

Dollar Wise Quality Cleaners is Cleaning Green

Dollar Wise Quality Cleaners is cleaning green. Its commitment to environmentally friendly business practices makes it an industry leader and a good example for any company looking to operate on the cutting edge of alternative energy

The Search for ZÖP

To develop a more environmentally friendly approach to dry cleaning, Dollar Wise needed an alternative cleaning product that would be non-carcinogenic and phosphate-free while still providing the cleaning power of phosphate-based detergents. When the company couldn't find such a product on the market, it worked with a local chemist to develop something new. After months of work they invented ZÖP — an environmentally friendly detergent trademarked not only for their use, but also available for sale to the general public. ZÖP is as strong as commercial-grade detergent but is non-pollutant, allergy free and allows customers to reduce their carbon footprint.

Replacing Toxic PERC

Following the development of ZÖP, Dollar Wise then searched for a dry cleaning solution to replace the toxic cleaning product Perchloroethylene. After more research, they found DrySolv, a 100 per cent environmentally friendly solvent that matched, or beat, anything available for cleaning power. Because it cleans at lower temperatures, DrySolv also conserves energy.

A Vegetable Oil Van

One of the company's most innovative ideas is its alternative fuel service van. The van's diesel engine was converted to run on recycled vegetable oil that Dollar Wise collects from local restaurants in Winnipeg. Dollar Wise owner Shane Johnston states: "The vegetable oil van puts out 95 to 97 per cent of the performance of diesel fuel, at a savings of approximately \$10,000 annually."

Reducing, Reusing, Recycling

In addition to these initiatives, Dollar Wise has a hanger recycling program and an enviro-garment bag to reduce waste and use of plastics. Shredded, recycled paper from Dollar Wise is donated to the Winnipeg Humane Society to use in their kennels. Dollar Wise only uses green cleaning products and washable rags for cleaning. The company advertises with the Wheely Green Bike Taxi which supports environmentally friendly transportation.

Wise in Many Ways

Dollar Wise has reduced phosphates, greenhouse gas emissions and other toxic chemicals in every aspect of their work. It offers customers an environmentally friendly cleaning choice that matches, or out-performs, traditional toxic cleaning agents. It made a concerted effort to go green and as a result, all Manitobans benefit as another local company minimizes its impact on our province.

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