



We make people and buildings cleaner, healthier and safer
in every place we touch!

MAINTENANCE MINUTE

The Changing Faces of Green Things



The cleaning industry continues to evolve, creating more environmentally friendly products and procedures. One of the leaders in creating more eco-friendly buildings is the LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) program conducted by the US Green Buildings Council. It was launched in 2000 and has introduced several updated versions throughout the years.

The current version of LEED criteria (LEED v4) was officially launched in 2013. There were **two significant changes in the LEED v4 program impacting the use of cleaning and maintenance supplies.**

The first significant change was **increasing the threshold for the total annual purchasing cost of products which comply with the LEED v4 standards to 75% (previously 30%).** This includes the purchase of cleaning products, hand soaps, disposable janitorial paper products and trash liners.

Secondly, **the standards now include products that are recognized by three different groups:**

- 1) Green Seal
- 2) Environmental Choice (now UL ECOLOGO) , and
- 3) EPA's Design for the Environment (DfE, now Safer Choice).

Since the launching of LEED v4, **two of these recognized groups have changed their name and logo identification: EPA's DfE and Environmental Choice.**

Formerly known as "DfE Standard" or the "Design for the Environment Standard," the program is now known as "Safer Choice."

Currently, there are over [2,500 products that qualify to display the Safer Choice logo](#) and contain chemical ingredients that are recognized for safer chemistry by the EPA.

These ingredients are listed on the [Safer Chemical Ingredient List \(SCIL\)](#) and are categorized by their environmental and health evaluations.



Environmental Choice started as Canada's only national eco-labeling program. It has evolved over the years and is **now recognized across North America as EcoLogo**.

It is the only North American standard accredited by the Global Eco-labeling Network as meeting international ISO 14024 standard for environmental labels. In 2010, EcoLogo was acquired by Underwriters Laboratories and is carried by more than 7,000 products.

We carry a number of cleaning products that qualify for LEED v4 credits under all three accepted certifications. Here are just a few examples:

Safer Choice: [Green Works® All Purpose Spray Cleaner](#)

EcoLogo: Dilution Control Products such as [ChemiCenter II™ #11 Oxygenated Cleaner](#) and [ChemiCenter II™ #9 Neutral All Purpose Cleaner](#)

Green Seal: [Diversey Alpha-HP Multi-Surface Cleaner](#)

Interested in knowing about your green alternatives? Give us a call today at 800.933.4824 and we'll help you navigate the eco-friendly options.

[Access LEED v4 Criteria for Building Operations Maintenance](#)

[View our full line of cleaning chemicals](#)

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