

Resources for Finding Healthy Building Materials

No single building materials list or certification yet covers all of the important health and environmental issues. For example, the various programs listed below that certify products to meet the CA 01350 VOC emissions standards don't also screen for phthalates and flame retardants and you will find many PVC/vinyl products on those lists. Note also some 01350 VOC programs are managed by trade associations. It is recommended to always ask for the actual lab certification of 01350 VOC emissions when first screening a material and ask about PVC/vinyl, heavy metals, HFRs and PFCs.


**** PVC ****


HBN PVC Alternatives Database is a CSI based listing of PVC free alternatives for a wide range of building materials. www.healthybuilding.net/pvc/alternatives.html


Healthy materials checklist:


- **No PVC** (polyvinyl chloride, vinyl)
- **Low or no VOC** (volatile organic compounds)
 - CA 01350 compliant
 - No added formaldehyde
- **No phthalates or heavy metals** (lead, mercury, cadmium, organotins)
- **No HFRs** (PBDEs, BFRs & other halogenated flame retardants)
- **No PFCs** (perfluorocarbons, PFOA, Teflon & other treatments)

**** VOCs (Volatile organic compounds - Low VOC & 01350 based programs) ****

 **Green Seal Certified Products:** **Paints & coatings** are listed that meet the GreenSeal VOC (volatile organic compounds) content standards, do not contain certain excluded chemicals and meet certain performance requirements. www.greenseal.org/certproducts.htm#paints

 **CHPS Low-Emitting Materials:** (Collaborative for High Performance Schools). CHPS maintains a table listing products that have been certified by the manufacturer and an independent laboratory to meet the CHPS Low-Emitting Materials criteria-Section 01350-for use in a typical classroom, including **Adhesives, Sealants, Concrete Sealers, Acoustical Ceilings, Wall Panels, Wood Flooring, Composite Wood Boards, Resilient Flooring (Includes Rubber) and Carpet.**
 Note: This list also includes paint listings, but CA 01350 is not yet a replacement for low VOC screening. www.chps.net/manual/lem_table.htm

 **GreenLabel Plus:** Carpet & Rug Institute (a trade association) certifies that **carpets and adhesives** meet CA 01350 VOC requirements. www.carpet-rug.com/News/040614_GLP.cfm

 **FloorScore:** Scientific Certification Systems certifies for the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (a trade association) that **resilient flooring** meets CA 01350 VOC requirements. www.scs-certified.com/iaq/floorscore_1.html



 **GreenGuard for Children & Schools:** Air Quality Sciences certifies for GreenGuard that **furniture & indoor finishes** meet lower of CA 01350 VOC or 1/100 of TLV. www.greenguard.org

**** Formaldehyde **** Formaldehyde emissions are restricted by the CA 01350 VOC programs. For **composite wood & insulation**, however, specify "no added formaldehyde". **ASK YOUR PRODUCT REPS**

****Phthalates & heavy metals (lead, mercury, cadmium, organotins) **** Phthalates are almost exclusively used in PVC and PVC is a major user of all of these heavy metals. But heavy metals like lead are still also used in **solder, roofing** and some other products **ASK YOUR PRODUCT REPS**

**** BFRs/ HFRs (Brominated Flame Retardants/Halogenated Flame Retardants) & PFCs (perfluorochemicals)**** No listings are yet screened for these emerging problem chemicals. The flame retardants are added to plastics, particularly **fabrics and foams**. PBDEs are the most widely used. All halogen based flame retardants, however, are likely problematic. The PFCs frequently show up as fabric treatments such as Teflon, Scotchguard, Stainmaster, Gore-Tex, and Zonyl **ASK YOUR PRODUCT REPS**

For the latest information on all of these issues subscribe to:

Healthy Building Network News - www.healthybuilding.net
 and **Environmental Building News – www.buildinggreen.com**



For more information, check out credits MR 8 and EQ 4 in the **Green Guide for Health Care – www.gghc.org**