

Options for purchasing green cleaners and asthma-safe sanitizers and disinfectants



To practice safe and effective green child care germ management, a child care program should have three main products:

1. A general cleaner that will be used as the first step before sanitizing or disinfecting
2. An EPA-registered food contact sanitizer
3. An EPA-registered disinfectant

General Cleaners

For a general cleaning product, you can either mix your own plain, non-antibacterial soap with water or you can purchase an all-purpose cleaner. To make sure the soap or the all-purpose cleaner is safe and healthy, check for third-party certification by **EPA Safer Choice, Green Seal, or Eco Logo** (preferred). Look for any of these logos on soaps and cleaners (images are linked to their website):



Alternatively, you can check for a high rating from Environmental Working Group (www.ewg.org/guides/cleaners) or Good Guide (www.goodguide.com). You can download their free mobile apps to take with you to the store.

Please note that the certifications and ratings often do not classify fragrance or dyes as harmful. If feasible, give preference to soaps and cleaners that are free of dyes and fragrance as well. These products are often labeled as “free and clear.”

Examples of third-party certified retail all-purpose cleaning products (commonly available at stores such as Costco, WalMart, Target, Office Depot, or Safeway)

Product	Approx. Pricing
ECOS (Earth Friendly Products)	\$0.11-\$0.22 / fl. oz.
Green Works (Clorox)	\$0.04 after concentrate dilution - \$0.15 / fl. oz. ready-to-use
Seventh Generation	\$0.09 / fl. oz.

Examples of third-party institutional cleaning products (found online or through a vendor, not usually at a retail store)

Product	Approx. Pricing (before dilution)
Alpha HP Multi-surface Cleaner Concentrate	\$0.76 / fl. oz.
EnvirOx H2Orange2 Cleaner	\$0.15 / fl. oz. (JC Paper discounted price)
Glance NA Glass and All-purpose Smart Dose	\$1.12 / fl. oz.
Renown G-Force H2O2 Multi-Surface Cleaner	\$0.29 / fl. oz.
Spartan Green Solutions All-purpose Concentrate	\$.50 / fl. oz.

EPA-registered Sanitizers and Disinfectants

Safer sanitizers and disinfectants will be found online or through a vendor, not usually at major retail stores. Sanitizers and disinfectants are registered with the EPA as pesticides. EPA's Design for the Environment "Antimicrobial Pesticide Pilot Project" is the only program that can legally certify safer disinfecting products in the U.S. You will not see ecolabels such as EcoLogo or Green Seal on disinfectants.

When purchasing a sanitizing or disinfecting product, be sure to check for:

- ✚ An EPA registration number
- ✚ Approved surfaces and dwell time (the time it must be left wet on the surface to kill germs)
 - Note that many disinfectants may have sanitizing directions, but that does not mean it is safe for food contact surfaces.
- ✚ RTU vs. concentrate: Some of the preferred product examples are concentrated while others are ready-to-use (RTU) formulations. Each has its own pros and cons:
 - RTU pros: pre-diluted so the products tend to have relatively low hazards. Easier for staff to use and no dilution necessary.
 - RTU cons: more expensive
 - Concentrate pros: they contain 1/16 to 1/128 as much water so they can be shipped much more cheaply, with less fuel use and therefore greenhouse gas impacts.
 - Concentrate cons: they have relatively few health warnings on their diluted use solution, but most are corrosive in their concentrated form.
 - All concentrated disinfecting products should be used **ONLY** with automatic dilution equipment – preferably "closed loop" systems, which preclude any contact with the concentrated product. Pump-style dilution systems are generally insufficient, as they do not eliminate risks of spills or splashes of the corrosive materials.
- ✚ The active ingredient (the chemical that kills the germs). Safer active ingredients include:
 - Hydrogen Peroxide (or Accelerated HP)
 - Citric Acid
 - Lactic Acid

Examples of Safer Food Contact Sanitizers

Product	Active Ingredient	Dwell Time	Approx. Pricing	Where to purchase (*=discounts available in Alameda County)
SaniDate RTU	Hydrogen Peroxide	1 minute	\$0.19 - \$0.28 / fl. oz.	BioSafe Systems* Amazon
Benefect Broad Spectrum Disinfectant	Thymol**	5-10 minutes	\$0.36 / fl. oz.	Amazon Ebay
Cleanwell Daily/ Weekly/ Monthly Cleaner (Seventh Generation)	Thymol**	10 minutes (requires rinse)	\$0.30 / fl. oz.	Amazon Jet Walmart

**The EPA has determined that the active ingredient thymol has minimal potential toxicity and poses minimal risk. However thymol can be a skin irritant and was rejected as a safer active ingredient by SF Environment.

