



GREENGUARD Certifications

A General Overview

Having the GREENGUARD Mark

A GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified® Mark means that the product has been tested for indoor pollutant emissions using stringent environmental chamber methods and found to meet the GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality standards. GREENGUARD Certified products are low-emitting and contribute minimal levels of pollutants to indoor environments. To ensure continuous low emissions performance, GREENGUARD Certified products are retested annually and critical components of these products undergo quarterly monitoring tests.

The Organization Behind the Mark

GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI) governs and administers the GREENGUARD Certification ProgramSM. GEI is an independent, non-profit organization founded to create healthier indoor environments, which improve public health and quality of life. An Advisory Board, made up of indoor air quality, public health and green design experts, reviews the GREENGUARD Certification Program and assures its acceptance.

GREENGUARD Certification

GREENGUARD Certification is an internationally recognized product emissions certification and labeling scheme for manufacturers of low-emitting indoor materials, furnishings and processes. Currently, products can be certified under three different programs:

- GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified®, the program for commercial buildings;
- GREENGUARD Children & SchoolsSM, the program for day care and school buildings; and
- GREENGUARD Building Construction, the program for newly constructed multifamily and commercial properties

All programs provide a public and scientifically based, third-party environmental qualification for a manufacturer's products. Products are tested to determine their impact on indoor air pollution. Products found to meet currently accepted standards are certified. GREENGUARD standards are based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's purchasing standards, the State of Washington's Indoor Air Quality Program, Germany's Blue Angel Program, and ASHRAE. A manufacturer can label GREENGUARD Certified products with the GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified® mark and list them in the GREENGUARD Product GuideSM, which is used as a purchasing tool by thousands of architects, interior designers, building managers and other specifying professionals.

Types of Products Certified

Products are tested and listed in the GREENGUARD Product Guide by certification and categories including office furniture, office equipment, flooring, ceiling systems, paints and coatings, adhesives, wallcovering, insulations, appliances, cleaning systems, general construction products and many more. These categories meet typical procurement requirements. The GREENGUARD Environmental Institute will add product categories to the Product Guide as corresponding products become certified.

Low-emitting GREENGUARD Certified Products

GEI features all GREENGUARD Certified products in the GREENGUARD Product Guide. The product guide is user friendly and can be searched by category, manufacturer or by using a key word. This is the most up-to-date database of GREENGUARD Certified products and can be viewed online at www.greenguard.org without charge.

How to Keep the GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified Mark on Products

GREENGUARD Certified products are retested on an annual basis and critical components of the products undergo monitoring tests every quarter. In addition, the manufacturer must notify GEI about changes in suppliers, materials and manufacturing processes. Regular retesting and monitoring is very important, because a product's emissions are affected by many factors. Just a small change in raw material or a manufacturing process can turn a formerly low-emitting product into a potential health hazard. Often the manufacturer is not even aware of changes a supplier made. Regular retesting is the only sure way to determine whether or not a product is low emitting.

GREENGUARD Certified Products Help Create Good Indoor Air Quality

Many factors contribute to indoor air pollution. The major ones are high-emitting materials and products, insufficient ventilation, poor building maintenance and construction processes. Indoor air quality issues caused by faulty building operation or construction processes need to be addressed through education and better building management. One of the most effective ways to battle indoor air pollution is to reduce it at the source. By using low-emitting GREENGUARD Certified products and materials, one can lower the amount of indoor air pollutants to a fraction of the current levels.

For more information on GEI and GREENGUARD Certification programs,
please visit our website at www.greenguard.org,
email us at info@greenguard.org or
contact our staff at 800.427.9681