

School & Home Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Newsletter – February 2019



COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE
& LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

View this newsletter as a [PDF](#).
Editor: Shujuan (Lucy) Li, lisj@cals.arizona.edu

Green Cleaning

Shujuan (Lucy) Li, Dawn H. Gouge, Natalie Brassill, University of Arizona

When addressing pathogens in the built environment, it is important to select the cleaning product based on the specific need. While soapy water is sufficient to clean up a drink spill, it is not the best option for all jobs, for example, a disinfectant is required to clean wrestling mats to prevent the spread of infectious skin disease causing pathogens like *Tinea pedis* the cause of athlete's foot (a fungal infection of the skin on the feet). **Remember that sanitizers and disinfectants are registered antimicrobial pesticides and therefore the label directions must be followed in order to avoid health problems**, such as eye injuries, chemical burns, and respiratory illness, as well as **to achieve the desired disinfection** of an area.



Whatwolf / Freepik

However, don't despair! There are fantastic tools and products that can make your cleaning straightforward, effective, and easier on you and the environment. Using green cleaning tools and products is a smart approach to cleaning your home and classroom.

What is green cleaning?

There are a lot of different aspects to green cleaning. Green cleaning can include the use of green cleaning products, and/or cleaning your home in a way that reduces waste. So if you are signing up with a green cleaning service provider, make sure you understand which aspects of "green" they employ.

Many households or school purchasing agents seek out green cleaning products. Luckily, many brands have cleaning products including window, oven, floor, bathroom, kitchen and all-purpose cleaners. Green cleaning brands include (but are not limited to) Method, Seventh Generation, Simple Green, Common Good, Ecos, GreenWorks, Mrs. Meyer's, Eco Me/ Eco Me Pro, Puracy, Ecover, Better Life, Biokleen, Shaklee, and many more. They differ, so read up about the brand philosophy.



When you choose to use a cleaning product that does not involve disinfecting, you can opt for a product without phosphates, chlorine, artificial fragrances, and artificial colors. Many cleaning products are also marketed as biodegradable. Other cleaners have ingredients that are grown organically or produced using sustainable farming practices. Some green cleaning products may certify that their items are fair trade, meaning that the product meets certain environmental and labor standards by those who produced it.

Not all green cleaning products are free of additives or harmful chemicals – some limit their “green” philosophy to the use of recycled packaging or donate a portion of their profits to environmental causes, so be familiar with the ingredients you want to use, and the particular sustainability factors that are important to you.

How can you tell if a green cleaning product is “green” enough for you?

There are different labeling programs used to classify cleaning products. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Design for the Environment program labels products that meet EPA's criteria for chemicals. These products display the Design for the Environment (DfE) label. Others may be labeled as "low VOC" or "no VOC" which means they have a lower concentration of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or none at all.

In recent years, there has been a debate about green cleaning products and their safety relative to traditional cleaners. Most importantly follow label directions exactly, using all personal protective equipment indicated (e.g., protective gloves), and when it comes to killing germs to stop the spread of an infection, it is vital to have an effective product. So make sure the product you select is ideal for the job you need it for.

The American Cleaning Institute has strongly suggested that the public could benefit from education efforts informing people about the chemicals in cleaning agents and, similarly, other groups have suggested ingredients to specifically avoid.

Whatever choices you make about your cleaning supplies and practices, there are a huge variety of environmentally friendly choices for those interested in green cleaning. With a little research, you can “green” your household cleaning routine to create a healthier, safer environment for yourself and others.

Declutter your home and classroom storage

Cleaning your home and classroom often begins with decluttering of your space. If clutter-bugs are a problem in your school or home, you will want to read the next Newsletter for tips and tricks that help you manage your clutter-bugs.

Product names mentioned are registered trademarks. Any products, services, or organizations that are mentioned, shown, or indirectly implied in this publication do not imply endorsement by The University of Arizona.

Webinars and Events

Please join in for the [2019 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series](#). This webinar series provides information about good and bad insects. Webinars are free and open to everyone. Webinars will be on the **first Friday of each month at 2 p.m. Eastern time**.

Upcoming webinars include:

1. Emerald Ash Borer – March 1, 2019
<https://learn.extension.org/events/3594>
2. SSSSnakes, Identification and Environmental Importance – April 5, 2019
<https://learn.extension.org/events/3593>
3. The Ins and Outs of Termite Treatments – May 3, 2019
<https://learn.extension.org/events/3595>

For more information about upcoming and past School IPM webinars:

<https://articles.extension.org/pages/74786/2019-all-bugs-good-and-bad-webinar-series>

Save the Date: April 24, Wednesday, 7:30am - 5:00 pm. [2nd Arizona School IPM Conference](#). Carl Hayden Community High School, Building 1200 (Auditorium). 3333 W. Roosevelt St, Phoenix, AZ.

The Arizona School IPM Conference will be a great occasion for maintenance and operations staff, administrative staff, grounds and landscape managers, teachers, nurses, parents, persons working in similar environments such as childcare, elder, disabled or medical facilities, and pest control technicians to network and gain insights into the importance of integrated pest management in schools and childcare facilities, how a school IPM program works, and the role that each individual plays in its success.

There will be separate tracks for indoor and outdoor environments. Listen to talks by experts on various aspects of school IPM, share your experiences and questions with your peers, discuss strategies and find solutions to pest issues your school is facing. Give feedback on topics you would like to see in future events.

Pesticide applicator licensees can earn 7 CEUs from the AZ Dept. of Ag., Division of Pest Management (formerly OPM) for attending the entire conference. Please make sure to bring your License Number to the venue.

For program and registration please visit:

<https://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/ArizonaSchoolIPMConference.html>

Save the Date: May 31, Friday, 7:15 am - 4:00 pm. 27th Annual Desert Horticulture Conference. JW Marriott Starr Pass, 3800 W Starr Pass, Tucson, AZ 85745.

The Desert Horticulture Conference is the premier annual conference for all members of the southwest green industry: landscape architects, designers, growers, retailers, contractors, maintenance personnel, suppliers, and educators. Presenting timely and research-based information relevant for designing, building, maintaining, and producing plants for urban landscapes in the arid Southwest. Online registration opens mid-March.

For more information about the EPA Schools program, visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/schools/>

For more information about Community IPM, visit:

<http://www.extension.org/pages/23359/urban-integrated-pest-management-community-page>



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND LIFE SCIENCES

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
Arizona Pest Management Center

To view all our previous newsletters, visit:

<https://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/public-health-IPM.html#newsletter>

<https://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/westernschoolIPM.html#newsletter>

Acknowledgements

This material is based upon work that is supported in part by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA NIFA), under award number 2017-70006-27145, which provides Extension IPM funding to University of Arizona. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do

not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Additional support is provided by the University of Arizona – Arizona Pest Management Center (APMC).



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

