately 1600 hours per year in primary and secondary schools. With kids in school for an average of 18 years, one can only imagine the time spent inside a school environment during their formative years. (Page 26)
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ISSA Announces 2013 Innovation Award Winners

ISSA, the worldwide cleaning industry association, congratulates the winners of the 2013 ISSA Innovation Award Program, which were announced during ISSA/INTERCLEAN® North America, Nov. 20 at the Las Vegas Convention Centre in Las Vegas, NV.

This annual program provides cleaning industry distributors and end-customers – including building service contractors and in-house service professionals – the opportunity to choose which innovations in five categories take home awards. The 2013 contest featured 43 entries. The categories were Cleaning Agents, Dispensers, Equipment, Services and Technology, and Supplies. The five category winners, which were chosen over three months of online voting, are listed below.

In addition, this year’s program allowed distributor, wholesaler and facility service provider attendees of ISSA/CLEAN® North America 2013 to choose five additional Visitors’ Choice awards by voting in the ISSA Innovation Showcase onsite. The Visitors’ Choice award winners are also listed below.

“Anyone interested in seeing the future of the industry need look no further than the ISSA Innovation Award program,” said Anthony Trombetta, ISSA director of sales. “These forward-thinking products and services are proof that the cleaning industry is constantly evolving and providing the innovative tools necessary to help industry professionals change the way the world views cleaning.”

The 2013 ISSA Innovation Award Category winners include the following:

- **Cleaning Agents** – Clorox Professional Products Co., Clorox Commercial Solutions® Clorox® Urine Remover.
- **Dispensers** – SCA, Tork Xpress® Countertop Multi-fold Hand Towel Dispenser.
- **Equipment** – Advance, SC1500™ REV™.
- **Services & Technology** – CleanTelligent Software, Mobile Surveys and Work Orders.
- **Supplies** – Rubbermaid Commercial Products Inc.,
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- Makes closing easy and convenient.
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- Drawstring closure creates a convenient carry handle.
- Drawstring feature allows hands to be clean and free from contact with garbage.
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- Excellent puncture and tear strength.
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Alte-Rego Corporation
flexible packaging solutions

Female members of the Canadian Sanitation Supply Association (CSSA) took part in Habitat for Humanity Toronto’s 2013 Women Build campaign and broke ground on a six-home site for Habitat Partner Families.

The “Girls Can Do It Too” team donned their hard hats and steel toe boots to help build Habitat homes for 35 men, women and children, and help reach an ambitious goal of raising $1 million for the charity.

Team members, Kellan Robinson (Cross Country Installation & Service); Fanika Perika (Cross Country Installation & Service); Allie Shaw (Acosta); Karen Kennedy (Kruger); Marney Thompson (Kruger); Lorrie Clark (Permanent Search Group); Karen Sinclair (ASI/Watrous); and Christine Bradley (KB Medland) worked side by side with hammers, saws and tool belts to inspire and drive change in the community. The ladies raised three exterior walls and $5,322.14 towards this fantastic cause.

The “Girls Can Do It Too” team would like to thank their corporate donors, Kruger Products, P & G, GOJO Canada, Wood Wyant, Canada Hand Dryer, Deb Canada, ASI/Watrous and Cross Country Installation & Service.

The “Girls Can Do It Too” team is already recruiting volunteers for the 2014 Women Build event (dates TBD). If you are interested, please e-mail: info@ccis-service.com. Your name will be added to the team and you will be kept abreast of any information as it becomes available.

Habitat for Humanity Toronto launched 2013 Women Build, empowering women volunteers to help build safe, decent homes for six hardworking families.
“Our staff works very hard! That, along with our decision to use Buckeye products, produces fantastic results. We are very proud of the appearance of this facility and it is obvious to everyone when they enter the school.”

~ Holy Trinity School
Richardson Hill, Ontario

Pictured (from left to right): Irene Boutakis, Fernando Tongco, Mary Bramley, Jeselito Bermuda (kneeling), Leonard Dobbin

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For the last century, medical professionals and microbiologists have waged a war against germs of every type. With the breakthrough of antibiotics, the world in which we live has changed. It also changed the world for our symbionts, the four- to six-pounds of bacteria, fungi and viruses who have hung on to our species through thick and thin for eons of time; to them we are their movable feast.

It was indeed a war that we appeared to be winning. We thought we were firmly living in the ‘Antibiotic-Age’ and it was here to stay for all time. However, while we were basking in its potency, unfortunately we were also rapidly and inexplicably sowing the seeds of its demise.

In a recent landmark report, U.S. Health policy makers warn that, with mounting evidence of superbugs overcoming our antibiotics, our situation is extremely serious. The report gives a glimpse of the world to come, as even now there are a dozen different drug resistant microbial species that have totally overcome our existing antibiotics. These resistant strains are now responsible for causing two million infections and 23,000 deaths each year in the United States alone. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the rapid emergence of multi-drug resistant (MDR) strains calls for a comprehensive and coordinated response to prevent a global catastrophe. The WHO warns that, “…many infectious diseases are rapidly becoming untreatable and uncontrollable.”

CDC director Tom Frieden said that we must take urgent action to “change the way antibiotics are used” by cutting unneeded use in humans and animals, and take basic steps to prevent infections in the first place. The tools we have at our disposal, besides tracking resistant infections, are vaccines, safe food and patient infection control practices, paired with effective and enlightened hand hygiene.

Human populations weather numerous plagues before antibiotics were discovered. It is edifying that geneticists have found that the human genome is littered with the remnants of our past battles with pathogens. The difference is that today we know how to effectively apply all of the preventive measures that are at our disposal.

We should keep in mind that the advent of infectious disease adapted to humans is a relatively recent phenomenon. The ‘Post-Antibiotic Age’, if it comes, rep-
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The American Lung Association and ProTeam are partners in an educational campaign about Indoor Air Quality issues. The American Lung Association does not endorse products or services.
resents the ongoing evolution between a microbe and its human host, with hand and surface hygiene reigning supreme as the most effective means of preventing infection. These elements, along with water, sanitation and hygienic treatment of human waste, have formed the basis for the hygiene revolution over the last 100 years. Within this, the discovery and development of antibiotics is perhaps the short lived apex or crowning glory of the revolution.

To rise to the challenge, we need to recognize that our bodies are complex ecological systems and the maintenance of our barrier function is critical to preventing skin infection and keeping out invading pathogens. This is no more than an extension and further development of the original hygiene revolution, where we see the true relations between living organisms and the many elements of the environment. Skin health is critical to maintaining hand hygiene compliance. Hand hygiene is certainly capable of rising to the challenge, but not if skin is damaged. In the *Post-Antibiotic Age* maintaining healthy skin will be essential to preventing a wide range of infections caused by strains we helped to create.

Healthy hands are safe hands, but hand hygiene does not have to go it alone if there is a “sea-change” with respect to how agri-food producers and healthcare professionals utilize antibiotics. CDC Director Frieden stated that, “It’s not too late,” but that there is a list of urgent and life-threatening infections that must be addressed via a more effective collaboration; they include carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE), drug resistant gonorrhea and *C. difficile*. The WHO has called for the agri-food industry to take the threat of MDRs seriously and curb over use of antibiotics, particularly as it is estimated that there is at least a 1000-fold greater use of antibiotics (in absolute tonnage), compared to humans. In hospitals we must embrace best antibiotic and hygiene practices to make a turn from what the Centre for Global Development has called “a decade of neglect.” We need to “get smart” and set targets for reducing antibiotic use in healthcare facilities.

