WSCA-NASPO Fact Sheet Buying Green Products on WSCA-NASPO's MRO Contract with MSC



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Introduction

Many states, local governments, and other public facilities purchase a wide variety of goods that are designed to help them maintain, repair, and operate their buildings and grounds. These Facilities Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) products include cleaning supplies, trash bags, paints, janitorial paper products, lighting and HVAC equipment, batteries, and more. This fact sheet describes how users of the NASPO-WSCA Facilities MRO contract with MSC can easily identify products that have health and environmental benefits. This includes items with third-party green certifications, recycled-content, and other attributes such as reusability, solar-powered, etc.

On March 1, 2011, the Western States Contracting Alliance (WSCA) awarded <u>Facilities MRO contracts</u> to several companies. These contracts have an expiration date of February 28, 2017. Three of the awardees can offer products in all MRO categories (including facilities maintenance products, lighting products, industrial supplies, and tools) to public agencies in all participating states. The three national WSCA-NASPO MRO contract awardees include: <u>Fastenal</u>, <u>Grainger Industrial Supply</u>, and <u>MSC Industrial Supply</u>. In addition, four contracts were awarded to companies that can offer a limited number of products (such as energy-efficient lighting equipment) to specific states.

How MSC Designates a Green Product



MSC labels its green products "Eco-Friendly." In its catalog, you will also find them identified by a leaf icon in a green box.

What Types of Green Products are Available from MSC?

MSC outlines 10 "Eco-Friendly" Product Categories, as follows:

- 1. **Green Cleaners and Fluids**: Low-toxicity, biodegradable cleaners, degreasers, and cutting fluids.
- 2. **Energy Conservation:** Items such as energy-efficient lighting equipment, HVAC products, and automatic hand dryers as well as photo-luminescent signage and safety products, which use no energy at all.

- 3. **Water Conservation:** Plumbing fixtures and supplies such as sensor-operated faucets and water-free urinals.
- 4. **Renewable Energy Source**: Products that can be renewed and kept out of the waste stream, such as power tools, flashlights, and two-way radios powered by rechargeable batteries.
- 5. **ENERGY STAR®:** Products that are listed on the U.S. federal government's www.energystar.gov website because they meet energy-efficiency and performance standards.
- 6. **NEMA® Premium:** A <u>program</u> established by the National Electric Manufacturer's Association (NEMA) for identifying energy-efficient motors and promoting their use by consumers.
- 7. **Rechargeable Battery Recycling Program:** A no cost, industry-financed take-back program that accepts rechargeable batteries and cell phones to be recycled. For more information, go to http://www.call2recycle.org.
- 8. **Recycled Products:** Including recycling bins, trash can liners, and paper products that contain post-consumer and/or post-industrial recycled content as well as fluorescent lamp recycling kits.
- 9. **Low VOC:** Some of MSC's paints, finishes, and other building maintenance products are less harmful to consumers and the environment because they contain relatively low levels of volatile organic compounds, which contribute to poor indoor air quality and outdoor smog.
- 10. Greenhouse Gas Free: These include products that do not contain any global warming agents.

Why Buy Green Hardware Supplies?

- Reduce Pollution and Utility Costs. Building maintenance products (such as air conditioners, fans, lighting fixtures, and water heaters) that are ENERGY STAR-qualified are among the most energy-efficient products in their class. Solar-powered generators and equipment eliminate energy use altogether. Choosing these products can reduce your electricity and gas use, lower your utility bills, and prevent the release of carbon dioxide (CO2) and other air pollutants that are often created when energy is produced.
 - SEA!
- **Protect Health.** Building maintenance products (e.g., cleaners, hand soaps, and paints) that are certified as "low-toxicity" by Green Seal or UL (under its EcoLogo standard) or another third-party organization are made with safer chemicals than equivalent conventional products. Choosing these products reduces health risks to employees and prevents releases of these harmful substances into our air and water.
- Reduce Waste and Disposal Costs. Building maintenance products that reduce waste (such as rechargeable batteries, microfiber cloths, and energy-efficient hand dryers) can help lower your facility's waste disposal costs. Choosing trash bags, toilet paper, and other products that are made from recycled materials can help you meet your waste minimization and "buy recycled" goals.



