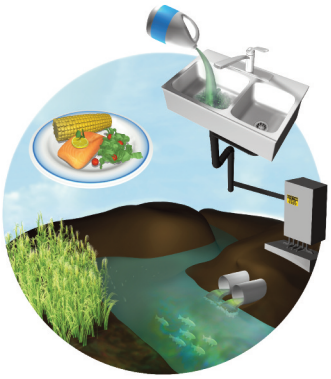
Ten reasons to have a green cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting program in your ECE facility

1. **A green cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting program in ECE reduces germs, allergens, toxic chemicals and pests.**
2. **The manufacturers of cleaning products do not have to list product ingredients on the label.** They also do not have to prove that their chemicals are safe. Green cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting products (that have been certified by independent organizations like Green Seal, EcoLogo or Design for the Environment) are healthier for humans and the environment than conventional products.
3. **Certified green products avoid fragrances and scents. Scented or fragranced products contain harmful chemicals that can:**
   - cause cancer.
   - act like hormones and disrupt our endocrine systems even in very small amounts.
   - affect the development of unborn babies.
   - harm the environment and wildlife.
4. **The harmful chemicals in many cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting products affect the health of unborn babies and young children more than adults.** Many ECE providers are of childbearing age.
5. **Certified green products do not contain triclosan.** Triclosan is an ingredient in some antibacterial hand soaps, dish soaps, hand sanitizers and personal care products. It has many harmful health effects. When it goes to the sewage treatment plant, it is collected in "sludge" that is applied to fields where our food grows. Some plants have been shown to take up the triclosan as they grow. We may then be exposed to triclosan in the food we eat. It also gets released in surface water where it is harmful to fish and other animals in the water.



6. **Every day cleaning chemicals are washed down the drain where they can end up in drinking water, streams and lakes, hurting plants and animals, threatening public health and adding to pollution.** Certified green products are less harmful to the environment.
7. **Bleach is not a certified green product.** The use of bleach over time can cause asthma in staff and children. Using bleach around someone with asthma can trigger an asthma attack. Bleach now comes in an even more concentrated form. It is confusing to learn how to dilute bleach that comes in this new form. The health effects are worse for the person who is diluting this more concentrated bleach.
8. **There are newer, safer products and devices for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting that don't cause asthma or trigger asthma attacks when used according to label instructions.** They are just as effective, or even more effective, than bleach.

9 **Using safer products protects the health of custodial staff.** Custodians, especially women of child-bearing age, are particularly susceptible to health problems associated with frequent, close interaction with cleaning chemicals. Using safer products protects their health, can reduce injuries, and potentially decrease workers' compensation claims and insurance costs.

10 **Parents are concerned about the health of their children.** When you have a Green Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Program in your ECE facility, parents are reassured that you care about the health of their children.

RESOURCES

Green Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting: A Toolkit for Early Care and Education http://cerch.org/greencleaningtoolkit/

California Department of Pesticide Regulation

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