Let’s all appreciate the good microbial flora and fauna that exist on and in us, as without these little creatures life as we know it would not exist. We should also recognize that the more bad bugs encounter antibiotics, the more likely they are to adapt. As Health Canada puts it, “Do bugs need drugs?” While antibiotics have allowed us to temporarily gain the upper hand, nothing lasts forever but with a holistic view of hand hygiene, there is no reason why we can’t continue to improve our control of infections. For this to happen, there can be no excuses or compromises for effective hand hygiene practices.

Barry Michaels has over 40 years experience in the field of infectious disease investigation, control and prevention. His research work has involved a wide variety of viral, bacterial and fungal pathogens focused on antimicrobial intervention strategies. Previously having worked as staff microbiologist for Georgia-Pacific Corp. for over 14 years, he is now founder and director of B. Michaels Group Inc., a consultant group active in areas of product safety, product development, regulatory affairs and microbiology related to personal hygiene, surface sanitation and glove use in food, healthcare and various other occupational fields.

ISSA 2013 Innovation Award Winners

Collapsible X-Cart.

The 2013 ISSA Innovation Award Visitors’ Choice winners included:

- Banana Products Co., The Banana Cone.
- Clorox Professional Products Co., Clorox Commercial Solutions® Clorox® Urine Remover.
- Rubbermaid Commercial Products Inc., Collapsible X-Cart.
- Tennant Co., T12 Battery Rider Scrubber with IRIS Technology.

To view all entries in this year’s program, visit www.issa.com/vote.
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Landscaping can add value and charm to any property – but its appeal reaches past people to pests, which savour the food, shelter and water the landscaping can provide. Keeping a facility clean and pest-free starts outside, as poorly managed landscaping can attract pests that will jump, fly or crawl at the first opportunity to get inside where they can cause damage and contamination. The types of foliage planted and how well a landscape is maintained can be the difference between a beautiful garden and pest-free property, and an exterior that rolls out the red carpet for pests.

Certain landscaping provides the perfect haven and food source for pests – not to mention harbourage. Proper landscaping is an important, yet often overlooked, step towards implementing an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. This proactive approach takes facility maintenance and sanitation best practices into account to reduce pest pressures in and around your building, reducing the need for reactive measures.

For example, wasps, bees and other flying and stinging pests are attracted to blooming plants like chrysanthemums, daisies, geraniums and roses. Overgrown shrubs and thorny bushes that cover the ground provide harbourage for rats, mice, squirrels, raccoons, skunks and insects that are looking for ways to enter the warmth and shelter of a building, especially during the winter months. Avoid planting ivy, spreading yews and creeping junipers when possible. If keeping these plants off a property is not an option, trimming them above ground and inspecting them regularly will help minimize pest activity.

Continued On Page 16
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Plants like wisteria and honeysuckle grow quickly and attract various pests. Rhododendrons are a great alternative to these plants because they bloom earlier in the year circumventing peak pest season. Pests are also attracted to fleshy, bright coloured fruit, nut and seed bearing plants so use alternative plants where possible, such as evergreen shrubs. Aromatic plants such as catnip, rosemary, lavender, mint and garlic have the potential to repel pests and keep them away; therefore, should be incorporated into landscaping when appropriate.

There are steps you can take with existing landscaping to manage pests and prevent them from taking over the land and entering nearby property. These include:

- Trim plants and trees back at least half a metre from exterior walls to reduce pest harbourage and access to buildings.
- Grade ground away from a building to allow water to flow away from it instead of toward it. Moisture attracts pests, and some only need minimal amounts to survive.
- Install a half-metre strip of gravel or crushed limestone barrier around the exterior of a building to discourage pests from gathering there. Rodents dislike traveling out in the open and crawling insects will be deterred by the rocky obstacle.
- Keep an eye out for struggling plants. When vegetation is planted in an unsuitable environment it becomes stressed and more vulnerable to pests. Maintain plants’ health with fertilizer and proper watering to help them defend themselves, but do not over fertilize, it can be an attractant.
- Use pencil cedar mulch, rock or rubber instead of organic mulch, which retains moisture helping to sustain pests. Regardless of the mulch you choose, the bed should be no more than five centimetres deep.
- Decorative statues and stones should be placed away from buildings since they trap moisture and provide damp, cool areas that pests can hide in.
- Be careful not to mow grass too short or severely prune trees and shrubs as it can weaken them and make them more susceptible to pest problems.
- Don’t forget the rooftop. Eliminate standing water that can provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes, midges and gnats, and may attract birds to the building.

Many people think that colder months are a time to relax when it comes to pest management, but taking proactive steps during this time can have a big impact on deterring pest activity when warm weather returns. Cooler temperatures are the best time to trim and prune plants. It is also a time when rodents are seeking shelter and protection for the winter. Work with your pest management professional now to help keep your facility pest-free from the outside in.

Aline Sinia, Ph.D., is Quality Assurance Manager—Regulatory / Lab Services for Orkin Canada focusing on government regulations pertaining to the pest control industry. With more than 10 years of experience, she manages the Quality Assurance Laboratory for Orkin Canada and performs analytical entomology as well as provides technical support in pest/insect identification to branch offices and clients. For more information, e-mail Aline Sinia at asinia@orkincanada.com or visit www.orkincanada.com.
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*PURELL Advanced Hand Rub gel formulation. Based on the 2009 Health Canada GUIDANCE DOCUMENT Human-Use Antiseptic Drugs, EN-182959. Murine norovirus was used as a surrogate for human norovirus.

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Sourcing More Sustainable Cleaning Products

By KATE RUSNAK, Marketing Manager, UL Environment

Purchasing cleaning products has taken on a new dimension since “green” and “sustainability” attributes entered the institutional sphere. While “green” cleaning products have existed for decades, an increase in recent demands for healthier, more sustainable cleaning solutions has heightened pressure on facility managers and building owners to become savvier procurement professionals.

The good news is there are a vast array of sustainable cleaning products to choose from, and multiple tools are at your disposal to help make smarter purchasing decisions to meet occupant and building needs.

SUSTAINABLE CLEANING GOALS

Many facilities and institutions have implemented sustainable cleaning policies, and have made decisions about key issues they want to focus on such as: impact on the cleaning staff, occupants, and visitors of the facility; indoor air quality; waste, water and energy management; and environmental protection. Before venturing in search of greener cleaning products for your building, a first step should be to identify the objectives for buying more responsible cleaning products. Suggested questions to ask include:

- What issues related to cleaning and maintenance have your building occupants raised?
- Does your facility have sustainability goals?
- Is it important to address multiple environmental health impacts or just one?

Gaining an understanding of the areas to focus the cleaning and maintenance efforts on will help narrow the scope of sustainable cleaning products you are searching for and help meet your stakeholders’ expectations.

