

Cleaning Times

July 2008

To All of Our Cleaning Times Subscribers:

Cleanliness and Learning in Educational Facilities

A recent study has shed new light on the connection between cleanliness and student performance in our schools and universities. In the report, 1,481 college level students were surveyed to determine if there is a correlation between cleanliness and academic achievement. The results show a strong correlation between the level of cleanliness and positive learning behaviors. You can download this report for free if you are an ISSA member. Log in to www.issa.com and go to the *MEMBER LOUNGE* and click on *MARKET STUDIES AND STATISTICS* to download the report.



Understanding green cleaning and how to implement a program in schools is increasingly important for sales reps who want to or already do business with schools. This is especially true as the public becomes more aware of the link between cleanliness and student performance. The state of Missouri is now the third state that has mandated through law green cleaning in public schools starting in 2009. Please visit the *Greening Our Schools* section at www.yourguidetoclean.com to learn more about how to help your school accounts go green.

New on www.multi-clean.com

Introducing TECH GUIDES, a simple and informative guide on subjects that matter to you and your customers. Go to the training section of our website by clicking [HERE](#) to view the TECH GUIDE on Clostridium Difficile (C. Diff). If you do or want to do business in hospitals and nursing homes, you should know about this bacteria and the sickness it can cause. Watch for more TECH GUIDES coming soon.

Multi-Clean continues to develop tools to help educate and train facility management how to green their cleaning. This is a key element in our Green Leadership initiative.

Tech Guide

Healthcare Training Series
Clostridium difficile (C. diff): Prevention and Control

Background

Clostridium Difficile Associated Illnesses (CDI) are a set of diseases caused by the C. diff bacteria. People in great health usually don't get C. difficile disease. People who have other illnesses or conditions requiring prolonged use of antibiotics and elderly people are at greater risk of acquiring them via stool in the C. diff.

The Problem

C. difficile can exist and be transmitted in a "spore" form. The bacteria go into a spore (dormant state where conditions for growth are unfavourable). The spore is highly resistant and not normally killed with chemical disinfection methods. C. difficile is shed in feces as spores. Any surface, device, or material (e.g., commodes, bathing, tubs, and electronic medical equipment) that becomes contaminated with feces may serve as a reservoir for the C. diff spores. C. diff spores are transferred to patients mainly via the hands of healthcare personnel who have touched a contaminated surface or item. Some healthcare facilities are considering the potential use of bleach based disinfectants for all of their environmental surface cleaning needs as a means of controlling C. diff.

Facts and Figures

FACT: There are no disinfectants that have a proven efficacy against C. Difficile Spores. This includes EPA registered Hypochlorite based disinfectants. The CDC suggests that bleach may have some efficacy toward spores, but it acknowledges the lack of scientific proof and validation. The mechanical action of cleaning may still be just as effective for removing spores from Environmental Surfaces. There are disinfectants currently in the marketplace that have claims for "Clostridium difficile vegetative form". Unfortunately, most of these products are not effective against the C. diff spores, which is what are being transmitted via the fecal material. EPA has just recently decided that all pesticide products registered for use against Clostridium difficile must demonstrate efficacy against the spore form of the organism. Further, the EPA believes efficacy claims against the "Clostridium difficile vegetative form" of the organism are "false and misleading" because the vegetative form is not the organism of concern in infection control practices. Therefore, EPA will not continue to allow a Clostridium difficile vegetative claim on a pesticide label and all registered products currently making claims against the vegetative form must remove the claim. Multi-Clean has already complied with this directive. Link to CDC Fact Sheet [HERE](#).

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Microcide TB - New and Improved

We are excited to update this state of the art disinfectant product. The NEW fragrance makes the product even more pleasant to use for a variety of cleaning and disinfecting needs. A new light green color helps you visually identify the new formula. Check out the updated Microcide TB spec sheet [HERE](#).

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## Multi-Clean Employee of the Month

Mike Elms: Technical Services Manager

Mike has been with Multi-Clean for 10 years. He started as a chemist and was recently promoted to Technical Services Manager, a testament to his problem solving abilities and strong customer service attitude. When you call Multi-Clean and ask for Tech Support, the friendly and helpful voice of experience on the other end will often be that of Mike Elms. At Multi-Clean we pride ourselves on offering Technical Support second to none, and Mike Elms and his staff of chemists have proven it to our customers on many occasions.

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ASK THE CHEMIST

Q. Can I use a disinfectant in my green cleaning program and where should I use it?

A. For the answer, click [HERE](#).

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