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## Important dates:

- June 28 Straub Environmental Lecture (at Capitol Subaru)
- June 30 Valley Roots green gathering (Boone's/ Barnwood Naturals tour)
- July 7 - 10 Marion County Fair
- July 15 - 17 Salem Art Fair
- Aug. 5 - 7 Fiesta Mexicana in Woodburn
- Aug. 26 - Sept. 5 Oregon State Fair
- Sept. 5 Labor Day
- Sept. 8/9 School begins
- Sept. 22 Autumnal Equinox

## Sustainable, green, and clean

EarthWISE custodial services dish up environmental-friendly cleaning

**Many** Salem businesses and residents don't want the lingering smell of chemicals or the waste of paper towels and water when they hire cleaners.

They are turning to **EarthWISE**-certified custodial companies that focus on reduced chemical use, using reusable rags instead of paper towels, running energy-saving equipment and thinking about the environment during their operation.

There are three EarthWISE-certified custodial companies in Salem from which businesses and residents can choose.

**Garten** runs custodial operations in the Salem, Dallas, Corvallis and Eugene areas. In addition to using towels and rags instead of paper products for cleaning, Garten washes the loads in energy-efficient facilities on the lowest temperature possible to still get the laundry clean.

With about 130 customers, the laundry loads can add up.

"From the Salem area alone, we clean about 125 pounds per day of cleaning cloths and mops," said Stacie Braun, Garten's custodial services manager.

One of its guiding principles is minimizing environmental harm. By choosing the best tools for the job, Garten is able to eliminate the use of more or harsher chemicals.

"For toilet cleaning, we now buy long handle toilet scrubbers, which are more ergonomic," said Gaelen McAllister, Garten's Resource Development Manager. "Then our cleaners can spend more time scrubbing the toilet instead of using more chemicals."

Garten Custodial makes it a point to use a minimal amount of chemicals, most of which come in single-use recyclable packets and all of which are Green Seal-certified.

The single-use packets mean that custodial staff can mix the concentrated chemicals on-



Garten employee, Jordan Clark, prepares to mix a cleaning agent.



**Debbie Darby, supervisor of AAA Cleaning Service-Metro, Inc., uses a push sweeper at one of their warehouse accounts.**

site instead of transporting gallons of chemicals, which take up space and are heavy. In fact, the package of 132 chemical-packs take up the same space as a one-gallon jug. And they can reuse their containers instead of purchasing new gallon-jugs of chemicals.

Garten’s 90 employees also use backpack vacuum cleaners with a 4-filter system. Employees like them better and the carpets end up much cleaner than if a push vacuum is used.

Scheduling cleanings also has become an exercise in minimizing environmental impact. By strategically scheduling their crews, managers try to minimize car trips and number of miles traveled.

Garten’s laundry services department offers a service to other custodial service companies that reduces environmental impact—towel dyeing. Cleaners using white towels tend to use bleach to keep them white—or else the stains make the towels look dirty and unsanitized. By dyeing the towels a green or red color, they last longer and use fewer chemicals to sanitize them, McAllister said.

**AAA Cleaning**, founded by Jennifer Arends in 1981, has about 50 commercial and residential customers in the Salem area.

The company uses Green Seal-certified cleaning chemicals, which are designed to be used with cold water to save energy on heating water. Arends goes a step further by making her own glass cleaner from water, vinegar and a bit of dish soap.

“My staff gives me valuable feedback on the enviro-friendly products,” she said. “I’m trying new things...they didn’t like cause it streaked so we tried the liked it.”

Her crews also told Arends they preferred the Bon Ami toilet bowl cleanser, which has no perfumes, cheaper than some of the eco-

“My staff is completely on-board with the eco-friendly operations,” she said.

*“Whenever I go out on a bid on cleaning, the packet includes information about EarthWISE certification,” Arends said. “I know we have gotten customers because of it.”*

back about what they like about Arends said. “I am constantly trying the green window cleaner because I preferred the green window cleaner because I like the green window cleaner better than the homemade one and the crew

preferred the Bon Ami toilet bowl dyes or bleach. In addition, it is friendly toilet bowl cleaners.

with the eco-friendly operations,”

Even when her crew members collect all their dirty towels and rags in a plastic bag for washing and sanitizing, they leave the plastic bags in a special container for Arends to drop at the Marion County Transfer Station.