TYPES OF SUSTAINABLE CLEANING PRODUCTS

Today’s cleaning products come with a vast array of marketed benefits from “no VOCs” to “environmentally-friendly” to “all natural.” The recent release of the Federal Trade Commission’s revised Green Guides and subsequent action against misleading claims, has prompted many manufacturers to substantiate their green marketing claims, though buyers should still beware. Becoming familiar with the types of eco-labels and certifications that exist will help identify credible cleaning products with proven, reduced environmental and human health impacts.

Multi-attribute certifications take into account every phase of a product’s lifecycle, including: impact of harvesting the raw materials; manufacturing process; product use; distribution; and disposal (or recycling/re-use). Also, typically included is a review of the ingredients to ensure it contains no carcinogens, mutagens, teratogens, etc. Human health and safety are further addressed by a review of other typical information such as toxicity, pH and more. The benefit of a multi-attribute certification is that it assures a facility manager that multiple environmental and human health impacts of a product have been addressed. Examples of multi-attribute eco-labels are EcoLogo and Green Seal.

Another type of certification, single-attribute certification, specifically addresses one environmental impact category, such as energy efficiency, indoor air quality or recycled content. Examples
include GREENGUARD Certification, ENERGY STAR, an Environmental Claims Validation (ECV) by UL Environment, and USDA Bio-Preferred Program. Single-attribute certifications can supplement and help strengthen multi-attribute certifications, particularly when the multi-attribute certification does not address certain environmental impacts or when there is a need to provide greater information about the attribute.

Cleaning products with a certification are not all equal, since ecolabels are divided into three types as defined by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Type I labels are defined as third-party verified ecolabels representing lifecycle-based, multi-attribute product certifications. Examples include EcoLogo and Green Seal. Type II labels represent a self-declared environmental claim and, as they lack verification by an independent party, they are considered first-party certifications. Lastly, Type III ecolabels do not define or assess the product’s performance against any standards, but they do provide disclosure and transparency.

Knowing the differences between the types of certifications will help in identifying the cleaning products that meet your facility’s needs.

SUSTAINABLE SOURCING TOOLS

This is where your search for more sustainable cleaning products gets much easier. Organizations like UL Environment, the Canadian Sanitation Supply Association (CSSA) and Transpare have created tools to help you find and identify sustainable cleaning products that are the best fit for your facility and meet your cleaning objectives. Here are the top tools to help you source the most sustainable cleaning products:

• UL Environment’s Sustainable Product Guide – ul.com/spg

UL Environment, provider of the EcoLogo and Green Guard certifications, recently launched a new and improved Sustainable Product guide to help users search for and find certified cleaning products with reduced environmental impacts and low chemical emissions. This online tool allows users to view product images, descriptions, certification certificates and company contact information. Among features to come online in the coming weeks is the ability to search for products by sustainable building program credits such as LEED v4 EBOM.

All cleaning products displayed in this product guide have achieved either EcoLogo certification for reduced environmental impacts or Green Guard certification for low chemical emissions or both, assuring purchasers that all of the products displayed meet the highest standards for health and environmental leadership.

• The Canadian Green Sustainabil-

ity Program – cssa.com

CSSA’s Canadian Green Sustainability Program (CGSP) is both a training tool for employees and a green cleaning certification for facilities. The program covers many areas of sustainability within the built environment, including: indoor air quality, waste management, green policies, products and procedures (EcoLogo and Green Seal certified products are recognized) and more.

Training and accreditation is geared to building service contractors, in-house service providers, distributors, manufacturers, building owners and facility managers who work in the cleaning industry, and are interested in pursuing and demonstrating their sustainable cleaning expertise. Trained professionals leave the program with expertise that will help them navigate purchasing with far greater ease and confidence.

• Transpare® - transpare.com

Another purchasing tool that exists is the Transpare product registry. Created by Ecoform and ISSA in consultation with a broad-based committee of stakeholders including UL Environment, the registry lists environmental, health and safety attributes of commercial cleaning products. This free tool allows purchasers to search for, filter, customize and compare cleaning products based on the needs of their building occupants and organizational sustain-

Continued On Page 38
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It might surprise a lot of building owners and managers to learn that about 10 years ago distributors of janitorial products were very reluctant to market green cleaning products. Most still believed that only a very small segment of their customers would ever want them, and that those that did ask for them would usually shy away once they discovered there was – at that time – a big difference in price and performance between conventional and green cleaning chemicals.

Fast-forward to today. Studies conducted by industry associations, such as the Canadian Sanitation Supply Association (CSSA) and ISSA, report that more than one-third of all sales by janitorial distributors are green cleaning products, and that this percentage is likely to keep growing in years to come. Further, the selection of green cleaning products will continue to evolve and not just focus on environmentally preferable cleaning chemicals. It will also include bio-based cleaning products, floor machines, carpet extractors, vacuum cleaners and other types of janitorial equipment now designed specifically to be used when a green cleaning strategy is in place.

Green cleaning, as an accepted way of cleaning facilities, will continue to grow. However, other changes are in store for the green cleaning movement, including a greater emphasis on green buildings, greater transparency and a renewed focus on cleaning to protect human health.
LEED HAS LED THE WAY

Without question, the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) has been a key driving force for green cleaning and will continue to do so in the future. The LEED certification program, which awards points to facilities that meet certain green criteria and standards, dates back to the late 1990s. By the mid-2000s, some building owners and managers assumed, and rightly so, that the future of commercial real estate was green. Facilities could earn points if they had a green cleaning strategy in place, and because this was one of the easiest and least costly initiatives they could take to earn LEED points, adopting green cleaning was often one of the first things they did.

Starting with just a few buildings participating in the program, by 2012 it was estimated that more than two billion square feet of commercial space was LEED certified. Additionally:

• From 2011 to 2012, LEED-registered floor area was up 45 per cent.
• Registrations rose by 53 per cent overseas and 39 per cent in the United States.
• LEED-EBOM (Existing Buildings, Operations and Maintenance) experienced an 18 per cent increase in registered floor area.

LEED has placed on green cleaning and the impact it will have on the future. Further, we are finding that more facilities today are no longer seeking LEED certification, but still want to be “greener” facilities by adopting LEED criteria and, more specifically, green cleaning.

GREATER TRANSPARENCY

At one time there was a belief that most green cleaning products designed for the same purpose were fairly similar in how they were made and what ingredients they contained. However, that was not the case then, and it certainly is not the case now. For instance, two all-purpose cleaners may be both certified green by the same organization, but one product—when used in a school, for instance—cause children to have a respiratory reaction. This is likely because while the product is made from ingredients that are accepted as green and have a reduced impact on health and the environment, may also include an
ingredient(s) that can cause this reaction; an ingredient(s) that the other product does not contain and thus does not cause the same reaction.

Because of these variations in green products, many purchasers are becoming much more sophisticated and discerning when purchasing them. They want more information about all the ingredients in the green products they select, as well as any possible reactions these ingredients may cause. Further, customers want to know not only if the product is green but also why it is green, how green it is, who certifies that it is green, and if it meets corporate sustainability objectives,* a new concern now evolving in more and more facilities. In order to get these questions and more answered, managers will want, if not demand, more reliable and proven information about the products they select, thus providing greater transparency of green cleaning products.

