

GREENING YOUR CHURCH KITCHEN

CLEANING MATERIALS

Dishwashing Soaps / Detergents / Dishwashers

- Choose soaps or detergents without phosphates or chlorine.
- Use soaps/detergents with a plant base rather than an oil base. Seventh Generation and Ecover are brand names frequently recommended; these are supposed to work in hard water.
- Make sure any new dishwashers are Energy Star rated.

For dishwashing products, choose products with no or low phosphates and no dyes or perfumes. Washington State has a law about dishwashing products. Phosphates are limited to 0.5% in dishwashing detergents in Whatcom, Clark and Spokane Counties now, and will be limited in the remainder of the state in 2010.

As for dishwashers, new ones can be 95% more energy efficient than ones made 30-40 years ago. New dishwashers may also use up to 10 times less water than old models...do your homework before purchasing a new one for your church or home. Look for "Energy Star" products, not just "cheap" ones.

General-purpose Cleaners for Kitchens (floors, walls, counters)

- Find cleaners that are plant-based and not oil-based.
- Find cleaners that have no chlorine or phosphates as ingredients.
- Make homemade products with natural ingredients like vinegar, baking soda, or lemon juice. These recipes are less environmentally damaging and cheaper than store bought items: http://www.eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_solutions.htm
- Use Green Cleaning Resources such as:

Green Seal Approved Cleaning Chemicals Standard (GS-37) info and a report on Green Floor Care. They also plans to establish a green cleaning service standard www.greenseal.org

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program. www.usgbc.org

Health Care Without Harm Organization (HCWH) with a free *Going Green Resource Kit* and other information for health care facilities. www.hcwh.org

Towels for Cleaning

- Provide sufficient cloth towels for clean up, dishwashing, and hand drying. Use paper towels only as a last resort.