



Focus On Facilities

WPU Switches to Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Products

Custodial Services has begun to phase in the use of environmentally-friendly cleaning products in virtually all cleaning applications on campus. The cleaners are being purchased in concentrate form to be diluted on-site, meaning extra monetary savings for the University as well.

"We're in the process of switching to environmentally-friendly cleaning products manufactured by Misco Company of Reading, Pennsylvania," explains Frank Sommo, Managing Assistant Director of Housekeeping. "They contain no phosphates, they're non-corrosive, carcinogen-free, contain no chlorine bleach, no butoxyethanols, no petroleum distillates, and no metal crosslink polymers (in the floor products). The products are biodegradable and they come in recycled bottles, labels and cartons."

The products are part of Misco's *Elements* line of products which "meet Green Seal's environmental standards for industrial and institutional cleaners based on its reduced human and aquatic toxicity and reduced smog production potential" (Source: www.miscoprod.com).

They include a cleaner/degreaser, glass cleaner, organic restroom cleaner, oxygen-fortified carpet cleaner, floor stripper, floor finish, and an all-surface cleaner.

The spray-bottle cleaners have an innovative design: they contain two chambers, one for the chemical concentrate and one for water that the custodian adds. The bottle actually dilutes the cleaner to the proper ratio as the custodian cleans. (see picture)

"The University is presently playing an important role in the areas of energy conservation and recycling," says Sommo. "Converting to environmentally safe cleaning products enhances this mission by promoting a healthy environment and protecting our planet's natural resources."



Auto Mechanic Al Buffalino repairs a WPU salt truck in between spring snowfalls.