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# HAND HYGIENE TIMES

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## A Multi-Faceted Approach to Selecting Products that Balances Safety, Efficacy, and Sustainability

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Product selection in healthcare facilities is often complex and requires a balance of many different factors. Selecting products that meet Health Canada requirements for safety and efficacy is most important. Sustainability is also a factor that is top-of-mind for many healthcare facilities as they further engage in green initiatives and consider the environmental impacts of doing business. Choosing the right products that fit within a healthcare facility's sustainability policy involves a multi-faceted approach.

### **First, recognize the need for incorporating sustainability into day-to-day operations.**

According to Health Care Without Harm, the majority of wastes produced by the healthcare sector are municipal wastes and can undergo recovery and recycling. With proper segregation in place, the amount of infectious medical wastes, hazardous wastes and radioactive wastes can be reduced by 2-25%<sup>1</sup>. Healthcare has a responsibility to minimize their waste and help recover and recycle as much as possible.

**Second, engage leadership in order to make the impact significant.** "Without engaged leadership, programs will be limited to departmental successes driven by passionate individuals – but limited in scope."<sup>2</sup> Leadership validates the investment of time, energy and resources. Many times, it's intimidating to approach leadership to obtain their support. Practice Greenhealth suggests starting by documenting and sharing success stories that have already occurred and highlighting the competitive landscape. Consider sharing what other similar healthcare facilities are achieving from a sustainability standpoint and any recognition they may have received for doing so. Competition and cost savings can make a big impression at the C-level. To help you get started, check out Practice Greenhealth's Engaged Leadership infographic.

**Third, make it a partnership.** Work with vendors that have sustainability goals themselves. They will be working towards reducing their own environmental footprint and are considering sustainability as they innovate towards the future. A simple way to start is by working with vendors to determine how to minimize waste from product packaging. As an example, ask your hand hygiene vendor about recyclability of bottles and how to handle broken or discarded dispensers. They may be able to assist with recycling the products you purchase or team with you to coordinate a recycling program. Making vendors aware that you expect a focus on sustainability will help them as they plan for how they will meet their customers' needs now and in the future.

### **Lastly, choose healthier products.**

The healthcare environment is meant to be a healing environment. More attention should be paid to the safety profile of chemicals used in hand hygiene products, furnishings, cleaners, and equipment. Sustainable or "green" chemistry is a focus on discovering new chemicals, production processes, and product stewardship practices that will provide increased performance and value while meeting the goals of protecting and enhancing human health and the environment.<sup>3</sup>

It's worth reminding ourselves that the definition of sustainability refers to policies and strategies that meet society's present economic, social and environmental needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Setting achievable, incremental goals is a great place to start to help your healthcare facility on its sustainability journey.

1. Health Care Without Harm Tips for Waste Reduction. Health Care Without Harm Web Site. <https://noharm-uscanada.org/issues/us-canada/tips-waste-reduction>. Accessed April 26, 2018.  
2. Healthier Hospitals 2014 Milestone Report. Practice Green Health Web Site. [https://practicegreenhealth.org/sites/default/files/upload-files/fnl\\_hhi\\_milestone\\_report\\_061015\\_lores.pdf](https://practicegreenhealth.org/sites/default/files/upload-files/fnl_hhi_milestone_report_061015_lores.pdf). Accessed April 26, 2018.  
3. Sustainable Chemistry. OECD Web Site. <http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/risk-management/sustainablechemistry.htm>. Accessed April 26, 2018.

# PRODUCT FEATURE



GOJO is the first company to publicly commit to reducing our chemical footprint by 50 percent by 2020.

Learn more at:

<http://www.gojo.com/en/Sustainability/2016-2017-Report/Overview>

## GOJO is Proud to Offer the World's Largest Portfolio of Green Certified Hand Hygiene Products.

At GOJO, our Purpose-driven commitment to sustainability powers us to innovate our well-being solutions and ways of working. With an understanding of our stakeholder's requirements and aspirations for more sustainable solutions, we find creative ways to innovate to create Sustainable Value through our work. We deliver market-leading solutions that utilize the best available technologies, while addressing what matters most to our customers. Innovation is at the core of what we do.

In talking with our customers and monitoring our sales, we see increasing interest in adopting third-party certified products to support customer sustainability objectives. Today, there is a growing expectation that our products deliver "human and environmental health benefits" in addition to our long-standing reputation for high performance.

With third-party certified products, customers don't need to be experts in green chemistry. They can choose better options for human health and the environment with the knowledge that highly respected, third-party organizations have taken a science-based approach to verify our products' effectiveness, safety profiles, and sustainability benefits, and have audited our operations to ensure we are producing them in sustainable ways.



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- EcoLogo Certified
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- Fragrance free and dye free
- Sustainable packaging design

### GOJO®/PROVON® GREEN CERTIFIED HANDWASH FORMULATIONS

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- Biodegradable formula proven effective, yet mild enough for frequent handwashing
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- Produced in part with renewably sourced ingredients
- Sustainable packaging design



Learn more about our full portfolio of green certified products at:  
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