CLEANING TO PROTECT HEALTH

One of the goals of using green cleaning products and implementing green cleaning strategies is to help reduce the impact of cleaning on health and the environment. However, if the products do not perform – if they do not remove unwanted pathogens that can cause cross-contamination or other health-related problems – than their use will be for naught, as the primary goal of cleaning is to protect health.

To help evaluate the effectiveness of green cleaning products, what we are likely to see evolve is a greater use of ATP testing devices. These systems, many of which look similar to a television remote control, can detect if adenosine triphosphate is on a surface. While ATP’s presence on a surface does not necessarily indicate a health risk is present, it does serve as a warning that bacteria and germs may be present.**

Green cleaning products, combined with the use of these testing systems, will not only reduce cleaning’s impact on health and the environment, but also help assure building users that their facilities are being effectively and hygienically cleaned. Ultimately, this is the future of green cleaning.

Jennifer Meek is the director of Marketing for Charlotte Products / Enviro-Solutions, Canadian-based manufacturers of professional cleaning and Green cleaning products. She may be reached via her company web site at www.envirosolution.com.

* Corporate sustainability objectives involve seeking a long-term balance among people, the planet and profits. In order to meet these objectives, many businesses not only have established their own sustainability goals, but now require vendors and suppliers to have similar corporate sustainability objectives in place as well.

** ATP systems have been used in chemical laboratories, cosmetic labs, “clean rooms,” food service facilities and grocery stores for years to ensure surfaces are free of potential contaminants that may negatively impact health.
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http://cssa.cloudsearchportal.com
Canadian children spend a significant amount of time in schools. Students spend approximately 1600 hours per year in primary and secondary schools. With kids in school for an average of 18 years, one can only imagine the time spent inside a school environment during their formative years.

We need to ensure that all schools are free of indoor environmental pollutants and irritants that could affect the health and productivity of students and staff. A school’s environment possesses great potential to impact the health and futures of the individuals within them, and the strength and productivity of society itself. Therefore, it is critical that schools provide a healthy environment for learning and growing.

It is estimated that 25 per cent of the chemicals used in traditional cleaning products are toxic. With students spending so many hours in school, they are at risk when exposed to these toxins. Because the organ systems of school-aged children are still developing, inhaling harmful chemicals and toxins can cause respiratory problems such as wheezing, worsening of asthma, nosebleeds and nasal congestion. Exposure can also lead to other symptoms, including headaches, nausea, fever, muscle aches and skin rashes. In a recent CTV news report, a half-dozen children at an Ottawa elementary school suffered burns to their backsides after their skin came in contact with residue from a solution used to clean toilets, desks and other surfaces.

As children grow and spend most of
their time in schools, they can be exposed to a wide variety of chemicals. Different chemicals can affect different organs, hormonal systems and biochemical pathways. Those chemicals that act as endocrine disruptors will have a variable effect depending on the child’s age and stage of hormonal development. A child’s ‘dose’ per body weight is likely to be much higher than adults, and children are not uniformly exposed to environmental risk factors.2

Children are different adults in the composition of their body, blood and organ size, which means that children are less able to handle toxins. Low body fat combined with proportionally larger organs in children leads to greater distribution and storage of toxins. Furthermore, children have higher respiratory and energy metabolisms. Chemical compounds are broken down in the body into metabolites. Some of these metabolites are more toxic than the parent compound. Children’s pathways are immature and may not be able to metabolize the same chemicals that are also found in young adulthood.

Unfortunately, most government standards aimed at limiting exposures are based on adult exposures. There are many questions about the scientific accuracy of these standards and whether they are protective enough even for adults.

In addition to being exposed to airborne chemicals, children have frequent hand-to-mouth contact, which can lead to accidental ingestion of harmful chemicals found in cleaning supplies. Switching to green cleaning products in schools can reduce these child health concerns, and often eliminate the symptoms brought on by chemicals found in traditional cleaning products.

There’s a growing body of evidence making a connection between how well children perform in school and life, and toxins in their environment. Lead poisoning, for example, has been shown to lower IQ and shorten attention spans. Children with high levels of lead in their body have more trouble concentrating and following directions, and tend not to do as well in school. They are also more prone to impulsivity and antisocial behaviour, including violence.

INDOOR AIR QUALITY (IAQ) PROBLEMS

According to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, occupants of buildings with poor Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) report a wide range of health problems, which are known as Sick Building Syndrome (SBS) or Tight Building Syndrome (TBS), Building-Related Illness (BRI) and Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS).

The term Sick Building Syndrome (SBS) is used to describe cases in which building occupants experience adverse health effects that are apparently linked to the time they spend in the building. However, no specific illnesses or cause can be identified. Building-Related Illness (BRI) refers to less frequent (but often more serious) cases of people becoming ill after being in a specific building at a certain time.
Figures are hard to come by, but studies have estimated that a third or more of Canadian schools have mould, dust and other indoor air problems serious enough to provoke respiratory issues like asthma in students and teachers. A national survey of school nurses found that 40 per cent knew of children and staff who were adversely affected by indoor pollutants. Indoor air affects more than health. A growing body of research suggests students also perform better in schools with healthier air.

Indoors, factors such as mould, mildew, dust, asbestos and formaldehyde can affect indoor air quality and trigger various allergies and asthma. Asthma alone accounts for 14 million missed school days each year. The rate of asthma has risen by 160 per cent in the last 15 years and today, one in every 13 school-age children has asthma.

Indoor air contaminants can originate either within the school building or be drawn in from outdoors. If pollutant sources are not controlled, IAQ problems can arise, even if the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system and other building components are properly operated and maintained.

According to Statistics Canada National Population Health Survey Overview, the top three chronic illnesses among Canadian children are non-food allergies (which affect 14 per cent of children), asthma (11 per cent), and food allergies (six per cent). The dominant allergens and respiratory irritants which are known to be associated with these chronic conditions are frequently found in indoor environments where children spend, on average, 90 per cent of their time.

Unfortunately, asthma has increased steadily in Canada over the last 20 years, especially in children. Studies suggest that this increase is due, at least in part, to increased exposure and sensitivity to indoor allergens. Exposure to these contaminants is especially high in Canada with long, cold winters that increase the need to stay indoors and the need for well-insulated indoor environments.

Asthma is the leading cause of absenteeism in school children in both Canada and the United States. Frequent, short absences from school due to asthma seem more detrimental to academic performance than occasional long absences for other reasons.

Other specific health risks associated with traditional cleaning chemicals include eye and skin irritations, and even cancer. Recent research suggests that between 10 and 16 per cent of cancers can be related to known cancer-causing substances in con-
ventional cleaning products. These conditions were found in indoor environments where there was inadequate ventilation, where man-made synthetic materials were commonly found (including carpets), and where traditional cleaning supplies were used. In addition, indoor air pollutant levels can vary by time and location within the school building, or even within a single classroom.

Each school should consider developing policies on fragrance-free products in consultation with provincial and territorial authorities. Symptoms associated with poor IAQ include classic irritation symptoms – headaches, dizziness, hyperactivity, fatigue, memory loss, short attention span and moodiness.