• Conserve Water, Reduce Water and Sewer Costs. Products that reduce water consumption (notably, those that have earned EPA's WaterSense label) can lower your facility's water and sewer bills and conserve this scarce natural resource, which can be vitally important during drought conditions.



• Earn Green Building Rating System Credits. Using energy and water saving products, recycled content products, and certified environmentally preferable cleaning and maintenance products can help public agencies earn LEED and other green building rating credits.



How Can I Find Green Products on the MSC Website?

MSC outlines its Eco-Friendly Program on its <u>website</u>, which links to more detailed product category descriptions, lists its "eco-friendly" categories, and presents icons to depict many of the environmental attributes of products in its offering. Below are directions for using each of these resources.

Eco-Friendly Program Description

On the website, pull down the "Resources" tab from the list towards the top of the page and choose "Eco-Friendly Resources."



This Green Choices web page describes the different kinds of attributes that MSC's green products may possess. Clicking on the brochure photo on the right side of the page brings up a PDF of a four-page brochure titled, "MSC...Supplying Green Choices Today..." that includes a letter from the company's top officers and introduces MSC's Eco-Friendly green leaf icon.

Detailed Product Category Descriptions



On the Eco-Friendly Resources webpage, a link under the *Green Cleaners and Fluids* section brings up a separate webpage about Natures Solution, MSC's line of green cleaning products. This webpage describes Nature's Solution products as being non-caustic, non-allergenic, and non-irritating. In addition, this product line, which includes an all-purpose cleaner, degreaser, glass cleaner, floor cleaner, and vehicle wash, is also certified as low-toxicity by Green Seal, a well-respected third-party organization (although this fact is not mentioned on the MSC website).



Also on the Eco-Friendly Resources webpage, a link under the *Energy Conservation* section brings up <u>information</u> about Philips high-efficiency, low-mercury ALTO fluorescent lamps. An Energy Saving Calculator is available from a link at the bottom of the page. When searching on the website, some products include a symbol indicating energy conservation.

Product Searches

Product searches using environmental key words can lead MSC website users to green products. Most common is a search category for "eco-friendly," although other key words such as "rechargeable" or "recycled" will also identify products with these attributes. Below are some product search examples.

1. Using the Eco-friendly Category

Start by putting the product category of interest into the Search box at the top of MSC's web page. (Putting "eco-friendly" into the search box does <u>not</u> bring up all the relevant products.) For this example, put in "air conditioner" and click "Go." This will

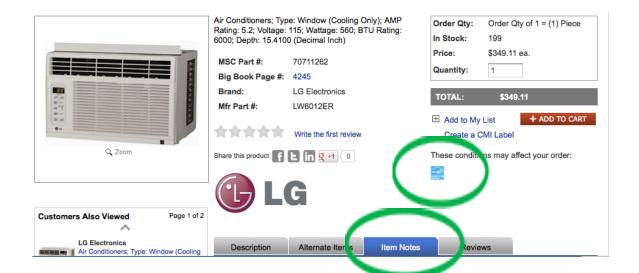


bring up a page asking which category best fits the product in question. Actual "air conditioners" is the best choice, instead of accessories or kits.

Choosing "air conditioners" brings up 113 items, plus the opportunity to refine your search results. Go to the bottom of the table to "Narrow By" "Eco-Friendly." (You may need to click on "See More Refinements" to see that choice.) Clicking on the "Eco-Friendly" link loads the next page, which narrows down the item possibilities. Below the table of specifications are listings of the eco-friendly air conditioner options. Scrolling down to this section brings listings that look like the illustration below. Notice the ENERGY STAR icon, which is the standard that MSC is using to designate this "eco-friendly" product as energy efficient.