Examples of Safer Disinfectants

Products are listed in order of shortest dwell time to longest. Products that have a shorter dwell times (a minute or less) and are RTU (ready to use) are ideal for use during operating hours. Products with longer dwell times or requiring dilution may be better for use after hours.

Product	Active Ingredient	Dwell Time	Approx. Pricing	Where to purchase (*=discounts available)
Accel Tb Disinfectant (RTU, wipes)	Hydrogen Peroxide	1 minute	\$22 for 32 fl. oz. bottle \$28 for 160 wipes	Staples Grainger
Clorox Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner Disinfectant (RTU, wipes)	Hydrogen Peroxide	1 minute	\$16.44 for 32 fl. oz. (Pack of 2) (\$8.22/bottle)	JC Paper* Amazon Staples
Optim 33Tb (RTU, wipes)	Hydrogen Peroxide	1 minute	\$112 for 32 fl. oz. (Case of 12) (\$9.33/bottle) \$18.50 for 160 wipes	Ebay MedSuppliesShop
Oxivir Tb Disinfectant (RTU, wipes)	Hydrogen Peroxide	1 minute	\$47.28 for 32 fl. oz. (Case of 12) (\$3.94 / bottle) \$79.21 (12 Packs of 60 wipes)	JC Paper* Amazon Office Depot/Max Staples Waxie Sanitary Grainger WB Mason Give Something Back
Shockwave Hydrogen Peroxide Disinfectant and Cleaner RTU	Hydrogen Peroxide	1 minute	\$53 for 1 gal	Amazon

Product	Active Ingredient	Dwell Time	Approx. Pricing	Where to purchase (*=discounts available)
Accel Concentrate	Hydrogen Peroxide	5 minutes	\$53 for 1 gal (concentrate)	Amazon
Bright Green Disinfecting All Purpose Cleaner	Lactic Acid	5 minutes	Unknown	Safeway
Carpe Diem Concentrate Five 16	Hydrogen Peroxide	5 minutes	\$109 for 1 gal (concentrate)	Amazon Glutco
Clean-cide (RTU, wipes)	Citric Acid	5 minutes	\$10 for 32 fl. oz. bottle \$99 for pack of 12 bottles \$16 for 160 wipes	Ebay Medline Wexford Labs (800-506-1146)
Envirox Concentrate 118	Hydrogen Peroxide	5 minutes	\$89 for 1 gal (concentrate)	JC Paper* Amazon
Oxivir Five 16 Concentrate	Hydrogen Peroxide	5 minutes	\$56 for 2 pack of 1.4L bottles (\$77/gal) (concentrate)	JC Paper* Amazon Give Something Back
Alpha-HP Multi-Surface Disinfectant Cleaner	Hydrogen Peroxide	10 minutes	\$62 for 2 pack of 1.5L (\$78.28/gal) (concentrate)	JC Paper* Amazon Give Something Back Grainger
Comet Bathroom Cleaner with Disinfectant	Citric Acid	10 minutes	\$13 for 2 pack of 32 fl. oz. bottles (\$6.50/bottle)	Amazon Give Something Back Various retail stores
Green Solutions (Spartan GS) Restroom Cleaner	Citric Acid	10 minutes	\$60 for 32 fl. oz. bottles (Case of 12) (\$5/bottle)	Amazon
Lysol Power & Free Bathroom Cleaner with Hydrogen Peroxide (RTU, wipes)	Hydrogen Peroxide	10 minutes	\$12.50 for 22 fl. oz bottles (Pack of 2)	Amazon Give Something Back

*Discounts for Alameda County Providers

Contact Kim.Hazard@acgov.org or call (510) 208-9645 for instructions on how to access discounts on products like Sanidate, Oxivir, Green Works, microfiber cloths, soap, and more.