Facility flooring plays an important role in IAQ. IAQ improves when hard-surface floors are maintained with a program that includes daily sweeping, cleaning and maintenance to capture and remove dust particles from the indoor environment. Hazardous chemicals found in conventional cleaning products can also trigger asthma and allergy attacks. Whether it is skin or odor sensitivity, these factors do not help the students and/or teachers while they are in school.

These symptoms, at the very least, are believed to interfere with students’ concentration and ultimately their school performance. At a time when the number of students with asthma has reached new highs – and when cities and school boards are increasingly focused on the importance of maximum attendance – the emergence of new, greener cleaning technologies including sustainable floor care products and processes for cleaning and maintaining schools are now making it possible to provide significantly healthier buildings for students and staff. And, it can be done without burdening school budgets.

CHOOSING CLEANING PRODUCTS

Taking the time to do your research will enable you to find the right cleaning program to suit your needs and budget. For example, look for third-party certifications. UL Environment (EcoLogo) is widely known as the premiere mark of environmental standards. Also, it is important to review each product’s Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for ingredients that may harm the user. The MSDS sheets are important in that they provide you with instructions regarding proper handling and storage of the products, how to protect yourself from exposure, and the type of measures and clothing to use for personal protection. MSDS act as a tool to gauge how sustainable a product really is. Finally, ask for proper training from your cleaning solution provider.

A regular sanitation program is necessary to ensure high IAQ as it helps to remove contaminants from the building environment. Cleaning not only gives your...
Lee Manor is a 150 bed long-term care facility located in Owen Sound, ON, and surrounded by the beautiful Grey County countryside.

Like most healthcare facilities in Ontario, the facility operates with many budgetary restraints. After an operational reduction of 28 hours weekly in 2008, the stress of the laundry department was becoming unbearable.

Overwhelmed, to say the least, this loyal group of workers made suggestions and accepted ideas. They placed the needs of the residents in the forefront and the following changes were developed over a two-year period.

First, the group eliminated the word ‘CAN’T’ from its vocabulary. They realized they could do anything. It may take a little longer, but with patience, the department would see the benefits. Management accepted the fact that they would have to invest in new equipment. A commitment was made between the groups, and the two openly discussed the plan, challenges and achievements of the laundry department.

The department was able to wash all the linens it received during the day, but never seemed to have time to fold it and return it back to the floors. As with most facilities, Lee Manor used only white products – facecloths, hand and bathing towels. This created a mountain of white laundry, hindering sorting and folding. Several small individual discussions took place, followed by group discussions, where individual ideas were hashed out.

The recommendation to change several colours of products was implemented. It was decided that brown cloths would be used for peri care; blue for facecloths; yellow for hand towels; and white remained for bathing. The financial impact was very...
Building a Healthier School Environment for Children

Our Future Generation

Little as the department moved all of its older white products to reserve for emergency pandemic planning. This simple move enabled the laundry aides to become less burdened with sorting, but it still didn’t resolve the folding issue.

The department reached out to their sales representative from MIP, the linen supplier, for assistance. He introduced the department to a cart that would hold folded and unfolded items. The department tested three of these carts in one area (see pictures on page 30). Bathing towels would still be folded, but the remaining linen was to be placed unfolded in mesh laundry bags and then delivered daily to the floors. Nursing staff refill the floor carts when required.

The department struggled with washing, folding and delivering the never-ending flow of laundry, which equaled approximately 1200 pounds every day.

Lee Manor now has 15 linen floor carts throughout its facility, which has saved laundry staff approximately 35 hours weekly. This process, accompanied by a new vision, resulted in a positive financial return in a mere 18 weeks.

The Lee Manor group of laundry aides are loyal and creative, but are also aging and face challenges with physical demands. This issue was tackled by changing from 50 pound chemical pails to a one formula washing product – weighing in at about six pounds. This has resulted in three years of ZERO lost time injuries in the workplace, as well as yet maintaining a very high-end, clean linen product.

The staff of the Lee Manor laundry department leaves at the end of the day on a very positive note. It has fully-stocked carts on the floors, the staff are happier, less stressed physically and emotionally, and they are proud of the fact they helped solve the problem.

This situation really proved that the laundry department really CAN do anything they put their minds to.

School a positive aesthetic, but it is essential to ensure the optimal performance of students, as well as teachers, administrators, custodians and other school staff.

To fully reap the rewards of a sustainable sanitation program, safer alternatives to traditional cleaning products should be used. In addition to benefits provided by traditional cleaning, green cleaning promotes health, safety and social consciousness. When choosing green cleaning products, it is important to be aware of the different options on the market, as not all green cleaning products are created equal.

Therefore, it is important to do the research in order to ensure that you have chosen the best products for your needs. The products you choose should meet the following criteria:

• **Performance** – saves time while cleaning effectively and ensures the pristine appearance of your educational institution.

• **People** – Safeguards the health and safety of students, teachers and staff.

• **Planet** – Raw materials should be biodegradable and meet the highest environmental standards for safe storage, transportation and disposal. More specifically, materials used should be safe on our water systems and aquatic life.

• **Price** – Priced competitively when compared to conventional cleaning products in the same categories.

It is worth noting that even “green” chemicals can be harmful if not used properly. For example, most of the exposed limits included in the UL (EcoLogo) Standard is based on an assumption that products will be diluted properly. If they are not, some of the UL (EcoLogo) certified products – or the products certified by other rating organizations – may be hazardous. For this reason, it is important to look for products with dilution control systems.

By providing accurate dilutions, the products will perform at their optimal level, thereby maximizing effectiveness by preventing wastage, and making cleaning easier and safer on your employees.

Outstanding customer service, support and training can be as important as the right cleaning solution. Look for a company who offers added value, tools and support in the form of hands-on-training, sanitation programs, wall charts, proper labels and MSDS. These tools are an integral part of the process of going green because the products you choose will enable you to be a responsible leader in your community without compromising your health, the health of those around you and that of future generations.

**FOOTNOTES**

(1) http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/ottawa-schoolchildren-burned-by-school-toilet-seats-1.1153595

(2) Impact of Environmental Toxins on the Health of Children, written by Dr. Sharyn Martin for ASEHA Qld Inc. 2005.

(3) http://www.gotmold.ca/2012/02/should-canadian-school-boards-be-concerned-about-mold/

(4) http://worldasthmafoundation.org/asthma-facts


**REFERENCES**


NACECARE INTRODUCES NEW FLOOR MACHINES

The new TT3226 26-inch ride-on scrubber is based on NaceCare’s popular TTV678 model, and features four, 100 ah gel batteries which are said to provide over three-and-one-half-hours of run-time on a single charge. A large, 32-gallon tank means less refilling and greater productivity.

The simplified control panel allows for easier use and the water flow is adjustable with the push of a button. The brush pressure is adjustable and the patented pop on/ pop off brush system makes for easy brush changes. The 600 watt traction motor drives at speeds up to 4.3 mph and the 70-inch turning radius allows for tight turns in narrow aisles.

NaceCare has also introduced the TT516 compact autoscrubber which is said to get into tight areas that other auto scrubbers cannot. Essentially, it is a complete replacement for a mop and bucket system for a variety of reasons. The TT516 features a 300-watt vacuum motor coupled with a 180 degree pivoting squeegee for excellent water recovery.