She says that her customers and potential customers are enthusiastic about green custodial companies.

“Whenever I go out on a bid on cleaning, the packet includes information about EarthWISE certification,” Arends said. “I know we have gotten customers because of it.”

Even though green cleaning companies are a fairly new phenomenon, Arends is proud of the fact that her company has been green minded for decades.

“We started out offering a free recycling program in the early 90s because I couldn’t stand seeing paper thrown away,” she said. “We would pick up customers’ paper and take it to the Garten Foundation. Thanks to curbside recycling we don’t need to do that anymore. But I am proud of the fact that we have been doing this for a long time.”

**ABC Windows and Building Maintenance** has an even longer history in Salem—it turned 80 years old this past April. When Todd Londin purchased the business in 2003, eco-friendly practices became the norm.



**ABC Windows and Building Maintenance crews will recycle Styrofoam for their customers.**

“I’ve always been a big recycler personally and business-wise. I make that known to all of my employees,” he said. “I am trying to save what little part of the world I can save.”

With hundreds of customers—both residential and commercial—ABC Windows and Building Maintenance has been able to make a significant impact.

Think about the volume of chemicals and paper this company alone has not wasted by using eco-friendly cleaners and towels and rags. The business goes through gallons a day of biodegradable or environmentally friendly cleaners.

“Most of the green chemicals today are as strong as the non-green chemicals and they don’t cost any more,” Londin said.

ABC Cleaning operates 24 hours a day and seven days a week to accommodate its clients. That means loads and loads of towels and rags instead of piles of paper towels each day.

“We wash about six loads of laundry every day,” Londin said. “All of our rags are used over and over again instead of using paper towels.”

The 25 employees use the nine available vehicles for their jobs. The employees know to use the smallest possible vehicle for the job—meaning that a large truck isn’t taken to a small job with little equipment.

Londin also has educated his staff members to recycle everything they can from homes and businesses. For major jobs, ABC Cleaning will separate materials into recycling, reuse and donate-to-charity piles.

“We just have the mindset of not putting it in the dumpster if it can be recycled, reused or donated,” Londin said. “Why would we throw this stuff out? Why wouldn’t we do something useful with it?”

The business also has directly supported Northwest Human Services with its program for at-risk youth. ABC Cleaning picks up deposit cans and bottles from clients and donates those nickels. The company has raised more than \$9,000 for the program, called H.O.S.T.

“The three green custodial companies in Marion County are making a big difference in this area,” said Alan Pennington of Marion County’s EarthWISE program. “These companies have reduced chemical usage, eliminated paper waste and conserved energy in significant ways. Plus, their dedication has educated thousands of people about greener ways to clean.”

To learn more about these EarthWISE certified green cleaners, visit: [www.garten.org](http://www.garten.org), [www.abccleaningsor.com](http://www.abccleaningsor.com), or [www.aacleaninginc.com](http://www.aacleaninginc.com). For more information about the EarthWISE program, go to [www.mcEarthWISE.net](http://www.mcEarthWISE.net) or call 503-365-3188.

*Time to recertify already?*  
These EarthWISE businesses did

**Fluent Engineering  
2013 - 2016**



**Oregon Dept. of Public Safety  
Standards & Training  
2013 - 2016**

**Capitol Auto Group  
2013 - 2016**



More EarthWISE recerts



Marion Recycling Center  
2008 - 2016



Brooks Automotive  
2013 - 2016



Tune into the latest stories about the 3R's  
**Waste Matters: On the Air**



An EarthWISE business is featured every fourth Thursday at 1:00 pm to chat about their interesting and innovative waste reduction programs! Can we talk to/about you? Give us a call at 503 365-3188.

