



# THE GREENCRICKET REPORT

WWW.GREENCRICKET.CA • 1-877 GRN CRKT • WINTER VOL.1 • NO.2



## HEALTHY environments for schools & daycares



**W**elcome and thank you to all the schools and daycares that have become customers since our first Green Cricket Report was issued in August. We have been receiving good reviews of our EcoLogo Certified Foaming Hand Wash: schools and daycares like it because it contains no SLS, it is free of artificial fragrances and color, and provides great value. In this issue, read about SLS and see a comparison of ingredients in popular commercial soaps. Learn more about why some school boards are banning bleach and considering alternatives such as Health Canada approved natural disinfectants. We continue to research and report the issues to consider in creating healthier environments for your kids. **Have a safe and happy holiday season!**

### OUR CLIENTS HAVE THEIR SAY...

“ The Little Green Schoolhouse is an Early Childhood Learning Centre where children, families and the community have the opportunity to make positive connections.

Our philosophy is all about



**healthy choices**

and **healthy living**, which is why we've created an **eco-friendly** learning environment, giving great attention to the materials we use, from our furniture and toys, to our **non-toxic** cleaning supplies and our **organic** menu. One of our key objectives is to minimize children's exposure to toxic chemicals and Green Cricket supports our objective through their commitment to environmental responsibility across the large selection of products they provide. ”



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## PRODUCT SHOWCASE

Green Cricket is part of a unique eco-system of clients, vendors, and associations that share our commitment to promote environmentally responsible products and services.

### ▶ EnviroMaid Ecological Home/Office Cleaning

Founded by owner Emmanuel Rey in 2002, the success of EnviroMaid Green Cleaning Services proves that decision makers do



place a high priority on green cleaning.

By carefully training its staff and adopting only environmentally responsible materials and processes, EnviroMaid™ works hard to maintain healthy environments for both residential and commercial clients across Toronto. Learn more at [www.enviromaid.ca](http://www.enviromaid.ca) or call 416-402-6177.

### ▶ Diaper Disposal made simple – and environmentally friendly



Daycare operators face a dirty job – disposal. Smart operators are keeping used diapers out of landfill sites by using “Dog Waste Bags” from Bio Bag, the world’s largest manufacturer of compostable bags. Made of starch and biodegradable

polyester, the bags are easy to use and can be composted because they contain no polyethelene. Easily and safely disposed of in your green bin. Call us at 1-877-GRN-CRKT to learn more.

### ▶ Green Cricket Foaming Hand Wash now available from KidzGroup

KidzGroup is pleased to announce that KidzGroup is now distributing Green Cricket Foaming Hand Wash to childcare and education facilities across Canada. Call them at 905-670-7999 or 1-800-387-2472



# GAME PLAN

## getting ready for flu season

Make sure kids stay healthy by following these simple steps:

1. Review hand washing and sanitizing practices with staff and kids
2. Have plenty of soap and supplies on hand - no excuse not to wash and dry
3. Let kids use a pump soap like Green Cricket Foaming Hand Wash; teach them to lather with lots of water, keep scrubbing for 30 seconds and then rinse
4. Teach kids to “cover up” when they cough or sneeze and make sure used tissues go directly in the green bin
5. Keep it clean and green – make sure the products you are using both clean and disinfect – use a Health Canada approved product like Benefect
6. Recommend flu shots for your staff



## Getting the **DIRT** on Cleaning & Disinfecting

**Cleaning products break up dirt and prevent it from re-adhering to surfaces. But cleaning won't kill germs – you need a disinfectant for that.**

Look for a DIN (Drug Identification Number) - it means Health Canada has validated any product disinfection claims. Check with your local school board or Public Health Agency to see if there are further guidelines for your facility. Read ingredient lists carefully since products may be approved by Health Canada and have EcoLogo certification but may pose health

and environmental risks for kids and staff.

Bleach is often used as a disinfectant because it is cheap and it works when properly used. Unfortunately, bleach is highly corrosive and can cause poisoning or skin



## GREEN CRICKET COMMUNITY UPDATE

### Clean Air Champions

Green Cricket partners with Clear Air Champions, a national charity with a mission to educate Canadians, particularly youth, about the critical issues around air quality, climate change and health. They do that by engaging their Champions, Canada's top national team, Olympic and Paralympic athletes, to deliver educational, curriculum-connected programs that inspire youth to make more sustainable, healthier, lifestyle choices.

Green Cricket supports CAC by donating 10% of all Green Cricket purchases that originate from the CAC weblink. In addition, Green Cricket will donate 5% of all purchases of our own Green Cricket EcoLogo certified Foaming Hand Wash directly to schools or organizations participating in CAC programs until December 31st, 2011. Learn more at [www.cleanairchampions.ca](http://www.cleanairchampions.ca).



and tissue damage. New-onset asthma in kids has been attributed to the overuse of bleach in a number of cases.

Bleach contains chlorine so mixing it with other acids such as ammonia or even vinegar can create chlorine gas or an explosion. Some School and Health authorities in Toronto and across North America have gone so far as to ban bleach use.

Other chemical disinfectants may have the same corrosive risks to lungs, skin and eyes as bleach but are a bigger threat – if they don't biodegrade – they just get flushed into our water system and are toxic to fish.

