

EPA's Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing

The [Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels](#) are intended to help federal purchasers identify and procure environmentally sustainable products and services. The recommendations are based on an independent assessment of private sector environmental performance standards and ecolabels against the multi-stakeholder developed [EPA Guidelines for Environmental Performance Standards and Ecolabels](#).

In general, EPA's Recommendations give preference to multi-attribute (i.e., life-cycle based) standards and ecolabels for which EPA has been able to confirm the availability of a competent certification body that either:

1. Is accredited by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (IAF MLA) and has the relevant standard in the scope of its accreditation, or
2. Otherwise meets [Section III of EPA's Guidelines](#).

The [Assessment Summaries](#) provide detailed information regarding the standards and ecolabels in the Recommendations.

Where an independent assessment of a standard or ecolabel against EPA's Guidelines has not yet been completed, the EPA Recommendations are based on specifications, environmental performance standards and ecolabels selected and utilized by other agencies. Currently, the recommendations include standards and ecolabels from:

- [Department of Energy's \(DOE's\) FY16 Priority Products List](#)
- [General Services Administration's \(GSA's\) Key Sustainable Products](#)

To get additional Agency specific guidance on how to meet federal requirements around use of standards, ecolabels, and/or conformity assessment mechanisms in federal procurement, please [contact your Agency Standards Executive](#).

More information can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/greenerproducts/>

(Updated December 23, 2016)

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EPA's Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing

I. CAFETERIA

TAKE-OUT SERVICE: Containers, Cutlery, Dishware

Applicable Federal Programs:



Recommended Non-Federal Ecolabel:

- [Biodegradable Products Institute certified compostable \(provided composting available\)²](#)
-

COMMERCIAL DISHWASHER DETERGENT

Applicable Federal Programs:



Recommended Non-Federal Standards and Ecolabels:

- [Green Seal 53 Specialty Cleaning Products for Industrial Use²](#)
 - [UL 2759 Standard for Hard Surface Cleaners²](#)
-

II. CONSTRUCTION

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1) Adhesives | 5) Flooring |
| 2) Carpet | 6) Insulation |
| 3) Ceiling Tiles-Acoustical | 7) Interior Latex Paint |
| 4) Fiberboard, Gypsum Panels, and Wallboard | 8) Lumber/ Wood |
-

ADHESIVES

Applicable Federal Programs:



Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP)

Recommended Non-Federal Standards and Ecolabels:

- [SCS Indoor Advantage Gold™¹](#)
- [UL 2818 GREENGUARD Certification Program For Chemical Emissions For Building Materials, Finishes And Furnishings¹](#)
- [UL 2762 Sustainability Standard for Adhesives²](#)

To address **Indoor Air Quality/VOC Emissions**, EPA recommends products meet the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1-2010. (This is the VOC emission testing method for California Specification 01350.) The above certifications/ecolabels have been assessed by EPA and incorporate by reference CDPH v1.1-2010 (or equivalents) as either optional or required criteria. There may be other certifiers/ecolabels that can provide demonstration of conformity to these criteria.

CARPET

[\(Updated per EPA Guidelines Assessment\)](#)

Applicable Federal Programs:



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In addition to the Applicable Federal Program requirements and the Non-Federal Standards/Ecolabels below, EPA Recommends the following specification for carpet: **Indoor Air Quality/VOC Emissions:** *Products shall meet the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1-2010. (This is the VOC emission testing method for California Specification 01350.)*

Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels

(address indoor air quality and other hotspots) [†]:

- [Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard¹](#)
- [Good Environmental Choice Australia \(GECA\) Floor Coverings^{1*}](#)
- [NSF/ ANSI 140 Sustainability Assessment for Carpet¹](#)

*If a product meeting a standard/ecolabel above is not available, use one or more of the following environmentally effective multi-attribute standards. These are standards/ecolabels for which EPA has not been able to confirm that an accredited or conforming certification body is available**:*

- [Environmental Choice New Zealand EC-33-14 Synthetic Carpets^{1*}](#)
- [International Living Futures Institute: Living Product ChallengeSM 1.0^{1*}](#)
- [Sustainable Materials Rating Technology \(SMaRT\)¹](#)

