

Understanding UL' GREENGUARD Certification Program

As designers and architects seek to create buildings made of materials that are healthier for the environment and the buildings' inhabitants, certifications like Underwriters Laboratories' (UL) GREENGUARD can help them identify materials that have low chemical emissions. UL's GREENGUARD Certification program is recognized and referenced in numerous building programs, standards, and specifications around the world. Products with GREENGUARD certifications can contribute to points-based green building rating systems, such as LEED, BREEAM, Fitwel, and others. Additionally, they satisfy code or ordinance criteria and meet architectural specifications for indoor air quality.

There are three tiers of GREENGUARD certification: GREENGUARD Certified, GREENGUARD Gold, and, GREENGUARD Formaldehyde-Free. Each certification has specific maximum requirements for both emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and modeled indoor concentrations, or, in the case of the Formaldehyde-Free Certification, requirements for maximum formaldehyde emissions and modeled concentrations. VOCs include a variety of different chemicals, some of which have short-term or long-term health effects on humans.

In order to be certified, the product must meet specific requirements set forth by UL:

- GREENGUARD Certification: Total VOC emission rate of 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- GREENGUARD Gold Certification: Total VOC emission rate of 220 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- GREENGUARD Formaldehyde-Free Certification: Must meet GREENGUARD Gold requirements and have a formaldehyde emission factor of less than or equal to 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{hr}$ at 24 elapsed exposure hours or 3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{hr}$ at 336 elapsed exposure hours.

The GREENGUARD Formaldehyde-free certification is the most stringent of the three certifications, and GREENGUARD Gold status is especially relevant in school and health care applications.

Many products that go into homes and buildings, from furniture, to decorations, to building materials, receive GREENGUARD certifications to allow consumers to identify them as low-emitting products. At Johns Manville, many of our insulation materials are GREENGUARD or GREENGUARD Gold certified:

GREENGUARD Gold:

- Micromat® RX
-