

17 Cleaning Procedures

Making Your Restrooms Green and Sustainable

Surprisingly, one area often overlooked as a facility becomes greener and more sustainable is the restroom.

Yet more water is used in restrooms than virtually any other area of a facility, and because water and energy are interconnected, water consumption increases the amount of energy necessary to power a facility.

In addressing this issue, Klaus Reichardt, CEO and president of Waterless Co, Inc., offers the following suggestions to make commercial restrooms greener and more sustainable:

- **Lighting:** Restroom lighting is often on 24 hours a day. Install motion sensors to turn off lights when the restroom is not used.
- **Lightbulbs:** Replace conventional lightbulbs with energy-efficient lighting.
- **Cleaning:** Virtually all cleaning chemicals used for cleaning restrooms now have certified-Green equivalents; use only Green cleaning chemicals and products.
- **Water faucets:** Install sensors. Studies indicate sensors that turn water on only when needed can reduce water consumption by as much as 70 percent.
- **Fixtures:** Install fixtures that surpass current federal mandates. Some new toilets use 1.28 gallons of water per flush, and no-water urinals save thousands of gallons of water per year per urinal.
- **Leaks:** Search for leaks and fix them. Just one intermittent dripping faucet can waste 3 gallons of water per day, a total of 1,095 gallons a year.

“Restrooms are highly visible areas,” adds Reichardt. A Green and sustainable restroom shows a facility is doing more than talking Green, it’s making Green and sustainable part of the way it does business.”

Cleaning procedures and products should be conducted in the most sustainable way possible, too. According to the New York State Green Cleaning Program,

having the proper equipment on hand will make restroom cleaning easier and more efficient for the custodian.

Typical Restroom Cleaning Procedure

1. Announce your intention to clean the restroom and place the “Closed for Cleaning” sign at the entrance.

2. Empty trash receptacle and replace liner, if torn or soiled.

Note: Reduce the need for washing the inside of the trash receptacle by securely fitting trash liner around it; there are products available that help keep the liner from falling into the receptacle.

3. Clean the outside of trash receptacle with a damp yellow microfiber cloth. Heavily soiled receptacles may require the ‘spray and wipe’ method to remove soil.

4. Fill dispensers—toilet paper, hand towels, hand soap, sanitary bags, toilet seat covers etc.—and wipe them with a damp microfiber cloth.



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