If a product meeting a standard/ecolabels above is not available, use one or more of the following Single Attribute/ Single Material Standards/ Ecolabels to address key hotspots:

Indoor Air Quality/ VOC Emissions/ other Leadership Approaches to Chemicals:

- [International Living Futures Institute: Declare^{1*}](#)

Indoor Air Quality/VOC Emissions:

- [FloorScore[®] 1](#)
- [SCS Indoor Advantage GoldTM 1](#)
- [UL 2818 GREENGUARD Certification Program For Chemical Emissions For Building Materials, Finishes And Furnishings¹](#)

Recycled Content:

- [Global Recycled Standard^{1*}](#)

CEILING TILES-ACOUSTICAL

Applicable Federal Programs:



Recommended Non-Federal Standards and Ecolabels:

- [SCS Indoor Advantage GoldTM1](#)
- [UL 2818 GREENGUARD Certification Program For Chemical Emissions For Building Materials, Finishes And Furnishings¹](#)

To address **Indoor Air Quality/VOC Emissions**, EPA recommends products meet the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1-2010. (This is the VOC emission testing method for California Specification 01350.) The above certifications/ecolabels have been assessed by EPA and incorporate by reference CDPH v1.1-2010 (or equivalents) as either optional or required criteria. There may be other certifiers/ecolabels that can provide demonstration of conformity to these criteria.

FIBERBOARD, GYPSUM PANELS, AND WALLBOARD

Applicable Federal Programs:



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Recommended Non-Federal Standards and Ecolabels:

- [SCS Indoor Advantage GoldTM1](#)

- [UL 2818 GREENGUARD Certification Program For Chemical Emissions For Building Materials, Finishes And Furnishings¹](#)

To address **Indoor Air Quality/VOC Emissions**, EPA recommends products meet the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1-2010. (This is the VOC emission testing method for California Specification 01350.) The above certifications/ecolabels have been assessed by EPA and incorporate by reference CDPH v1.1-2010 (or equivalents) as either optional or required criteria. There may be other certifiers/ecolabels that can provide demonstration of conformity to these criteria.

FLOORING: Tile, Resilient, and other Non-Carpet

(Updated per EPA Guidelines Assessment)

Applicable Federal Programs:



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In addition to the Applicable Federal Program requirements and the Non-Federal Standards/Ecolabels below, EPA Recommends the following specification for flooring: **Indoor Air Quality/VOC Emissions:** *Products shall meet the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1-2010. (This is the VOC emission testing method for California Specification 01350.)*

Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels

(address indoor air quality and other hotspots)[†]:

- [Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard¹](#)
- [Good Environmental Choice Australia \(GECA\) Floor Coverings^{1*}](#)
- [NSF/ ANSI 332 Sustainability Assessment for Resilient Floor Coverings¹](#)
- [Tile Council of North America \(TCNA\): ANSI A138.1/ Green Squared¹](#)

*If a product meeting a standard/ecolabel above is not available, use one or more of the following environmentally effective multi-attribute standards. These are standards/ecolabels for which EPA has not been able to confirm that an accredited or conforming certification body is available^{**}:*

- [International Living Futures Institute: Living Product ChallengeSM 1.0^{1*}](#)
- [Sustainable Materials Rating Technology \(SMaRT\)¹](#)

If a product meeting a standard/ecolabels above is not available, use one or more of the following Single Attribute/ Single Material Standards/ Ecolabels to address key hotspots:

Indoor Air Quality/ VOC Emissions/ other Leadership Approaches to Chemicals:

- [International Living Futures Institute: Declare^{1*}](#)

Indoor Air Quality/VOC Emissions:

- [FloorScore^{®1}](#)

- [SCS Indoor Advantage Gold¹](#)
- [UL 2818 GREENGUARD Certification Program For Chemical Emissions For Building Materials, Finishes And Furnishings¹](#)

Recycled Content:

- [Global Recycled Standard^{1*}](#)

INSULATION

Applicable Federal Programs:



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ENERGY STAR®

Recommended Non-Federal Standards and Ecolabels:

- [SCS Indoor Advantage Gold^{TM1}](#)
- [UL 2818 GREENGUARD Certification Program For Chemical Emissions For Building Materials, Finishes And Furnishings¹](#)

To address **Indoor Air Quality/VOC Emissions**, EPA recommends products meet the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1-2010. (This is the VOC emission testing method for California Specification 01350.) The above certifications/ecolabels have been assessed by EPA and incorporate by reference CDPH v1.1-2010 (or equivalents) as either optional or required criteria. There may be other certifiers/ecolabels that can provide demonstration of conformity to these criteria.