For more information, contact NaceCare Solutions at (905) 795-0122 or visit the company’s web site at www.nacecare.com.

TRI-PEEK INTERNATIONAL LTD. – A POLISHED PERFORMANCE

Tri-Peek polish is a product that many households have learned the benefit of over the years – including Her Majesty the Queen. Over the years, Tri-Peek polish had been used on the Royal Yacht Britannia along with a variety of other uses required by Buckingham Palace. In 2005 Tri-Peek was awarded the Royal Warrant as purveyors of metal polish.

Founder Robert Peek is very proud to have been awarded the prestigious Royal Warrant and is delighted his product has the royal seal of approval. The company’s humble beginnings date back to the 1980s when the polish was first sold out of the back of a car by Peek, and then later progressed to its first premises in Epping.

Working less as an abrasive and more on a chemical reaction, the polish became increasingly in demand thanks to its extraordinary results in the triumphant restoration of anything from sinks to boats or bikes to golf clubs.

Tri-Peek’s present Saffron Walden base is now the epicentre of the Peek Polish phenomenon, which has a glowing reputation across several continents as well as within the royal household.

For more information, contact Tri-Peek International at (877) 615-4272 or visit the company’s web site at www.peekpolish.com.

SPARKLING DISHES WITH GREEN CERTIFIED DISH LIQUID

ES 79+ from Enviro-Solutions is said to be no ordinary dish detergent. Green certified by the UL Environment program, the dish detergent is said to cut through grease and grime on dishes, glasses, utensils, pots and pans, leaving them all sparkling clean.

Easy rinsing for streak-free results, it is also gentle on the hands. The green-coloured dishwashing liquid has a subtle, but pleasant lime fragrance. It is not designed for automatic dishwasher use, but instead for hand-washing and dish cleaning needs.

For more information, contact Enviro-Solutions at (877) 674-4373 or visit the company’s web site at http://enviro-solution.com/index.php.

VILEDA SPRAY PRO – MOPPING WITHOUT A BUCKET

Vileda Professional has introduced the ready-to-use SprayPro floor mopping system, which has both professional and semi-professional users in mind.

In 2006, Vileda introduced the “bucket-less” SprayExpress to the market. The SprayPro is said to be a further developed and user-friendly solution that simplifies fast and easy floor cleaning.

The main idea with the system concept is that everything needed for floor-cleaning has been integrated in the same unit. The water/cleaning solution is filled into the handle and then simply sprayed onto the floor with a pump mechanism.

The solution improves working ergonomics, as there is no need for carrying heavy buckets around, as well as no wringing of mops.

According to a company spokesperson, the system is easy to use without any training and can help users conduct cleaning tasks much quicker. Put together, these factors are said to help reduce the overall cleaning costs.

SprayPro is idea for wet, damp and dry mopping, and is compatible with all existing Vileda Professional floor cleaning systems – ClickSpeed, UltraSpeed and Swep.

For more information, contact Vileda Professional at ryan.kinsella@hp-ww.com.

BETCO CORPORATION® LAUNCHES FASTDRAW PRO®

Becto Corporation is pleased to announce the newest addition to the FASTDRAW family of products – FASTDRAW PRO.

The durable looking exterior is matched by a robust, three-point lock for each door and hinges that withstand the toughest cleaning environment. The versatile dispenser is designed to dispense to bottles or buckets from each bay, and can be mounted on a flat wall or in a corner. According to the company, filling quart bottles has never been easier as users simply slide the fill tube into the bottle and push up.

The FASTDRAW chemical management systems are said to be essential for any facility looking to reduce their chemical costs and improve safety.

For more information, contact Betco Corporation at (888) GO BETCO or visit the company’s web site at www.betco.com.

RX 34 TRASH AND DUMPSTER CLEANER INTRODUCED

Aixr Laboratories has introduced the new RX 34 trash and dumpster cleaner with Airicide® odor control to help combat foul odors.

RX 34 is a concentrated, heavy-duty degreaser fortified with surfactants, orange oil solvent and Airicide. It can be foamed on or diluted into buckets or sprayers for manual application.

The cleaner offers automatic dilution and no touch chemical connection when combined with the company’s RX Foamer dispenser. This is said to make it easy to get the maximum level of performance with minimal product use. Users simply hook up the water, and foam product onto the surface to be cleaned.

When used with Aixr companion garbage and dumpster cleaning products, RX 30 Deo-Degreaser and RX 31 Super Sorbent, users are said to have “the answers to the worst odor and cleaning situations.”

For more information, visit the Aixr web site at www.aixrinfo.com.
PROTEAM RELEASES REDESIGNED SUPER HALFVAC® PRO

The original Super HalfVac from ProTeam was a hit with cleaning professionals due to its lightweight design and compact profile. Now as a member of the Next Generation family, the redesigned Super HalfVac Pro has improved airflow and filtration paired with the same legendary productivity that users expect from a ProTeam vacuum.

“The Super HalfVac Pro is the ideal intersection of versatility and power in an ultra lightweight vacuum,” said ProTeam Vice President of Sales Rich Steinberg. “We know that many facility managers struggle to convince their staff to try a backpack, so the Super HalfVac Pro meets reluctant users halfway.”

The hipstyle vacuum’s versatile harness can be worn with one or two shoulder straps or using only the waist belt. Ergonomic padding on the waist belt provides lower-back support for maximum comfort. Reluctant users can experience the comfort and productivity benefits of backpack vacuums in this 10.5-pound powerhouse, suitable for users with smaller frames.

Sweeping side-to-side vacuuming motion is said to clean more square footage in less time than a canister or upright vacuum. Four Level® Filtration with HEPA captures and contains 99.97 per cent of allergens and asthma triggers, 0.3 microns and larger for healthier indoor air. Airflow is directed so that the Super HalfVac Pro is self-cooling, keeping the operator comfortable during use.

For more information, visit ProTeam’s web site at www.proteamnextgen.com.

ZEP PROFESSIONAL® ADVANTAGE+™ NOW AVAILABLE

Zep Distribution, a unit of Zep Inc., has launched the new Zep Professional Advantage+ chemical management system in a wall-mount and portable configuration. The system is said to lead the industry with enhanced features that reduce chemical exposure to employees, provides consistent performance and offers a sustainable solution for customers looking to gain LEED-certification.

“The Zep Professional Advantage+ system delivers performance beyond existing dispensers by helping facilities run efficiently and cost effectively,” said Steve Nichols, group president of Zep Inc. “Unlike most industry dispensers, this system offers customers an enhanced solution for facilities to address their training and labour costs.

“The Advantage+ system leads the industry by offering low maintenance, accurate dispensing, reduced inventory options and a superior experience for end users.”

The system is available in two dispensing platforms, a wall-mount dispenser or a portable dispenser. The wall-mount unit offers customers several features that improve installation, performance and maintenance including an easy interface to select chemicals with a turn of a dial. The portable Advantage+ dispenser is ideal for small spaces or facilities where a water supply is available and offers all the benefits of the wall-mount version but without installation. The portable dispenser’s easy-to-hold ergonomic handle is comfortable for all hand sizes. Both dispensers also have backflow prevention options available to meet local plumbing requirements, and can fill spray bottles, mop buckets and autoscrubbers with ease.

