



Weekly Auditing and Compliance Tip

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Consider Going Green!

According to the Healthier Hospitals Initiative, Safer Chemicals, Accessed Oct 25, 2012, "more chemicals are used in health care than in any other sector."



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[click here](#)

Additionally, recent data indicates that health care is the industry most frequently recognized among confirmed cases of work-related asthma, with the top causative agents being cleaning products and poor indoor air quality (from the Massachusetts Nurses Association. "Exposure to environmental cleaning chemicals in healthcare settings." Accessed Oct 26, 2012.)

Many cleaning and disinfecting products contain volatile organic compounds such as alkylphenol ethoxylates, quarternary ammonium chlorides and ethylene glycol ethers, all of which cause a variety of symptoms, including skin rashes, eye and skin burns, coughing and wheezing, asthma, shortness of breath, headaches, and/or dizziness. Employees must be trained on the hazards of the chemicals they



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use or encounter on the job.

Consider switching to sustainable cleaning products in your practice. It is not only helpful to the environment, but the switch will also help reduce your employees' exposure to harmful chemicals that may cause damage to their health.

It's the right thing to do.

Getting Started

Before buying sustainable cleaning products for your office, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that you consider these tips*:

- Evaluate the performance, price, availability, regulatory requirements, and environmental impact to determine the best overall value for your organization.
- Be cautious about marketing claims such as "green," "eco safe," and "environmentally friendly." Ask product manufacturers and vendors to clearly and specifically define their green claims. In addition, ask manufacturers if they've conducted life cycle studies on their products.
- Look for environmental attributes in the product, such as:
 - Minimal presence of or exposure to potentially harmful chemicals, such as corrosive or strongly irritating substances, carcinogens, ozone-depleting compounds, and volatile organic compounds
 - Reduced and/or recyclable packaging and recycled content in packaging
 - Reduced bio concentration factor and flammability
 - Reduced or no added dyes (except when added for safety), fragrances, or skin irritants
 - Usable in cold water to conserve



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Our next online session, scheduled as a **3 week LIVE ONLINE evening course**, begins on April 10, 2018!

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May 8 & 9: San Antonio, TX
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- energy
 - o Use of renewable resources

In addition, consider purchasing products** that:

- Carry the EPA's "Design for the Environment" label (see the list of products [HERE](#)).
- Are certified as "green" by third-party independent organizations, such as Green Seal (www.greenseal.org), EcoLogo (www.ecologo.org), and GreenGuard (<http://greenguard.org>)

Here are some additional, practical tips for "Going Green" in the workplace:

- Use rubber flooring that does not require waxing or stripping
- Reduce the number of cleaning products used by using multi-surface cleaners
- Implement high-filtration HEPA vacuums
- Add walk-off mats positioned inside and outside entryways
- Use hands-free mops
- Use microfiber mops, cloths, and dusters
- Purchase concentrated cleaning products to reduce packaging waste and maybe even transportation costs
- Explore alternatives to pesticides, such as integrated pest management (removal of entryways and attractions to reduce the possibility that pests may enter the building)
- Purchase fragrance-free products (fragrances often cause respiratory problems for workers and patients)

DoctorsManagement's PowerBuying division can help your office go green, and locate these environmentally friendly products for your office. In addition, PowerBuying can also assist in helping your organization save money on supplies, equipment, malpractice insurance, pharmaceuticals, document destruction, medical waste removal, and

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Weekly Tip Sponsor



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[*US EPA. [Cleaning. Environmentally preferable purchasing.](#) Accessed Oct 25, 2012.]

** [US Environmental Protection Agency. Greening your purchase of cleaning products: A guide for federal purchasers.](#) Accessed Oct 25, 2012.]

This Week's Audit Tip Written By:



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Ann is a Partner and Director of CLIA Compliance for our parent organization, DoctorsManagement. Ann is also the Founder and Executive

Director of American Association of Physician Offices and Laboratories (AAPOL)

Complimentary Tip of the Week

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1995 v 1997

(Auditing Webinar Series)

Speaker: Melody Irvine, CPC, CPMC, CEMC, CFPC
March 6, 2018
2pm EST

Locum Tenens & Reciprocal Billing (What You Need to Know Webinar Series)

Speakers: Jesse Overbay, JD & Paul Spencer, CPC, COC
March 13, 2018
2pm EST

Compliance in DME (Compliance Webinar Series)

Speakers: Gene Good, JD, CPA, MAcc and Dawne Wood, AAS, CPC, CMPM, CPMN
March 20, 2018
2pm EST

MDM Of the E&M Encounter (Hands-On Webinar Series)

Speaker: J. Paul Spencer, CPC, COC
March 27, 2018
2pm EST

If you are interested in registering for the webinars above, please email us at namas@namas.co.

NAMAS Calendar of Events

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Calendar!



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