INTERIOR LATEX PAINT

(Updated per EPA Guidelines Assessment)

Applicable Federal Programs:



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Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels

(address indoor air quality and other hotspots)[†]:

- [Cradle to Cradle CertifiedTM Product Standard¹](#)
- [GECA Australia \(Good Environmental Choice\) Paints & Coatings Ecolabel^{1*}](#)
- [Master Painters Institute \(MPI\) Green Performance® Standard Extreme Green^{TM 1*}](#)

*If a product meeting a standard/ecolabel above is not available, use one or more of the following environmentally effective multi-attribute standards. These are standards/ecolabels for which EPA has not been able to confirm that an accredited or conforming certification body is available^{**}:*

- [Environmental Choice New Zealand EC-07-15 Paints^{1*}](#)
- [GreenSeal 11 Paints, Coatings, Stains, and Sealers^{1*}](#)
- [GreenSeal 43 Recycled Content Latex Paints^{1*}](#)
- [International Living Futures Institute: Living Product Challenge^{SM 1.0}^{1*}](#)
- [Sustainable Materials Rating Technology \(SMaRT\)¹](#)

If a product meeting a standard/ecolabels above is not available, use one or more of the following Single Attribute/ Single Material Standards/ Ecolabels to address key hotspots:

Indoor Air Quality/ VOC Emissions/ other Leadership Approaches to Chemicals:

- [International Living Futures Institute: Declare^{1*}](#)

Indoor Air Quality/VOC Emissions:

- [SCS Indoor Advantage Gold^{TM1}](#)
- [UL 2818 GREENGUARD Certification Program For Chemical Emissions For Building Materials, Finishes And Furnishings¹](#)

To address **Indoor Air Quality/VOC Emissions**, EPA recommends products meet the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1-2010. (This is the VOC emission testing method for California Specification 01350.) The above certifications/ecolabels have been assessed by EPA and incorporate by reference CDPH v1.1-2010 (or equivalents) as either optional or required criteria. There may be other certifiers/ecolabels that can provide demonstration of conformity to these criteria.

LUMBER/ WOOD

- Under Review
-

III. CUSTODIAL

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Cleaners: Carpet, Glass, Multipurpose | 4) Toilet Tissue |
| 2) Floor Care | 5) Towels- Paper |
| 3) Hand Soap | 6) Wastebasket Liners (24" x 33" or smaller) |
-

CLEANERS: Carpet, Glass, Multipurpose

Applicable Federal Programs:



BioPreferred®



Safer Choice

Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels:

- [Green Seal GS-37 Standard for Cleaning Products for Industrial and Institutional Use²](#)
 - [UL 2759 Standard for Hard Surface Cleaners²](#)
-

FLOOR CARE

Applicable Federal Programs:



BioPreferred®



Safer Choice

Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels:

- [Green Seal GS-40 Standard for Floor-Care Products for Industrial and Institutional Use²](#)
 - [UL 2777 Standard for Sustainability for Hard Floor Care²](#)
-

HAND SOAP

Applicable Federal Programs:



BioPreferred®



Safer Choice

Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels:

- [Green Seal GS-41 Standard for Hand Cleaners for Industrial and Institutional Use³](#)
 - [UL 2784 Standard for Hand Cleaners³](#)
-

TOILET TISSUE

Applicable Federal Programs:



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Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels:

- [Green Seal GS-01 Standard for Sanitary Paper Products³](#)
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TOWELS- PAPER

Applicable Federal Programs:



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Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels:

- [Green Seal GS-01 Standard for Sanitary Paper Products³](#)
-

WASTEBASKET LINERS (24" X 33" or smaller)

Applicable Federal Programs:



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Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels:

