

CSPA RESPONSE TO USA TODAY ARTICLE



2/4/08



February 5, 2008

Dear Editor:

The stated goals in yesterday's article profiling Deirdre Imus and her "Greening Your School" program to make classrooms safe for students and teachers are certainly commendable. Testing water and replacing older pipes in schools to avoid exposure to lead—a known health hazard—are crucial initiatives. However, the health benefits of Imus' other recommendations to replace "potentially dangerous cleaning supplies" distorts the facts about traditional cleaning products.

Independent scientific studies demonstrate that the proper use of traditional cleaning and disinfecting products safely and effectively protects public health, reducing the primary causes of disease and infection. Furthermore, cleaning and disinfecting products and their use are regulated by several federal and state agencies - including the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and are rigorously evaluated for safety.

Conversely, much has been made about so-called "green" alternatives. Consumers should consider the facts about "green" or "natural" claims, as this is increasingly used as a marketing device. They should choose products that effectively protect against viruses and bacteria including *Salmonella* and *E. Coli*. Claims such as "kills 99% of germs" must be registered with the EPA. Consumers can be confident their product effectively kills germs if the EPA registration number is on the label. Many so-called 'green' products provide no such protection.

Keeping schools safe and clean are essential goals. However, it is important that the cleaning products used actually deliver the intended results. For more information about cleaning products, visit www.AboutCleaningProducts.com.

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