



**THE ORIGINAL GREEN  
SEAL OF APPROVAL  
SINCE 1989**

# **GS-34** Green Seal™ Standard for Cleaning and Degreasing Agents, Second Edition

## ***A Guide to Leadership***

Green Seal offers this standard as a comprehensive benchmark for sustainable cleaning and degreasing agents, identifying these products as leaders in the industry.

As consumers continue to demand safer, environmentally preferable products, GS-34 helps them identify those industrial and institutional products that meet the highest levels of sustainability and performance.

Cleaning and degreasing agents can cause water pollution and harm human health. Many chemicals found in these products may be toxic to humans and aquatic organisms, and both manufacturers and users risk exposure to harmful chemicals through dermal exposure and inhalation.

These products often contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), chemicals that can have short- and long-term health effects, and contribute to the ozone problem. GS-34 limits the use of these chemicals in cleaning and degreasing agents.



## ***Scope of Standard***

GS-34 establishes requirements for cleaning and degreasing agents marketed for cleaning soils in production and maintenance applications.

## ***Key Areas Addressed***

GS-34 protects water and air quality, health, and the environment by prohibiting harmful chemicals, specifying sustainable packaging, and limiting VOC content. These criteria are intended to protect the health of those who are using or may be exposed to the product, and protect the environment. The criteria cover:

- Product Performance
- Human Health and Environmental Protection
- Labeling

## ***Performance Requirements***

GS-34 ensures that cleaning and degreasing agents deliver satisfactory value by requiring effective performance in soil removal, and for aqueous degreasers, oil separation ability.

**SUSTAINABILITY  
LEADERSHIP STANDARDS**



**INDEPENDENT  
THIRD-PARTY  
CERTIFICATION**



**SUSTAINABILITY  
RESEARCH &  
LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS**



**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
FOR INSTITUTIONAL  
GREENING**



## ***Human Health and Environmental Requirements***

GS-34 enhances the safety of cleaning and degreasing agents by requiring them to be non-toxic, non-ignitable, and non-irritating to skin and eyes. They cannot be formulated with harmful chemicals from a comprehensive list, which includes carcinogens, reproductive toxins, and ozone depleting substances.

Water quality is protected by setting limits on phosphorus content (to prevent eutrophication), and on environmental toxicity and bioaccumulation (to prevent harmful chemicals accumulating in the waterways). The content of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) is limited in order to prevent ground level ozone air pollution and to protect the health of users.

## ***Manufacturing Sustainability Requirements***

The manufacturer must either provide the user with specific recycling and disposal instructions or take back products for recycling or disposal.

## ***Labeling Requirements***

Product labeling must contain clear instructions for proper use, recommended dilution, personal protective equipment, recycling, and disposal. The instructions must include the temperature at which the agent can be safely used.

***This is only a summary of the standard.***

***The full standard is available at: [www.greenseal.org/GS34](http://www.greenseal.org/GS34)***

For more information call (202) 872-4000 or email [greenseal@greenseal.org](mailto:greenseal@greenseal.org).

Green Seal is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to safeguarding the environment and transforming the marketplace by promoting the manufacture, purchase, and use of environmentally responsible products and services. Founded in 1989, Green Seal provides life-cycle, science-based environmental certification standards that are credible, transparent, and essential to creating a more sustainable world.