

Suggested Environmental Considerations for Custom Cabinetry

Questions	Preferred Response	Definitions	Rationale	Additional Notes
Is this product free of PVC (polyvinyl chloride) plastic in any part? (Yes/No)	Yes	Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) shall be defined as a plastic polymer used in a wide array of products. It is the third most widely produced plastic.	PVC is being targeted for phase-out by many medical facilities because PVC manufacturing results in releases of dioxin, a potent carcinogen. Many PVC products also contain phthalates. Phthalates from PVC wall covering and flooring are linked to respiratory illness in both children and adults. See http://www.noharm.org/us/pvcDehp/issue for more information. While PVC may be preferred for cleaning reasons for arm caps, etc, alternatives may be available.	HHI Safer Chemicals Challenge-Healthy Interiors criteria
Is this product free of intentionally added phthalates: DEHP, BBP, DnHP, DIDP, and DBP? (Yes/No) If no, please specify the phthalate(s)		Phthalates are esters of phthalic acid mainly used as plasticizers (substances added to plastics to increase their flexibility, transparency, durability, and longevity). They are used primarily to soften polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Di-2-ethyl hexyl phthalate (DEHP) CAS 117-81-7, Benzylbutylphthalate (BBP) CAS 85-68-7, Di-n-hexyl phthalate (DnHP) CAS 84-75-3, Di-isodecyl phthalate (DIDP) CAS 68515-49-1 or 26761-40-0, Dibutyl phthalate (DBP) CAS 84-74-2. Intentionally added means a substance is deliberately added in the production of the product.	People can be exposed through the use of products containing these chemicals. In 2002, the FDA issued a Public Health Notification for PVC devices containing DEHP. DEHP is also listed as a carcinogen on the Prop 65 list. The National Research Council has also noted the importance of looking at cumulative exposure from multiple phthalates. These five phthalates are listed as reproductive toxicants by Prop 65.	HHI Safer Chemicals Challenge-Healthy Interiors criteria
Does this product meet the VOC emissions limits of the California Special Environmental Requirements, Section 01350, updated with the California Department of Public	Yes	These standards address off-gassing of specific indoor air contaminants. This standard can be found at, http://standards.nsf.org/apps/group_public/download.php/19152/CDPH%2001350%20V1-1.pdf .	Products emitting volatile organic compounds (VOCs) can irritate the respiratory tract and contribute to respiratory ailments such as asthma. Some chemicals, such as formaldehyde, can also react with other chemicals to form pollutants such as ground level ozone and smog. Formaldehyde is a common indoor air contaminant because of its use in furniture, cabinets, countertops, insulation, wallpaper, paints, and paneling. The	HHI Safer Chemicals Challenge-Healthy Interiors criteria LEED for Healthcare IEQ Credit 4.1: Low-Emitting Materials LEED for New Construction IEQ Credit 4.4: Low-Emitting Materials, Composite Wood and Agrifiber Products

Health Standard Method for Testing and Evaluation for Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1. (CDPH/EHLB/M-55 Standard Method 1.1) with the 2012 formaldehyde limit (9 µg m-3)? (Yes/No)			International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified formaldehyde as a human carcinogen in 2006. More recently, the National Toxicology Program, an interagency program of the Department of Health and Human Services, named formaldehyde as a known human carcinogen in its 12th Report on Carcinogens (NTP 2011).	LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance MR Credit 3: Sustainable Purchasing— Facility Alterations and Additions
Is this product free of antimicrobial compounds intentionally added to the surface or other parts of the product to reduce the risk of infection transmission? This includes copper, silver, or any other antimicrobial. (Yes/No)	Yes	U.S. EPA. "Consumer Products Treated with Pesticides." Available at: http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/treatart.htm	Products with added antimicrobial treatments are registered with the EPA for non-public health use as a protection for the product itself. They have not been proven to reduce the spread of infectious diseases. And, in fact, they may contribute to the increasing prevalence of resistant microbes (often referred to as "super bugs").	
Is this product made of wood that is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)? (Yes/No)	Yes	Forest Stewardship Council certifies wood that is harvested from sustainably managed forests based on strict guidelines. For more information, visit: www.fsc.org	FSC-certified wood carries chain of custody information, which allows purchasers to trace the origin of the product back to the forest where it was harvested.	LEED for Healthcare MR Credit 3: Sustainably Sourced Materials and Products LEED for New Construction MR Credit 7: Certified Wood LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance MR Credit 3: Sustainable Purchasing— Facility Alterations and Additions
Does this product contain postconsumer recycled content? (Yes/No)	Yes	Postconsumer recycled content material is a finished product that has served its intended use and has been diverted or recovered from waste destined for disposal, having completed its life as a consumer item. Basically, it is the material collected from recycling programs. It is calculated as a percentage of total weight of the product. Metals are excluded from consideration as some	Buying recycled-content products ensures that the materials collected in recycling programs will be used again in the manufacture of new products. Less energy is typically required to manufacture these goods. When energy demand decreases, fewer fossil fuels are burned and less carbon dioxide is emitted into the atmosphere.	LEED for Healthcare MR Credit 3: Sustainably Sourced Materials and Products LEED for New Construction MR Credit 4: Recycled Content LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance MR Credit 3: Sustainable Purchasing— Facility Alterations and Additions

		commonly contain recycled content. This does not include preconsumer (sometimes referred to as postindustrial) recycled content which are recovered materials obtained from manufacturers		
Is this product free of intentionally added ingredients listed under the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, Proposition 65, above Prop 65 Safe harbor levels? (Yes/No)	Yes	California's Prop 65, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, enacted in 1986, requires the state to publish a list of chemicals known to cause cancer or reproductive harm. Prop 65 applies to suppliers who sell products in the state if their products exceed safe harbor levels established in Prop 65. Safe harbor levels establish thresholds for no significant risk levels (NSRLs) for carcinogens and maximum allowable dose levels (MADLs) for chemicals that cause reproductive toxicity.	The California Proposition 65 list is an authoritative government list of carcinogens <i>and</i> reproductive toxicants that health care facilities may wish to avoid. All suppliers who do business in California must comply with this law. As such, this law already applies to many suppliers in the health care sector. Since this list is updated at least once a year, suppliers must provide up-to-date information for procurement contracts	
Does this product contain materials that are made from plants that are typically harvested within a 10-year or shorter cycle (e.g., are rapidly renewable)? (Yes/No)	Yes	Rapidly renewal materials must have a harvest cycle of 10 years or fewer. This includes materials like bamboo, agrifibers, cork, corn, cotton, soy, natural rubber, and linoleum. They can come either from plants or animals (harvested without harming animal, for example wool is okay, leather is not).	Purchasing products containing rapidly renewable materials diverts consumption away from non-renewable resources. Furthermore, when the plants sourced for these products are raised according to principles of environmental stewardship, they can both contribute to ecological restoration and offer a low impact source for products and materials. See LEED resource for more information, http://www.leeduser.com/credit/NC-v2.2/MRc6	LEED for Healthcare MR Credit 3: Sustainably Sourced Materials and Products LEED for New Construction MR Credit 6: Rapidly Renewable Materials LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance MR Credit 3: Sustainable Purchasing— Facility Alterations and Additions
Is this product free of the following metals in any part of the product including metal parts and textiles: antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, chromium VI (hexavalent chromium), cobalt, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, or organotin compounds? (Yes/No)	Yes	For information on these metals, see OSHA, http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/metalsheavy/index.html	These metals are toxic and persistent. They build up in biological systems and become a significant health hazard.	HHI Safer Chemicals Challenge-Healthy Interiors criteria

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