For more information, contact Zep Inc. at www.zepinc.com.

RUBBERMAID COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS LAUNCHES EXECUTIVE SERIES PRODUCT LINE

Rubbermaid Commercial Products (RCP) has announced the availability of the Executive Series, a line of sleek cleaning solutions designed to upgrade and enhance the cleaning process.

Created after extensive field research, the Executive Series is said to be the answer for executives, managers and housekeeping staff searching for cleaning supplies and materials that match the look and feel of their high-end properties. Featuring a black and silver uniform design, the Executive Series is engineered to blend into an upscale environment, conceal supplies and reduce noise. Lightweight and powerful, these products enable staff to maneuver through the property with ease and without disturbing guests.

“Image is everything in the hospitality business, and our customers are providing a very upscale experience for their guests,” said Erika Miller, associate manager, product marketing for RCP. “We’re proud to have heard our customers’ concerns, and to be delivering a full, effective solution that addresses their need for cleaning materials that match the high-end image they have worked so hard to achieve.”

From front-of-house to back-of-house cleaning, and everywhere in between, the Executive Series line of more than 100 products handles all the cleaning challenges that face hospitality staff and managers. Coverage includes guest reception, lobby and public areas; guest rooms; conference/meeting rooms and business centres; restaurants and kitchens; and pool, spa and fitness centres.

For more information, visit the Rubbermaid web site at www.rubbermaidcommercial.com/executiveseries.

AVMOR IS GOING MOBILE

Avmor Ltd. has recently released its mobile site. There are eight billion people on this planet and six billion are mobile users. Mobile internet use/traffic in the last year is up 202 per cent. It is estimated that mobile searches will generate 27.8 billion more search queries than desktops by 2016.

As a result, Avmor is making things easier by adding a mobile application that lets customers access the information they need when they are on the go. Users can now access MSDS sheets, product information, training videos, the Avmor resource centre and much more at the click of a button.

To access the Avmor mobile centre, visit m.avmor.com from your phone.
SUZANNE BLANCHET WINS GOLD IN 2013 STEVIE AWARDS FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Suzanne Blanchet, president and CEO of Cascades Tissue Group, has won a Gold Stevie® Award for the “Female Executive of the Year in Canada” category in the 10th annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business. This internationally-renowned award was given to Blanchet as recognition for her outstanding contribution to her company and the industry. Under her leadership, Cascades Tissue Group has become a billion-dollar leader in the tissue industry, pioneering environmentally-sound and innovative paper products.

“It is with profound gratitude and great humility that I receive this award,” Blanchet said. “I would like to share it with my colleagues, who all contributed to Cascades Tissue Group’s success and international recognition.”

As the first woman to chair a paper company in North America, Blanchet was an ideal candidate for a Stevie Award for Women in Business. Her impressive career, which started as a finance intern and evolved to her becoming president and CEO of Cascades Tissue Group in 1997, has been hallmarked by tenacity, dedication to her employees and a willingness to constantly push boundaries and innovate. The launch of innovative products such as Cascades® Antibacterial™ paper towels and expansion of Cascades’ tissue activities in the United States – two recent examples of initiatives she’s led to expand Cascades’ recognition as an industry leader in sustainability and innovation – are indicative of her unique qualities as a visionary and willingness to take calculated risks.

“Since her debut at Cascades, (Blanchet) has always pushed the limits,” said Mario Plourde, Cascades’ president and CEO. “She is energetic, direct and transparent, and she’s always looking for greater and better things for Cascades. Through her leadership, she successfully built a billion-dollar business starting from a one-plant operation. She is an example of determination and success, and we commend her on this meaningful honour.”

“For 10 years we have been recognizing the achievements of women in the workplace, and this year’s nominations were the most impressive class the judges have ever reviewed,” said Michael Gallagher, founder and president of the Stevie Awards. “We congratulate all of this year’s winners for their achievements.”

The Stevie Awards for Women in Business are the world’s top honours for female entrepreneurs, executives, employees and the organizations they run. All individuals and organizations worldwide are eligible to submit nominations – public and private, for-profit and non-profit, large and small.

CHARLOTTE PRODUCTS / ENVIRO-SOLUTIONS HIRES NEW VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES FOR NORTH AMERICA

Charlotte Products / Enviro-Solutions has hired Paul Wildenberg as the company’s new vice president of sales for North America.

In this role, Wildenberg will be involved with the company’s sales efforts in the United States, Canada, as well as Europe and Asia.

Wildenberg has a long history in the professional cleaning industry. Before joining Charlotte Products / Enviro-Solutions, Wildenberg served in various positions with Rochester Midland and was also president of his own paper supply company, which was based in Chattanooga, TN.

“(Wildenberg) has been involved in sales management, sales training, developing new accounts, as well as new product development for nearly 27 years,” said Jennifer Meek, marketing director for the company. “We look forward to him being a part of our team.”

The GT French Paper Limited brand has evolved throughout its 146-year-long history and has finally found the perfect future-proof logo, designed – like the company – to endure the test of time.

GT French President Bill Martin is pleased to announce the rebranding. The new logo is specifically designed to speak to the primary target audiences of the company’s three main business categories – foodservice, janitorial/sanitation and packaging supply.

“Our new brand reflects the company’s continued growth in a very competitive market,” Martin said. “As GT French has evolved over time, the company has remained a trusted partner with our customers, suppliers and dedicated employees.”

With its head office in Hamilton, Ont., and branches in Kitchener, Niagara Falls and Toronto, GT French has been a recognized industry leader since 1867. The company remains, to this day, one of the largest, major independent supply system distributors in Canada.

As part of the rebrand, GT French has launched a new web site – www.gtfrench.ca – with an online store featuring top brands.

The company’s name – GT French Paper Limited – has also been shortened to GT French for simplicity and memorability. The clean, bold lines of the stylized modern font imply the speed and efficiency of a modern successful company, while also reinforcing the company’s commitment to leading the way and progressing.
JOHN MARTIN APPOINTED SALES REPRESENTATIVE AT M2 PROFESSIONAL

M2 Professional Cleaning Products is pleased to announce the appointment of John Martin as its new Ontario and western Canada sales representative. Martin comes to M2 Professional with a strong background in the industrial, commercial and hospital cleaning sectors.

M2 Professional Cleaning Products is a manufacturer of buckets and wringers, and a complete line of professional wet mops and dust mops, as well as a full line of assorted brushes and push brooms.

Martin can be reached at (647) 992-0352 or e-mail: John.Martin@m2mfg.com.

KRUGER PRODUCTS L.P. WINS 2013 CATIE GREENING OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN AWARD

Kruger Products L.P., a leading manufacturer of quality tissue products, has announced that it has earned the 2013 Greening of the Supply Chain Award from the Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters.

Currently in its fifth year, this distinction is awarded to a Canadian company that has initiated, implemented and proven a corporate commitment to greening its supply chain, as well as reducing its carbon footprint. Kruger Products’ sustainable progress set the company apart from the other two finalists. Walmart won the award in 2012.

