



GREENGUARD Certification Programs

Improving indoor air quality by certifying products for low chemical emissions.

Why is Indoor Air Quality Important?

Whether inside a home, school, business or hospital, people expect their indoor environments to be healthy and safe. Unfortunately, indoor spaces are often filled with potentially harmful pollutants called volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs are chemicals that are released into the air from everyday products—items like building products, furniture, flooring and cleaners. Once airborne, VOCs are inhaled by building occupants with every breath they take and can trigger a number of potential health problems.

What is GREENGUARD Certification?

Products bearing the GREENGUARD Certification mark signal to the marketplace that a product is low-emitting. Representative samples of products bearing the GREENGUARD Certification mark have been independently tested and certified to demonstrate that they meet one of UL Environment's rigorous third-party GREENGUARD Certification standards. GREENGUARD Certification standards are based on established emission criteria used by the State of California, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other reputable public health agencies.

What GREENGUARD Certifications are available?

- GREENGUARD Certification is the first voluntary North American product emissions certification created specifically for commercial building products. This certification indicates that representative samples of products met stringent chemical emission limits originally developed as purchasing specifications for building projects for the US EPA and the State of Washington. GREENGUARD Certified products are compliant with stringent emission levels for over 360 VOCs, plus a limit on the total of all chemical emissions combined (TVOC). Furniture products that are GREENGUARD Certified are also compliant with the BIFMA X7.1 standard.

Indoor air can be 2-5x more polluted than outdoor air.

People spend 90% of their time indoors.

Poor indoor air quality has short- and long-term health impacts.



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- GREENGUARD Gold Certification includes safety factors to account for sensitive individuals (such as children and the elderly) and helps ensure that a product is acceptable for use in environments such as schools and healthcare facilities. In addition to limiting emissions of over 360 VOCs and total chemical emissions, GREENGUARD Gold Certified products must also comply with requirements of the State of California's Department of Public Health "*Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1 (2010)*" (also known as California Section 01350).

More than 450 manufacturers voluntarily participate in GREENGUARD Certification, resulting in the certification of more than 11,000 products.

What are the Benefits of Achieving Certification?

GREENGUARD Certification offers many advantages:

- Gives architects, designers, specifiers and other purchasers confidence that a product will have reduced impact on indoor exposure levels
- Allows manufacturers to differentiate their products in the marketplace
- Demonstrates a manufacturer's commitment to the health and well-being of people who use their products
- Offers a high degree of marketplace visibility, because GREENGUARD Certified products are recognized and referenced by more than 450 green building programs, codes, standards, and purchasing specifications for companies and institutions around the world.

Moreover, all GREENGUARD Certified products are listed in a free, user-friendly online database to help architects, designers, specifiers, builders, and consumers find products that contribute to healthier indoor environments. Products are searchable by product type, manufacturer, and sustainable building program credits.

How is GREENGUARD Certification Achieved?

GREENGUARD Certification is achieved after completing a certification development plan.

- The process begins with a manufacturing review
- Next, representative materials and product samples are selected for profile study testing
- If the profile study results are favorable, the appropriate products will be selected for comprehensive certification testing
- Once a product completes the initial certification process, manufacturers are required to submit their products for regular compliance testing

Products are tested for more than 10,000 chemicals in state-of-the-art stainless steel environmental chambers. All test methods and procedures comply with applicable ASTM and ISO standards for measuring chemical emissions from indoor products.

How to Get Started

For more information on UL Environment's services and how they can benefit your company, visit www.ul.com/environment.

Or, call or write us today:

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