

## Environmental Preferred Procurement (EPP)

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**PURPOSE:** Children's is committed to the principles of Environmentally Preferred Procurement (EPP) in support of Children's mission to improve the health of our patients and families, staff, and the communities we serve.

**POLICY:** Principles of Environmentally Preferred Procurement (EPP) will be applied to all major procurement decisions. Seattle Children's will evaluate the environmental impacts (e.g., waste, toxicity) of products and services in an effort to select healthy and safe products and services that are also environmentally sound. Children's staff involved with product selection will communicate to the marketplace that Children's expects suppliers to continuously develop price competitive products that conform to our EPP principles.

### PROCEDURE:

#### I. Definitions:

- A. **Environmentally Preferred Procurement** is the purchase of products and services whose environmental impacts have been considered and found to be less damaging to the environment and human health when compared to competing products and services.
- B. **DEHP** (di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate) is a plasticizer (softener) used to increase the flexibility of polymers like polyvinyl chloride (PVC).
  1. DEHP is the plasticizer for most PVC medical devices such as IV bags and tubing.
  2. DEHP can leach out of the flexible PVC medical devices into the solution or medication it contains and subsequently into the patient.
  3. Animal studies indicate that DEHP is a potentially reproductive and development toxicant.
- C. **Green Building** is the practice of creating healthier and more resource-efficient models of design, construction, renovation, operation, maintenance and demolition.
  1. Elements of green building include, but are not limited to: designing and operating buildings to use energy efficiently and to use renewable sources of energy, including solar and wind; use water efficiently; use building materials that, in comparison to competing brands, have a reduced effect on the environment throughout their life cycle (e.g. recycled content, low toxicity, energy efficiency, biodegradability, and/or durability); reducing the waste from construction, remodeling, and demolition; designing and operating buildings that are healthy for their occupants.

#### II. Environmentally Preferred Procurement Principles:

- A. EPP principles are incorporated into the deliberations on commonly used products, especially where more environmentally friendly alternatives may be available.
  1. These principles also support improving the health of our patients, families, staff and communities by reducing exposure to toxic substances.
- B. EPP principles may not be the sole factor in determining product selection but will be weighed with other quality, service, and total cost components.
  1. Recognition of limited natural resources and landfill and increasing costs of disposal are also factored into decisions.
- C. General utilization and selection strategy for contracting staff and

individual/department purchases – Consider the following elements that make an alternative preferable:

1. Use less of it
2. Conserve resources (e.g. use less water, energy, or virgin resources to produce or use; Energy Star Qualified products)
3. Eliminate/reduce waste (e.g. minimal packaging)
4. Reduce toxicity (e.g. non-DEHP, no chlorine)
5. Ability to recycle
6. Comparable functionality and effectiveness
7. Consideration of total cost of ownership (e.g. unit cost, cost of waste, etc.)

**III. Specific Environmental Criteria for Procurement Decisions:**

- A. Children’s is committed to being a mercury-free hospital and prohibits the purchase of products that are known to have mercury.
- B. Children’s promotes the purchases of:
  1. Building products and materials that do not adversely impact indoor air quality.
  2. Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Products
  3. Products with high post-consumer recycled content.
  4. Regionally produced products.
  5. Readily recycled, re-processed and/or re-used products.
  6. Latex-free products.
  7. Products that do not contain toxins or contain a reduced amount of toxins.
  8. Products that have “Take Back” provisions.
  9. Chlorine free paper products.
- C. Whenever possible, Children’s avoid products containing:
  1. Urea Formaldehyde
  2. Heavy metals including, cadmium, lead, chromium, antimony and arsenic.
  3. Hexavalent chromium in plated finishes
  4. Halogenated flame retardants
  5. Chlorine-containing flame retardants
  6. Stain and non-stick treatments derived from Perfluorinated Compounds (PFC’s), including Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)
  7. Added antimicrobial treatments to furniture
  8. Persistent bioaccumulative toxic compounds
  9. Bisphenol- A
  10. Latex
  11. Carcinogens, mutagens and reproductive toxic chemicals
  12. Phthalates (e.g. plasticizer DEHP (di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate)
  13. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
  14. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC’s)

**IV. Whenever possible, Children’s will work with and encourage our vendors to promote manufacturing practices that are environmentally safe and sound. This includes but is not limited to:**

- A. Products use minimal packaging that is recyclable, non-toxic or bio-based.
- B. Products are transported with minimal and/or bio-based packaging.
- C. Products are manufactured using the least amount of water and energy and use less water and energy during normal use.
- D. Products contain preferable attributes (**See Section III. A**).

**REFERENCES:**

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Healthier Hospitals Initiative: <http://healthierhospitals.org/>.

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Sustainable Hospitals Program: <http://www.sustainableproduction.org/proj.shos.abou.php>.

Toxic-Free Legacy Coalition: <http://toxicfreelegacy.org/>.

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