



HEALTHY SCHOOLS

Serving Arkansas, Louisiana,
Oklahoma, New Mexico,
Texas, and 66 Tribes

Helping Kids Learn in A Pollution Free Environment What Is Safer Choice?

Safer Choice helps consumers, businesses, and purchasers find products that perform and contain ingredients that are safer for human health and the environment. Safer Choice is an [EPA Pollution Prevention \(P2\) program](#), which includes practices that reduce, eliminate, or prevent pollution at its source, such as using safer ingredients in products.

Finding cleaning and other products that are safer for you, your family, and the environment should be easy — that's why EPA developed the Safer Choice label. Everyone plays a role in protecting our families' health and the environment. Products with the Safer Choice label help consumers and commercial buyers identify products with safer chemical ingredients, without sacrificing quality or performance.

About 1,900 products currently qualify to carry the Safer Choice label. Safer Choice-certified products are available for use in [homes](#) and in [facilities like schools, hotels, offices, and sports venues](#).

Safer Choice in Schools and Communities

Safer Choice-certified products:

- Are made with safer ingredients for your community.
- Are a safer choice for schools.
- Are made with safer ingredients for workers and workplaces.
- Are a safer choice for workplaces.
- Work for you and the planet.
- Work well and contain safer ingredients and fewer volatile organic compounds (VOCs), making them better for indoor air quality and your students and personnel.

Cleaning products used to clean your school can impact the air you breathe. Safer Choice-certified products work well and contain ingredients that are better for indoor air quality and your students and personnel.

Everyone deserves access to products with safer ingredients. The Safer Choice label helps you find products that meet EPA's standards for ingredient safety, sustainability and performance. Before a product can carry the EPA Safer Choice label, EPA scientists confirm all ingredients are safer for fish and aquatic life and/or break down quickly in the environment. In addition, at least 25% of the product packaging must meet one or more sustainability criteria detailed in the [Safer Choice Standard](#) and cannot contain intentionally added heavy metals, BPA or phthalates.

EPA REGION 6 – SOUTH CENTRAL

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Cleaning

Works by **removing** dirt and impurities from surfaces using soap or detergents.

Look for EPA's Safer Choice label on cleaning products!



Safer cleaning in schools helps protect everyone

- Students
- Teachers
- Custodians
- School staff
- School nurses
- Parents & visitors



Disinfecting

Works by **killing** germs on surfaces.

Look for EPA's Design for the Environment logo on disinfectants!



ODDS AND ENDS

Healthy Schools is published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 - South Central in Dallas, Texas. Region 6 includes the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas as well as 66 Tribes. For general information about Healthy Schools, to provide feedback on this newsletter, or to be added or removed from the distribution list, please contact Cathy Gilmore, Senior Environmental Employee (SEE) for Healthy Schools at Gilmore.cathy@epa.gov. We would love your feedback on this newsletter or suggestions for future topics. Please email EPA at Gilmore.cathy@epa.gov.

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