“It is a privilege to be recognized for our projects, large and small, that are contributing to lessening its impact on the environment,” said John O’Hara, vice president of Logistics, Kruger Products. “Specifically, the company won this award

CARPET AND RUG INSTITUTE PRESIDENT WERNER BRAUN TO RETIRE

Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) President Werner Braun has announced that he will retire from the carpet industry trade group at the end of March 2014. Braun made the announcement at CRI’s annual meeting on Nov. 13, 2013.

Braun came to the CRI in 2000 from the Chlorine Chemistry Council, where he served as the senior director of international relations. Prior to that, his career included 31 years in analytical chemistry at The Dow Chemical Company.

Born in Stuttgart, Germany, Braun came to the United States with his parents in 1949. He grew up in Indianapolis, IN, and attended St. Edward University in Austin, TX, on a joint tennis and academic scholarship.

According to CRI board chairman David Jolly, the CRI board of directors has formed a search committee to find a replacement for Mr. Braun.

UL ANNOUNCES NEW ECOLOGO® STANDARD (UL 175)

UL Environment, a business unit of UL (Underwriters Laboratories), launched its revised UL 175 Standard for Sanitary Paper Products. The new standard consolidates, revises and updates the following five EcoLogo Certification Criteria Documents (CCDs): CCD-082 Toilet Tissue; CCD-083 Facial Tissue; CCD-084 Table Napkins; CCD-085 Kitchen Towels; and CCD-086 Hand Towels.

Certification of products under the new version of the standard offers numerous advantages for manufacturers, with a main advantage being an even greater focus on protecting human health, as well as additional broad sustainability requirements relating to the sourcing of fibre, and for further reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

“We are continuously working on advancing our standards to support reduced environmental and human health impacts,” said Angela Griffiths, director of research and service delivery at UL Environment. “As the scientific body of knowledge around the effects of sourcing, manufacturing and using sanitary paper products has increased, and as manufacturing and the manufacturing lifecycle have become more sophisticated, we are updating our standards to reflect this new knowledge and ability in our certifications.”

Highlights to the updates in the standards relating to human health and safety include: enhanced restrictions on the use of active components which are potentially bio-accumulative and hazardous, and additional restrictions on use of chemicals which are classified as potentially carcinogenic; have oral toxicity or are very toxic to aquatic life; which may cause genetic damage; or those that are classified as heavy metals. Additionally, any fragrance used may not include ingredients on the European Union’s allergens list and must be International Fragrance Association (IFRA) certified.

Environmental sustainability and impact updates include new criteria on packaging requirements; requirements for the sustainable sourcing of fibre (including a revised recycled content component and clearer rules for how to evidence the sourcing of fibre); improved limits on energy con-

Continued On Page 36

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2013

Visit us on the Internet at www.sanitationcanada.com

Sanitation Canada - NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2013
ZEP INC. ANNOUNCES ALIGNMENT OF COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

Zep Inc. has announced that it is consolidating its North American commercial organizations under the leadership of Steve Nichols and Joe Seladi, each of whom have over 35 years leading businesses in the industry, to align product and market development organizations.

Steve Nichols will assume the title of Group president and have responsibility for the company’s Industrial and Institutional businesses including: North American Sales and Services; Zep Vehicle Care; Zep Distribution; Zep Industrial; Zep Energy; Zep Food; Zep Government and Export divisions, including sales and marketing to customers who purchase directly through distribution or as a strategic account customer. Nichols is a veteran of the industry with a variety of leadership roles including two international assignments.

Seladi will also assume the title of Group president and will have the responsibility of Zep’s automotive and retail businesses. Seladi joined the company in the 2010 acquisition of Amrep Inc., where he previously served as the Chief Executive Officer. Seladi has over 40 years of industry manufacturing experience.

“These changes are consistent with our goal of driving profitable growth and will enhance our customer experience, streamline our cost structure and create a culture of continuous improvement,” said John K. Morgan, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Zep Inc. “(Nichols’) experience leading multi-channel organizations will be a valuable asset to our North American sales and service, and distribution selling organizations, and allow (Seladi) to focus his attention on Zep Inc.’s Retail businesses and an enterprise-wide complexity reduction initiative.”

PREVENTION IS KEY DURING COLD AND FLU SEASON

Health professionals and organizations are encouraging the public to take preventative measures to decrease the spread of illness during cold and flu season. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends “Three Actions to Fight the Flu.”

- Take the time to get a flu vaccine;
- Take everyday preventative actions, including washing hands with soap and water; and if soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer; and
- Take flu anti-viral drugs if your doctor prescribes them.

Marla Dalton, PE, CAE, executive director at the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) notes the importance of a ‘Take 3’ approach in protecting public health.

“Following an annual flu vaccine, effective hand hygiene is the most important step to help reduce the spread of infections that cause illness,” Dalton said. “This has been well documented by microbiologists and scientists.”

Studies have been conducted on the effects of hand hygiene related to influenza, respiratory and viral infections. A study published in the American Journal of Infection Control and led by Elaine Larson, RN, Ph.D., from the School of Nursing and Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University, found that alcohol-based hand sanitizer whether foam, gel or wipes all significantly reduce viruses on hands. Further research has been published in the American Journal of Public Health by Allison Aiello, Ph.D. and Larson, concluding hand hygiene interventions are efficacious for reducing gastrointestinal illnesses.

According to the CDC, important steps for good hand hygiene are to: wash or sanitize hands before preparing food, before eating, before and after caring for someone who is sick or around someone who has a cold, after using the bathroom, after sneezing or coughing and after touching anything that may carry germs such as grocery carts, diapers, raw foods, animals or trash.”

Gojo has published and conducted scientific research with national and international thought leaders in the field on the effectiveness of hand hygiene in reducing transmission; and requirements for biodegradable organic compound additives, including optical brighteners.

M2’s new Foodservice pushbrooms are manufactured with highest quality fibers that are inset in an easy to clean and “wood-free” plastic block that resists bacteria and meet hygienic regulations.

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Ideal where high sanitary standards are required i.e. foodservice industry, hospitals, etc.
the spread of illness and infection. According to Gojo Scientist Jim Arbogast, Ph.D., providing an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and education about good hand hygiene has led to significant, documented results.

Gojo has the following recommendations to help minimize the spread of germs and infection:

- Schools and businesses should start by making sure all hand soap dispensers are in good working order, with sealed refills available. Dispensers that use SANITARY SEALED™ refills are best for reducing the spread of germs.

- Business and families should establish norms and etiquette for good hand hygiene. Make hand sanitizers easily accessible and available in areas where people are together so hands can be sanitized after sneezing, coughing and at mealtimes.

- Businesses should place hand sanitizer dispensers near restroom exits to help prompt the one to four people who don’t typically wash their hands after using the restroom. Touch-free dispensers, in fact, have been shown to increase use by nearly 20 per cent.7

- Individuals should carry portable wipes or hand sanitizer for use when soap and water are not available or practical.

FOOTNOTES

(1) http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm


(4) September 2007, Observational Study Sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology and the Soap and Detergent Association (SDA).


(6) September 2007, Observational Study Sponsored by the American Society of Microbiology and the Soap and Detergent Association (SDA).

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