**100.7 FM**

**88.5 FM**

[www.kmuz.org](http://www.kmuz.org)

## Ask Mister Sustainability

I don't get it, if Styrofoam is recyclable why can't we put it in with all the other things that we toss into our mixed recycling? Why can't they make it easier to get rid of.... I hate this stuff!

**Ah.... The material that everyone loves to hate.** A great question and one I get all the time. Styrofoam is a trademark of the Dow company, but the material itself is really #6 polystyrene. Like so many other plastics, it's all around us—very commonly used in packing material as peanuts or expanded foam, in food trays and a wide variety of other products...even explosives such as napalm and hydrogen bombs!

Polystyrene foam was an early wunderkind packing material—light, cheap, easily molded—and was/is produced in abundance. The downside is that it takes an incredibly long time to degrade, is prone to static cling (when crumbled), easily escapes into our forests and oceans, and animals may ingest it which may lead to...well...problems. Just imagine how fast it would crumble in a recycling bin.

On the recycling front, only clean, large blocks of polystyrene foam have any financial value. That's because:

1. Foam is full of air and small pieces tend to travel, thus making them unwieldy to handle.
2. It's bulky to ship and store; plus, it takes a bunch of it. A semi truckload weighs less than two tons.
3. It has to be very clean; food contamination is a no-no.
4. The value of the recycled polystyrene is not great. If it were, there would be processors prowling the streets looking for foam.

The EarthWISE answer is to avoid this material, reuse it when you can, and insist that your suppliers use a more manageable/recyclable material. If you are still stuck with some polystyrene blocks all is not lost. Just take it over to the Fresh Start Market at 3020 Center St. NE. Businesses need to call first (503 585 4956) for details.

## Factoid Department

How well do we recycle in Marion County? The latest data—2014—tells us that our recovery rate was **59.7%**, second best in the state.

Who was #1? Metro, by a nose...**59.8%**.

Does that mean we're throwing away less? Just kinda. A comparison of the last dozen years, 2003-2014 versus 1992-2002, reveals that we've reduced our trash toss only about **.3 pounds** per day, per person.

It's good, I guess, but not a cock-a-doodle-do number.

So what are we recycling a lot of? **Electronics**. In 2015, Marion County recycled **858 tons** of it.

TV sets made up nearly **60%** of that MC e-waste.

Another biggie? Batteries. We shipped off just under **62 tons** of them for processing.

Wanna know what could make a **38.9 mile** line? That would be the fluorescent tubes that were recycled in 2015 in Marion County.

Speaking of light...In 2007 there were zero utility-scale solar power plants in the US. Today there are over **two thousand** of them, ranging in size **1 MW** to just under **600 MW's**.

But is solar power really going to shine?

Yep. **9.5 GW** of utility solar is scheduled for installation in 2016 — more than from any other single energy source, including natural gas.

**Wishful recycling** v. **To place an object of unknown recyclability into a recycle bin in the hopes that it might be recycled.**



**When in doubt, toss it out!**

Here are a few examples of items that need to go into your trash bin, not the blue bin.

Disposable coffee cups & lids



Disposable coffee cartridges



Frozen food boxes



Plastic clamshells

# EarthWISE Member Directory

\* Denotes new EarthWISE business

## Automotive

AJ's Auto Repair, Inc.  
Brooks Automotive  
Capitol Auto Group  
Sanford Automotive

## Construction

Advantage Precast, Inc.  
Arbuckle Costic Architects, Inc.  
Barnwood Naturals, LLC  
Carlson Veit Architects, P.C.  
CB | Two Architects  
dalke Construction  
Fluent Engineering, Inc.  
Jet Industries  
LCG Pence Construction, LLC  
Modern Building Systems, Inc.  
Nathan Good Architects  
Pence Northwest Construction, LLC  
Studio 3 Architecture, Inc.  
White Oak Construction

## Education

Chemeketa Community College  
Chemeketa Center for Business & Industry  
Straub Environmental Center

## Financial

Country Financial  
Northwest Farm Credit Services  
SELCO Community Credit Union