- [UL 126 Standard for Sustainability for Plastic Film Products³ \(Requires 25% post-consumer recycled content for packaging and 20-25% for plastic film products\)](#)
-

IV. ELECTRONICS

COMPUTERS

Desktops, Notebooks (including two in one notebooks), Displays, Integrated Desktop Computers, Workstation Desktops, Thin Clients, and Slates/ Tablets

Applicable Federal Programs:



ENERGY STAR®

Low Standby Power

Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels:

- [EPEAT Registered \(highest rating available\)²](#)
-

IMAGING EQUIPMENT

Printers, Copiers, Multi-function Devices, Scanners, Fax Machines, Digital Duplicators, Mailing Machines

Applicable Federal Programs:



ENERGY STAR®

Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels:

- [EPEAT Registered \(highest rating available\)²](#)
-

TELEVISIONS

Applicable Federal Programs:



ENERGY STAR®

Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels:

- [EPEAT Registered \(highest rating available\)²](#)
-

V. GROUNDS/ LANDSCAPING

DE-ICER

Applicable Federal Programs:



BioPreferred®



Safer Choice

Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels:

- [Pacific Northwest Snowfighters Qualified Products²](#)
-

VI. OFFICE/ FURNITURE

FURNITURE

(Updated per EPA Guidelines Assessment)

Applicable Federal Programs:



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In addition to the Applicable Federal Program requirements and the Non-Federal Standards/Ecolabels below, EPA Recommends the following specifications for furniture, where applicable:

Hazardous Flame Retardants: Upholstered products shall meet Technical Bulletin 117-2013 (California's furniture flammability standard) and must comply with the labeling requirements of California Senate Bill 1019, which was passed on September 30, 2014, and requires a label indicating whether the product contains or does not contain added Flame Retardants.

Indoor Air Quality/VOC Emissions: Products shall meet ANSI/BIFMA X7.1 Standard for Formaldehyde and TVOC Emissions, or equivalent.

Note that for some furniture, like powder-coated metal file cabinets, for example, these emissions standards would not be applicable.

Recommended Non-Federal Multi-Attribute Standards and Ecolabels

(address indoor air quality and other hotspots) †:

- [ANSI/ BIFMA e3 -2014e Furniture Sustainability Standard – level@certified¹](#)
- [Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard¹](#)
- [TÜV Rheinland Green Product Mark¹](#)

*If a product meeting a standard/ecolabel above is not available, use one or more of the following environmentally effective multi-attribute standards. These are standards/ecolabels for which EPA has not been able to confirm that an accredited or conforming certification body is available**:*

- [Living Product ChallengeSM 1.0^{1*}](#)
- [Sustainable Furnishings Council Exemplary^{1*}](#)
- [Sustainable Materials Rating Technology \(SMaRT\)¹](#)

If a product meeting a standard/ecolabels above is not available, use one or more of the following Single Attribute/ Single Material Standards/ Ecolabels to address key hotspots:

Indoor Air Quality/ VOC Emissions/ other Leadership Approaches to Chemicals:

- [International Living Futures Institute: Declare^{1*}](#)

Indoor Air Quality/VOC Emissions:

- [SCS Indoor Advantage™ Gold for Furniture™¹](#)
- [UL 2818 GREENGUARD Certification Program For Chemical Emissions For Building Materials, Finishes And Furnishings¹](#)

Recycled Content:

- [Global Recycled Standard^{1*}](#)

Textiles:

- [Association for Contract Textiles NSF/ ANSI 336: Sustainability Assessment for Commercial Furnishings Fabric^{1^}](#)
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Footnotes

¹ Recommendation based on EPA's assessment per the 2016 Pilot Guidelines. For more information on the Pilot and the assessment results, please visit the [Background tab](#). [Assessment Summaries for Carpet, Interior Latex Paints, Flooring, and Furniture](#) are available for more detailed information.

