

GREENGUARD Certified products help create healthier educational environments in which to learn and grow.

Why is Indoor Air Quality Important?

People expect homes, schools and daycares to be a place for children to learn and prosper. Unfortunately, indoor air is more polluted than outdoor air. For example, a typical classroom may contain anywhere from 50-300 different airborne chemicals. These chemicals, or volatile organic compounds (VOCs), are released into the air from everyday furnishings, building materials and products—items like furniture, flooring and cleaners. Once airborne, VOCs can be easily inhaled and trigger a number of health problems.

Additionally, infants and school aged children are more sensitive to the effects of VOCs and poor indoor air quality (IAQ). Children breathe at faster rates than adults, taking more air into their bodies where their immune and neurological systems are still developing. In fact, children exposed to high levels of VOCs are 4 times more likely to develop asthma, and in the past decade asthma rates have grown by 160% in children under the age of 5.

What is GREENGUARD Children & Schools Certification?

Simply put, GREENGUARD Certification ensures that a product is low-emitting. Products carrying the GREENGUARD mark have been independently tested and re-tested to demonstrate that they meet GREENGUARD's rigorous third-party chemical emission standards.

The GREENGUARD Children & Schools Certification ProgramSM requires a more stringent chemical emissions criteria to take into account the unique health sensitivities of children and other sensitive populations. It also sets limits on chemicals addressed in CA 01350.

Products carrying the GREENGUARD Children & Schools Certification mark are ideal for educational and other sensitive environments.

What are the Benefits of Improved Indoor Air Quality?

Improved indoor air quality has positive impacts on children's health as well as student and teacher performance.

- Seventeen separate studies found a 41% reduction (on average) in the prevalence of asthma, flu headaches and respiratory symptoms (Kats 2006)
- Student test scores in math and reading improve as the physical condition of schools buildings improve (National Research Council 2006)
- Green schools experience a 20% increase in their ability to attract teachers and a 54% increase in teacher retention (Kats 2006)

Visit the website and click on Healthier Schools to take an interactive IAQ tour.

www.greenguard.org



How is Indoor Air Quality Incorporated in Sustainable School Programs?

Indoor air quality is a significant component of many sustainable school programs. Specifying GREENGUARD Children & Schools CertifiedSM products is one way that school systems across the country are improving indoor air quality for children and educators.



Collaborative for High Performance Schools

A rating system for K-12 schools to help them achieve environmental efficiency and healthy building practices.



USGBC's (LEED[®]) program

A national rating system for developing high-performance sustainable buildings and schools.



USEPA "Tools for Schools Program"

A program for the operation and maintenance of school facilities.

How do I Find GREENGUARD Certified Products?

The GREENGUARD Environmental Institute offers a comprehensive, online database to help in the creation of healthier indoor environments. The database includes many items which help create healthier learning environments such as paints, flooring, insulation, furniture and cleaners. This free guide for low-emitting materials is searchable by product type, manufacturer and by typing in a key word.

Go to www.greenguard.org to search the GREENGUARD Product Guide.



50% of U.S. schools have poor indoor air quality.

U.S. EPA

GREENGUARD...
creating healthier indoor environments.

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