



ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION GUIDANCE FOR PAINT

The District of Columbia is committed to procuring quality goods and services in a timely manner and at a reasonable cost that support the District in meeting its sustainability goals. Compliance with specification guidance is sufficient to meet PPRA Section 1101(a) environmentally preferable procurement requirements. Additional contextual information is provided here to assist in the implementation of the specification. To access solicitation documents with full contract language, [click here](#).



BENEFITS

\$1.76

per gallon could be saved if the District purchases environmentally preferable paints from leading suppliers

Environmentally friendly paint eliminate or minimize chemicals that cause adverse health effects, such as VOCs, biocides, and fungicides.

SOURCE

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-05/documents/paint.pdf>

<https://www.thisoldhouse.com/painting/23097869/eco-friendly-paints>

Scope

The environmental specification addresses interior latex paint.

COPY AND PASTE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATION LANGUAGE INTO THE REQUIREMENTS SECTION OF YOUR STATEMENT OF WORK

EPPS Requirements

Interior latex paint purchased by the District of Columbia shall meet the environmental criteria defined below.

Products shall be certified to at least one (1) of the following standards, using the most recent version in effect at the time of purchase:

- Green Seal 11 Standard for Paints, Coatings, Stains, and Sealers
- Green Seal 43 Standard for Recycled Content Latex Paints
- Master Painters Institute (MPI) Extreme Green

Additional Information



Green Seal is a non-profit standard-setting organization certifying a range of products and services. [Green Seal](#) conducts scientific testing and on-site audits to verify that products meet recognized standards. Relevant standards include: GS-11 Standard for Paints, Coatings, Stains, and Sealers; GS-43 Standard for Recycled Content Latex Paints. Green Seal paints are widely available and commonly specified by jurisdictions throughout the United States. Certified products can be found at <https://certified.greenseal.org/>.



Master Painters Institute (MPI) is an independent third-party organization that sets performance standards for commercially available paints and coatings. The [MPI Extreme Green \(X-Green\)](#) paint standard was created to complement the pre-existing MPI Green Performance paint standards GPS-1 and GPS-2, as well as to simplify the process of specifying environmentally safe paints. X-Green certification sets performance requirements for durability; VOC emissions; limited use of harmful chemical components; and certification of emissions compliance to CHPS (Collaborative for High Performance Schools). These certification components allow X-Green to meet the three requirements for a truly “green” paint: indoor air quality, environmental safety, and the durability needed to promote sustainable building practices.



Significance to the District

PPRA [PPRA § 104](#) specifies that products meet Default Environmental Standards. U.S. [EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines](#) for consolidated and reprocessed latex paint for specified uses is a Default Environmental Standard (DES).

SUSTAINABLE DC PLAN [Sustainable DC](#) Plan Energy: Goal 1: "Improve the efficiency of District-wide energy use to reduce overall consumption" aims to cut city-wide energy used by 50% by 2032. Specifying Energy Star appliances helps the District to meet this goal.

PAINT STEWARDSHIP [The Paint Stewardship Act of 2014](#) requires paint manufacturers to collect and reuse, recycle, or safely dispose of leftover paint. DOEE may also take court action to enforce compliance with paint stewardship requirements.

Environmental Hotspots The most important environmental benefits associated with this specification

**POLLUTANTS/TOXICITY/
HEAVY METALS** Both **Green Seal** and **MPI** certified paint products emit fewer VOCs than non-certified products, improving indoor air quality. Certified paints also contain less hazardous material.

**MATERIALS
USE/ SUSTAINABLE
SOURCING** Both **Green Seal** and **MPI** certified paint products are made from more durable materials than non-certified products, improving their ability to be reused and maintained.

For more information about sustainable specification guidance or the District's Sustainable Purchasing Program, please visit: <https://ocp.dc.gov/page/sustainable-purchasing-program> or call the OCP Procurement Center of Excellence at: 202.724.4477 or email sppdc@dc.gov.