² Recommendation based on DOE's Office of Sustainability Support analysis and use. For further information on this voluntary program, see:

- [DOE's Full Priority Products List](#)
- [DOE's Background and Evaluation Process](#)

³ Recommendation based on GSA's Public Buildings Service analysis and use. For further information, see:

- [GSA's Key Sustainable Products](#)
- [GSA's Background and Evaluation Process](#)

*This standard does not meet baseline criteria in Section I of EPA's Guidelines, which contains the requirements necessary to demonstrate that a standard is a Voluntary Consensus Standard (VCS). Section 12(d) of The National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA, PL 103-114) calls federal agencies to use Voluntary Consensus Standards (VCS) in lieu of government-unique standards in their procurement and regulatory activities, except where inconsistent with law or otherwise impractical. Section 5(e) of the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-119 (OMB A-119) further outlines factors that individual agencies should evaluate when determining whether to use a standard, on a case by case basis. This includes the extent to which the standards development process reflected the attributes of a VCS body. Federal agency representatives can contact their agency's Standards Executive (list of agency Standards Executives available here: <https://standards.gov/icsp/query/members.cfm>) for assistance in determining whether this standard should be considered for use by the agency.

**These certification programs do not meet baseline criteria in Section III of EPA's guidelines, which contains the requirements necessary to demonstrate that a conformity assessment body is competent to assess conformance with the standard and follows general good practice specific to conformity assessment for environmental performance standards. An alternative method to demonstrate that a conformity assessment body is competent to assess conformance to this standard is proof of accreditation by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (IAF MLA) for a scope including ISO/IEC 17065 and this applicable standard. Guidance on Federal Conformity Assessment (15 CFR Part 287) directs federal agencies to identify appropriate private sector conformity assessment practices and programs (including third-party certification) and consider the results of such practices and/or programs as appropriate in procurement activities. The Guidance stresses that responsibility for the determination of appropriateness rests with each agency. Federal agency representatives can contact their agency's Standards Executive (list of agency Standards Executives available

here: <https://standards.gov/icsp/query/members.cfm>) for assistance in determining whether this standard should be considered for use by the agency.

[†] Please note that the following recommendations do not currently consider the standards'/ecolabels'/certifications' effectiveness in addressing the potential environmental impacts of material harvesting and/or extraction. EPA intends to address that important lifecycle stage of a product in the Recommendations in 2017.

[^] EPA did not specifically solicit textile standards/ecolabels for the pilot. There could be others that are interested in being assessed per the Guidelines and considered for EPA's Recommendations in the future.

Instructions for US Federal Government Employees on How to Access Standards

If you are a US federal government employee who would like access to one of the standards recommended by EPA, please follow the instructions below. The developers of these standards will make them available free of charge to federal government employees for reference and review purposes.

Federal agency representatives can [contact their agency's Standards Executive for assistance](#).

Access to NSF Standards:

Instructions: Please, email EPP@epa.gov from your .gov email address and we will forward your request to the standards body. Please include your full name and where you work. The standard will then be emailed to you in PDF form.

- [NSF 140 Sustainability Assessment for Carpet](#)
- [NSF 332 International Sustainability Assessment for Resilient Floor Coverings](#)
- [ANSI/ BIFMA e3 -2014e Furniture Sustainability Standard – levelTM certified](#)

Access to UL Standards:

Instructions: If you do not already have a registered account [visit UL to create one](#). Anyone with a .gov email address will gain access to the standard free of charge. Once the account is created follow the instructions below:

- 1) Click the desired standard above which will take you to the UL website.
- 2) Click the red "Purchase Options" button. It will take you to a new page, select "Secure PDF" with no fee, then click the red "Add to Cart" button.
- 3) On the next page click the red "Checkout" button.
- 4) If not already logged in, you will be asked for your log in information here. Log in and proceed to the next page and click the red "Checkout" button.
- 5) On the next page click the red "Go to Download PDF" button and follow the directions to download. You then should have full access to the following standards:
 - [UL 2762 Sustainability Standard for Adhesives](#)
 - [UL 2818 GREENGUARD Certification Program for Chemical Emissions For Building Materials, Finishes and Furnishings](#)
 - [UL 2759 Standard for Hard Surface Cleaners](#)
 - [UL 2777 Standard for Sustainability for Hard Floor Care](#)
 - [UL 2784 Standard for Hand Cleaners](#)
 - [UL 126 Standard for Sustainability for Plastic Film Products](#)
 - [UL 2771 Standard for Sustainable Paper Products](#)