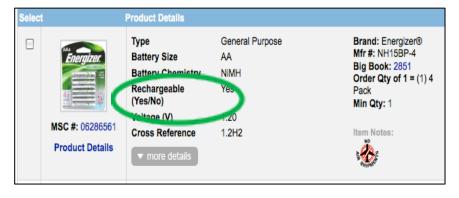
Clicking on the "Product Details" link below the product photo will bring up a page describing that product. This is where an explanation of the eco-friendly designation often appears. For this product, the listing shows that it is ENERGY STAR-qualified. (The Item Notes also shows the ENERGY STAR logo and lists it as energy efficient.)

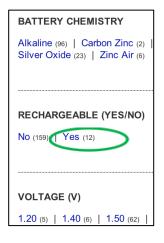


2. Using the "Rechargeable" Category

Products that include rechargeable battery options feature this as a choice in the "Refine Your Search Results" table. For example, enter "batteries" in the search box at the top of the MSC website page. You can either choose "batteries" from the keywords drop-down menu that appears, or hit "Go" and choose "batteries" from the resulting page of product categories.

Choosing "batteries" takes you to a new page indicating 172 items, along with a table to Refine Your Search Results. About halfway down that table is a choice for "Rechargeable (Yes/No)." Choosing Yes for Rechargeable narrows the list to 12 items.





The resulting page brings up another refinement table, with actual product listings appearing below it. The rechargeable product listings do not display any ecofriendly icons, but they do include a detail indicating "Yes" to the question about "Rechargeable."

Clicking on the Product Details under the photo on the left side of the listing will open a page with specifications about this product, including a photo that, in this case, clearly indicates on the packaging that this battery product is rechargeable.

3. Using the "Recycled" Category

Many (but not all) of MSC's products that have recycled content are marked as such on the website listings. Some are even described with helpful details such as the amount of post-consumer recycled content. For example, enter "trash bags" into the Search box at the top of MSC's website. Choose "Trash Bags & Liners" either from the keyword drop-down menu that appears or from the categories that result from hitting "Go."



On the Trash Bags & Liners page, in the middle of the Refine Your Search Results table, you will see two lines of details relating to recycled content. One allows you to answer Yes or No to whether you want a product with recycled content. The next line allows you to choose the level of recycled content for which you are looking. This table also has the Narrow by "Eco-Friendly" link on its last line.

Choosing any of these will narrow down the choices and bring up a new page that offers a further refinement table with product descriptions starting below it. Note that the product descriptions include the chasing arrows recycling icon.



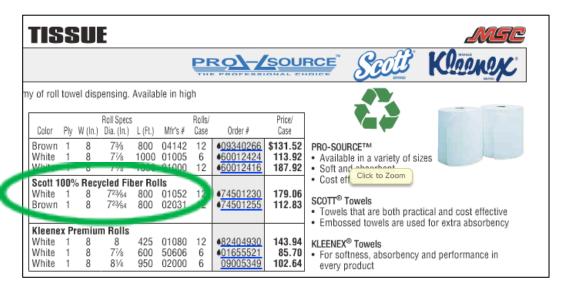
Clicking on Product Details brings up a page for that product. This, again, includes a recycling chasingarrows icon to indicate that the product contains recycled content. Also, within the Specifications section

are two lines that indicate that Yes, there is recycled content, and then that the recycled content equals 75%.



Not all products that contain recycled

material are labeled with the recycling symbol. For these products, there are two more places you might find information indicating that it does, indeed, contain recycled content. The first is in the online versions of various MSC catalogs (such as their "Big Book"). See example below.



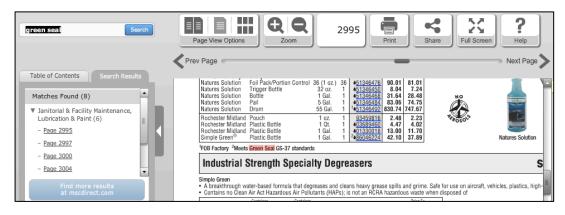


The second way to get further environmental details is to use the product's manufacturer #, listed in MSC's product description, and look the product up on the manufacturer's website. See screenshot to the left to see an example of the product's manufacturer #.

