



Understanding and Communicating GREENGUARD Certification

GREENGUARD Certification Program

- Internationally recognized for evaluating product emissions and certifying building materials, furnishings, finishes and cleaning products and processes that meet stringent indoor air quality criteria defined by GEI.
- Currently, more than 120 manufacturers *voluntarily* participate in the program, offering over 150,000 interior products.
- Products undergo rigorous, third-party testing to determine their impact on indoor air pollution with requirements for ongoing testing and verification.
- Certification confirms a manufacturer's environmental responsibility, and signifies their environmental achievements through independent, third-party testing and verification.
- GREENGUARD Certified products are recommended by leading sustainable building programs, including:
 - U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED® Rating System,
 - National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Green Building Guidelines,
 - Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC),
 - United Kingdom Green Building Council (UKGBC),
 - Green Guide for Health Care (GGHC),
 - Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) Best Practices Manual.

Indoor Air Quality

- Workers in developed countries spend more than 90 percent of their time indoors.
- Indoor air is often four to five times more polluted than outside air - these pollutants pose serious environmental exposures to people.
- An US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) report found that illness and lost productivity due to indoor air pollution, commonly called "sick building syndrome," (SBS) costs U.S. businesses \$60 billion annually.
- Better indoor air quality is achieved through reduction of airborne chemicals and indoor air pollution – by selecting products with low chemical emissions.

GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI)

- GEI is an industry-independent, non-profit organization that oversees the GREENGUARD Certification Program.
- In addition to product certification, GEI provides valuable tools and resources to the design and specification community including:
 - Free online Product Guide for finding GREENGUARD Certified products, with printable certificates that can be used for verification and LEED submission.
 - Continuing education courses approved by professional organizations like the International Interior Design Association (IIDA).
 - Downloadable product specifications organized by product type to easily include GREENGUARD Certified products in project specifications.