Green Cricket™ recommends Schools and Daycares protect students and staff by selecting products that are proven to clean and disinfect, but rely on natural chemical compounds to do the job.

### Now Accepting Applications

- Green Apple Daycare has opened their new facility called Windermere Kids at 356 Windermere Avenue in the High Park area.
- La Petite Ecole will offer preschool for



the French – speaking community and parents seeking a French immersion experience for their children. Located at 130 Kennedy Road in West Toronto, their new facility was carefully completed with Benjamin Moore Eco-Spec paint and purple marmoleum floors.

### Got Green on the agenda for your Association Meeting or Development Day?

Green Cricket can provide expert speakers to address environmental sustainability or green clean strategies. Here is what's happening in November:

- **Association of Day Care Operators of Ontario:** Fall Conference 2011 - Vendor Showcase
- **Child Development Resource Connection of Peel:** Development Day Nov. 14th
- **Little Green Schoolhouse Winter Wellness Open House:** Mississauga, Nov. 20th 1-4PM
- **CDRCP (Peel) Keep On Track Event:** Vendor Showcase - November 29

**One excellent choice is Benefect™ Botanical Disinfectant. Available from Green Cricket in a convenient 4L bottle or by the case, it has a Health Canada DIN but contains no ammonia or chlorine. That means it provides the cleaning and disinfectant power you need without the health and environmental risks of bleach and chemical based products. Learn more at [http://www.benefect.com/CA\\_benefect/CAN\\_products\\_disinfectants.php](http://www.benefect.com/CA_benefect/CAN_products_disinfectants.php)**

**Despite all the proven risks in using bleach, some local agencies still insist on it. Remember to confirm your local regulations before you make a switch.**



### THE EXPERT VIEW

By Trevor Smith, PhD. (Chemistry)  
Quality Manager, Green Cricket

## Beware of SLS and SLES!

Sodium laurel sulfate (SLS) and Sodium Laureth sulfate (SLES) are inexpensive, effective foaming agents or surfactants commonly found in many soaps, shampoos, and toothpastes.

Although the levels used in cosmetic products are considered “safe”, both SLS and SLES are known skin and eye irritants.

These irritations are only part of the problem. Tests have proven that 1,4 dioxane, which has been classified by The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a probable human carcinogen, can be created as a by-product during the SLES/SLS manufacturing process.

Although Canadian law does not ban 1,4 dioxane, both Health Canada and the Food and Drug Administration in the U.S. encourage manufacturers to restrict and monitor the use of this chemical.

When ingredient cost rather than ingredient safety becomes the deciding factor for manufacturers developing formulations, chemicals like SLS find their way into soaps and shampoos. One manufacturer is quoted off the record as saying “I know it's not a good ingredient, but everyone uses it.” Well, not everyone!!!

Green Cricket formulates our products using effective, alternative, natural ingredients. Responsible manufacturers of green products now specifically avoid the use of SLS or SLES in their products.

What can you do? Read the label on soaps, shampoos and toothpaste and refuse to purchase anything with nasty ingredients like SLS and SLES.

Read more about studies on SLS and SLES at [www.besthealthmag.ca](http://www.besthealthmag.ca) or [www.ewg.com](http://www.ewg.com)

Have a question for our experts?  
Visit: <http://blog.greencricket.ca/>

## FOAMING HAND WASH PRODUCT COMPARISON

### What's in the soap your kids are using today?

Product	 Foaming Hand Wash	 Clear Foam Wash	 Foam Hand Wash	 Green & Clean Foaming Hand Soap
Ingredients flagged as concerns by the Environmental Working Group (EWG)	Phenoxyethanol (preservative)	SLES, Propylene glycol, PEG 75 (foam agents/surfactants), Isothiazolinone (preservative)	SLES, PEG 80 (foam agents/surfactants), Isothiazolinone (preservative)	Sodium N-Lauroyl Sarcosinate, Cocamide DEA & Sodium Borate (foam agents/surfactants)
3rd Party Certification				
Locally Made in Canada				

Product Ingredient and attribute summary based on label review conducted October 2011 supplemented with information provided by manufacturers.

WANT TO LEARN MORE about ingredients such as SLS, SLES, PEG (glycols), Isothiazoline, Phenoxyethanol, and Sodium N-Lauroyl Sarcosinate - read all about them at [www.ewg.com](http://www.ewg.com)

#### ATTENTION CLEANING & PERSONAL CARE PRODUCT DISTRIBUTORS

Add proven, effective products from Green Cricket to your line up. Call us at 1-877-GRN-CRKT



**Want to learn more:**  
Call us at 1-877 GRN CRKT  
(1-877-476-2758)  
311 Evans Ave., Etobicoke  
Ontario M8Z 1K2  
Email: [info@greencricket.ca](mailto:info@greencricket.ca)

VISIT US AT :



To get to our products page at [www.greencricket.ca](http://www.greencricket.ca)



<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Green-Cricket/71997610266>



@green\_cricket

#### PAYING IT FORWARD!

Did you know that Green Cricket supports environmental initiatives in our community?

► Green Cricket contributes 1% of its pre-tax profit to fund community and environmental projects.

FSC logo