4. Searching MSC's Virtual Big Book

MSC's *Big Book* is accessible from the top banner to the right of the Search box. (It also often is linked from the product details on the website.) <u>Click on MSC's Virtual *Big Book*.</u> A screen appears that shows pages from the catalog on the right, and a search box above a table of contents on the left. This search box is more sensitive than the website search box.

Putting terms such as Green Seal, eco-friendly, or recycled into the search box will generate lists in the search results box that you can click on and explore. The search function casts a wide net, however. Entering "recycled" brings up several products with recycled content, as well as references to products that can be used to help facilitate recycling.



Products that Promote Energy Conservation



This includes several of MSC's "eco-friendly" categories, including Energy Conservation, Renewable Energy Source, ENERGY STAR®, and NEMA® Premium Efficiency. Products include air conditioners, compact fluorescent



lamps, dehumidifiers, and other building equipment that is ENERGY STAR-qualified, as well as calculators that are powered by solar energy. Some products in this category are considered "inherently energy-efficient" even without a specific eco-label, such as motion sensors that automatically turn off lights when a room is unoccupied. Below is a list of products offered by MSC that can help you save energy.



Product Category	Energy Efficiency Eco-Labels	Other Eco-Labels and Environmental Claims
Air Conditioners	ENERGY STAR	Conserves energy/lowers energy costs
<u>Ballasts</u>	NEMA Premium Efficiency Consortium for Energy Efficiency	Electronic ballasts are more energy efficient than magnetic ballasts. Look for Instant and Programmed Star models, particularly those on NEMA or CEE lists.
Calculators		Solar-powered
Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs), Self-ballasted	ENERGY STAR (to verify go to www.energystar.gov)	Look for models with a relatively long rated life (≥10,000 hours) and RoHS-compliant
<u>Dehumidifiers</u>	ENERGY STAR (to verify go to www.energystar.gov)	
Fixtures, Fluorescent		Look for fixtures with electronic ballasts and high- efficiency fluorescent lamps (80+ CRI).
<u>Lamps, T5</u> and <u>T8</u> Fluorescent, Designed to Work with Electronic Ballasts		Look for models with 80+ CRI, the highest lumens per watt, and the longest rated life. Some models (labeled ECO or ALTO) are low-mercury. (Avoid preheat models.)
LED Exit Sign Retrofit Kits		These are more energy efficient and long lasting than incandescent exit lamps (can use retrofit kit instead of replacing entire sign)
LED Exit Signs		Conserves energy (compared to incandescent and fluorescent exit signs)
LED Floodlight Fixtures		These are more energy-efficient and longer lasting than traditional incandescent or HID light fixtures.
LED Lamps (With Screw Base)	ENERGY STAR (to verify go to www.energystar.gov)	These are more energy-efficient and longer lasting than traditional incandescent light bulbs and unlike compact fluorescent light bulbs are mercury-free
LED Light Fixture, Recessed Can	ENERGY STAR (to verify go to www.energystar.gov)	These are more energy-efficient and longer lasting than traditional incandescent or halogen fixtures.
LED Miniature Lamps		These are more energy-efficient and longer lasting than traditional incandescent miniature light bulbs.
Lighting Controls (e.g., Dimmers, Motion Sensors, Photo-cells, Timers)		Lighting controls reduce the amount of energy used by a lighting fixture
Motors	NEMA Premium Efficiency	Variable speed (saves energy on low-power setting)
Surge Protectors	·	Reduce phantom electricity loads
Thermostats, Programmable		Can result in energy savings up to 33%









Green Cleaning and Building Maintenance Chemicals and Equipment



Products in this category are used for facility cleaning and maintenance. They include MSC's classifications for Green Cleaners and Fluids, Low VOCs, and Greenhouse Gas Free. Important multi-attribute eco-labels in this category include Green Seal and UL EcoLogo.

These are listed in bold. See table below for green cleaning product types that have reliable eco-labels and/or important environmental attributes, some of which may not be verified. Purchasing certified green cleaning products may earn LEED and other green building rating credits.

