



Suggested Environmental Considerations for Ceiling Tiles

Suggested Question	Rationale	Preferred Answer	More Information
<p>Does this product contain postconsumer recycled content? (Yes/No)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>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</p>

<p>Is this product certified in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) principles and criteria? (Yes/No/NA)</p>	<p>The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) sets stringent standards for the sustainable management and harvesting of wood-producing forests. 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.</p>	<p>Yes/NA</p>	<p>Forest Stewardship Council, www.fsc.org 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</p>
<p>Does this product meet the VOC emissions limits of the California Special Environmental Requirements, Section 01350, updated with the California Department of Public 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), including the 2012 formaldehyde limit (9 µg m-3)? (Yes/No)</p>	<p>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 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).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>HHI Safer Chemicals Challenge-Heathy 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 LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance MR Credit 3: Sustainable Purchasing— Facility Alterations and Additions</p>
<p>Is this product free of polyvinyl chloride (PVC)? (Yes/No)</p>	<p>In the event of fire, burning PVC produces strong acids and toxic persistent organic pollution including dioxin. Halogenated organic compounds tend to be persistent and are often toxic and bioaccumulative. It is often impossible to avoid creating persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic byproducts during their production.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>HHI Safer Chemicals Challenge-Heathy Interiors criteria</p>

<p>Is this product free of intentionally added phthalates: DEHP, BBP, DnHP, DIDP, and DBP? (Yes/No) If no, please specify the phthalate(s)</p>	<p>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. 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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>HHI Safer Chemicals Challenge-Heathy Interiors criteria</p>
<p>Is this product free of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) flame retardants? (Yes/No)</p>	<p>Similar to other halogenated flame retardants, polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) migrate out of the products they have been applied to, entering the air, dust, and water. They have been shown to bioaccumulate in humans, including in breast milk.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>HHI Safer Chemicals Challenge-Heathy Interiors criteria</p>
<p>Is this product free of antimicrobials that are topically applied or incorporated as a permanent/durable treatment using ASTM E2471-05 Standard Test Method for verification? (Yes/No)</p>	<p>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").</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>U.S. EPA. "Consumer Products Treated with Pesticides." Available at: http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/treatart.htm</p>
<p>Is this product part of a take back program at the end of life? (Yes/No) If yes, will this product be recycled? (Yes/No)</p>	<p>Product takeback programs encourage vendors to design products for easy upgrade and recycling.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	

<p>Is this product free of carcinogens or reproductive toxicants, as listed under the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, Proposition 65, above Prop 65 Safe harbor levels? (Yes/No)</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
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