## Food

Bentley's Grill  
BrucePac - Silverton & Woodburn Plants  
Cascade Baking  
Kerr Concentrates, Inc.  
LifeSource Natural Foods  
NORPAC Foods - Stayton, Brooks, & Salem Plants  
Rafns'  
Spring Valley Dairy  
Willamette Valley Fruit Company

## Government

Champoeg State Heritage Area  
Marion County Dog Shelter  
Marion County Public Works—Silverton Road Campus  
OR Department of Administrative Services- 20 Buildings  
OR DAS - Salem Motor Pool  
OR DAS - Property Distribution Center  
OR Dept. of Corrections (DOC) CDC/Warehouse  
OR DOC Gath Road Range  
OR DOC Mill Creek Correctional Facility  
OR Santiam Correctional Facility  
OR State Corrections Institution  
OR DOC State Penitentiary  
OR Department of Energy  
OR DMV Headquarters OR Exposition Center  
OR Dept. of Public Safety Standards & Training  
OR Lottery  
OR State Capitol  
Salem Center 50+  
Salem Civic Center  
Salem Fire Department  
Salem Housing Authority  
Salem - Information Technology  
Salem - Public Works Willow Lake WPCF  
Salem Shops  
Salem - Urban Development's Airport Division  
Salem - Urban Development's Director's Office  
Salem Public Library

## Landscaping

DeSantis Landscapes, Inc.  
The Garden Angels  
Green Acres Landscape, Inc.

## Medical

Holly Chamberlain D.D.S., L.L.C.  
Chiropractic Physicians, P.C.  
Spinnaker Pediatric Dentistry \*  
Willamette E.N.T. & Facial Plastic Surgery, LLP

## Not For Profit

Assistance League of Salem - Daue House  
Assistance League of Salem - Encore Furniture  
Center for Hope & Safety  
Family Building Blocks  
Garten Services, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Willamette Valley

**Not For Profit (Continued)**

Marion-Polk Food Share  
SAIF Corporation  
Saint Mark Lutheran Church  
Temple Beth Sholom  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem  
United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley  
Willamette Lutheran Retirement Home

**Personal Services**

Designer Cut  
Phiz Spa

**Professional/Services**

AAA Cleaning Service - Metro, Inc.  
ABC Window Cleaners & Building Maintenance  
Allied Video Productions  
Cascade Employer's Association  
Collier Law  
Compex Two Computers  
Lancaster Mall Operations  
Law Office of Eden Rose Brown  
VanNatta Public Relations/Spire Management

**Real Estate & Commercial Properties**

The Epping Group/Creekside Corporate Center  
Pringle Creek Community  
Wildwood | Mahonia

**Recycling/Solid Waste**

Agri-Plas, Inc.  
Covanta Energy, Marion Facility  
D & O Garbage Service Inc.  
Loren's Sanitation & Recycling Services  
Marion Recycling Center  
North Marion Recycling & Disposal  
Pacific Sanitation

**Retail/Wholesale**

Cooke Stationery Co.  
Habitat for Humanity ReStore  
One Fair World

**Tourism/Entertainment**

Grand Hotel in Salem  
Salem Convention Center  
Salem Riverfront Carousel  
Travel Salem

**Transportation**

South Salem Cycleworks  
Salem Keizer Transit

Is your EarthWISE organization ready to go beyond basic recycling? Marion County has just the course for you.

The Marion County Master Recycler Program provides expert instruction to people who live and work in Marion County.

The class covers all aspects of solid waste management and ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as possible.

For more information about the upcoming September class visit [www.MCRecycles.net](http://www.MCRecycles.net), call 503-365-3191, or email [environmental-services@co.marion.or.us](mailto:environmental-services@co.marion.or.us). The course is limited to 30 students and space is limited.

# Join the Movement

Register today!  
[masterrecycler.net](http://masterrecycler.net)

Over 670 people have taken the Marion County Master Recycler class to learn about waste reduction, recycling, composting, and consumption. Become part of the team, and join the movement today!



Marion County  
Master Recyclers

Marion County Public Works | Environmental Services, [masterrecycler.net](http://masterrecycler.net), 503.588.5169