Product Category	Eco-Labels	Other Environmental Attributes
Air Tool Compressor Oil	USDA BioPreferred	
Bathroom Cleaners, Non-Disinfecting	Green Seal	Concentrated
	UL EcoLogo	
Carpet Care	Green Seal	Concentrated
	UL EcoLogo	
<u>Degreasers</u>	Green Seal	Concentrated
	UL EcoLogo	No "butyl"
Disinfectants		Do not contain asthmagens or carcinogens
<u>Drain Openers</u> (including <u>Grease Trap and</u>	Green Seal	
Septic Tank Solution)	UL EcoLogo	
Floor Cleaners (including Peroxide and	Green Seal	Concentrated
Concrete Cleaner)		
Floor Polishes and Strippers	UL EcoLogo	Concentrated
Gear Oil, Grease	USDA BioPreferred	
General Purpose Cleaners (also called	Green Seal	Concentrated
All-Purpose and Multi-purpose Cleaners)	UL EcoLogo	
Glass Cleaners	Green Seal	Concentrated
	UL EcoLogo	
Graffiti Remover	USDA BioPreferred	
Hand Sanitizer	UL EcoLogo	
	USDA BioPreferred	
Hand Soaps	Green Seal	Non-antimicrobial
	UL EcoLogo	Foaming hand soaps use less soap and water
Microfiber (including Wet Mops, Dust Mops,		Reduce chemical use
<u>Dusters</u> , <u>Mitts</u> , and <u>Wipers</u>		Reusable (replace paper towels)
Lubricants	USDA BioPreferred	Free of chlorinated solvents
		No petroleum
Odor Removers	UL EcoLogo	
Metal Polish	USDA BioPreferred	
<u>Paints</u>		Water-based; no hazardous air pollutants (HAPs);
		zero VOCs
Parts Washer (Solvent)	Green Seal	
	USDA BioPreferred	
Sealants	Green Seal	
Shampoo and Body Wash	UL EcoLogo	
Urinal Blocks and Screens	-	No para-diclorobenzene ("Reasonably Anticipated to
-		be a Human Carcinogen")
Vacuums, HEPA		99.97% efficient HEPA filter
Vehicle Pressure Washing Cleaner	Green Seal	













Products that Promote Waste Reduction



Products in this category contain recycled material, including post-consumer recycled content (e.g., paper towels and trash bags), or promote waste reduction, including reuse (e.g., rechargeable batteries, microfiber mops, and hand dryers). Products with verified

multiple environmental attributes are in bold.

Product Category	Eco-Labels	Other Environmental Attributes
Bathroom Tissue	Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	Recycled content
	Green Seal	Reduced packaging
	UL EcoLogo	Source reduction (e.g. coreless)
<u>Batteries</u>		Rechargeable
Battery Chargers	ENERGY STAR	Waste reduction (reduces battery usage)
Facial Tissue		Recycled content
Flashlights		Rechargeable, LEDs (reduce battery usage)
Food Service Ware	Biodegradable Products Institute	Facilitates food waste recycling
	(BPI, commercially compostable)	
Hand dryers		Waste reduction (replace paper towels)
Hand Protection/Gloves		PVC-free (e.g., Nitrile)
Hearing Protection/Ear Plugs,		PVC-free
(Reusable)		Reusable
Hoses (Polypropylene)		PVC-free
Microfiber Cloths		Reusable (replace paper towels)
Recycling Containers		Recycled content
		Facilitates recycling
Recycling Kits (for <u>Batteries</u> ,		Recycled content
Fluorescent Lamps and Ballasts)		Facilitates recycling
Sorbents (including Granular		Recycled content
sorbents; Pads, Rolls & Mats)		
Paper Towels	UL EcoLogo	Recycled content
	Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	
Trash Bags/Waste Can Liners	SCS Certified for Recycled Content	Recycled content
Wipers		Recycled content – meets Comprehensive
		Procurement Guidelines (CPG)







Products that Promote Water Conservation



Products in this category, such as faucets and hoses, promote water conservation. The installation of water-conserving devices can earn LEED and other green building rating credits.

