

# “Buy Healthy” with Product Certifications and Labels

## BEST Product certifications and labels that are free of the most hazardous content



Cradle to Cradle Material Health Certification



Cradle to Cradle Certification



Living Product Challenge Certification



Living Building Challenge Red List Free

## Hazardous Chemicals

Certain chemicals are known to pose serious risks to human health and the environment. Certifications such as “Cradle to Cradle” and “Red List Free” have created their own lists of the most hazardous chemicals, and require that products seeking their certification are free of those listed chemicals.

## Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

VOCs are organic chemicals that evaporate into the air at room temperature. They are emitted from products such as carpet, vinyl flooring, adhesives, paints, stains, composite wood products, upholstery foam, caulks, and sealants.

Some VOCs are known carcinogens, such as formaldehyde and benzene. The effects of VOCs may range from headaches, loss of coordination, and nausea to damage of the liver, kidney, and central nervous system. Concentrations of many VOCs are consistently higher indoors (up to ten times higher) than outdoors.

<https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/volatile-organic-compounds-impact-indoor-air-quality>

## BETTER Product certifications and labels that limit some of the most hazardous content



Living Building Challenge Red List Approved



Green Seal GS-11 Certification for paints, coatings, stains, and sealants



EPA Safer Choice for cleaning products

## GOOD Interior building products should have a low-VOC emissions certification unless it does not emit volatile organic compounds, such as masonry, concrete, stone, ceramic/glass/stone-tile, and unfinished solid wood without coatings or sealants.



GREENGUARD Gold Certification



Indoor Advantage Gold for building products and furniture



Green Label Plus for carpeting, pads, and adhesives



FloorScore for flooring products and adhesives