Product Category	Eco-Labels	Other Environmental Attributes
<u>Aerators</u>		Water conservation device (models 1.28 gpm or less)
Faucets (Sensor-operated and		Sensor-operated (can reduce water consumption but
Knob Metering)		often run on batteries, which can create waste)
Flush Valves		Dual settings can reduce water consumption)
Microfiber Mops		Contributes to water conservation
Toilet Repair Kits & Parts		Contributes to water conservation
Urinals		Water-free

Eco-label Descriptions

Eco-label	Description
BPI	The Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) is an independent organization that certifies bio-based plastic products that will safely break down in a typical commercial composing facility. For more information, including a list of certified products, please visit http://www.bpiworld.org/ .
CRI Green Label	The Carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label identifies carpets and adhesives with low emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which contribute to poor indoor-air quality. For more information, please visit http://www.carpet-rug.org/commercial-customers/green-building-and-the-environment/green-label-plus/ .
Comprehensive	The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines provide
Procurement Guidelines (CPG)	recommendations on recycled content for a wide range of products such as janitorial paper products, trash bags, construction products, and more. These products are required to be purchased if federal funding is used. For more information, please visit http://www.epa.gov/cpg .
DfE	The Design for the Environment (DfE) Program recognizes products that have been screened by the EPA to have "only those ingredients that pose the least concern among chemicals in their class." For more information, including a list of DfE-Recognized products, please visit http://www.epa.gov/dfe/pubs/projects/formulat/saferproductlabeling.htm .
ENERGY STAR	ENERGY STAR is a voluntary rating program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy. ENERGY STAR certifies highly efficient products in many categories (e.g., appliances and office equipment). For more information, please visit http://www.energystar.gov/ .
Forest Stewardship	FSC is an independent eco-label that promotes the responsible management of the world's forests.
Council (FSC)	For more information, please visit http://www.fsc.org/ .
Green Seal	Green Seal is an independent eco-label, founded in 1989, that certifies a wide range of hardware products such as cleaners, hand soaps, paints, and janitorial paper products. For more information, including a list of certified products, please visit http://www.greenseal.org/ .
NEMA Premium	Run by the Association of Electrical and Medical Imaging Equipment Manufacturers, NEMA Premium
Efficiency	identified energy-efficient motors and lighting equipment. For more information, please visit http://www.nema.org/gov/energy/efficiency/premium/ .
SCS Sustainable Choice Certified	Scientific Certification Systems verifies green claims such as "biodegradable" or "contains recycled content." SCS also oversees compliance with California Gold Sustainable Carpet Standard and other environmental certifications. For more information, please visit http://www.scscertified.com .
UL EcoLogo	UL EcoLogo is a multi-attribute eco-label managed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), which certifies thousands of products in many categories such as cleaning products, hand soaps, janitorial paper products, paint, and more. For more information, please visit http://www.ecologo.org/en/ . A list of UL EcoLogo-certified products can be found in UL's Sustainable Product Guide, which can be accessed at http://productguide.ulenvironment.com/QuickSearch.aspx .
UL GREENGUARD	UL GREENGUARD aims to improve indoor air quality by certifying products that emit low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCS) such as formaldehyde (a human carcinogen). This eco-label is primarily found on building materials, insulation, flooring, and furniture. For more information, please visit http://www.greenguard.org/en/index.aspx . GREENGUARD certified products can be found in UL's Sustainable Product Guide at http://productguide.ulenvironment.com/QuickSearch.aspx .
USDA BioPreferred	BioPreferred is a voluntary program run by the US Department of Agriculture that identifies products that meet or exceed minimum levels of biobased content. A list of USDA-certified biobased products can be found at http://www.biopreferred.gov/bioPreferredCatalog/faces/jsp/catalogLanding.jsp .
WaterSense	WaterSense is an EPA-sponsored program that certifies and labels water-efficient products such as shower heads, toilets, and irrigation equipment. For more information, please visit http://www.epa.gov/watersense/index.htm .

Additional Resources

- WSCA-NASPO MRO Contract webpage
- RPN Green Hardware Supplies webinar webpage

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