



# QUICK SPECS: Safer Chemicals

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## [SPLC Quick Spec – Cleaning products and disinfectants](#)

*These interim purchasing specifications represent SPLC's current "best available" recommendations, based on 1) rigorous coverage of multiple environmental and health concerns, including chemical ingredients, and 2) successful implementation by contracting agencies. The specifications were drawn from existing language created by various purchasing agencies and nonprofit groups, especially the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Responsible Purchasing Network, Center for Environmental Health, City and County of San Francisco, and Healthcare Without Harm/Green Health Approved. They have been reviewed by SPLC's Safer Chemicals learning circle. We welcome additional comments and recommendations.*

**Cleaning products**, including, general purpose, glass, restroom, and multipurpose cleaners, cleaner/degreasers; floor finishes, strippers, and neutral cleaners; carpet and upholstery cleaners, laundry detergents, metal, stone, wood, tile, grill, oven, and abrasive cleaners, furniture polish, and odor control products

1. Products must not be in aerosol containers;
2. All concentrated cleaning chemicals must be in a spill-resistant package that prevents access to the undiluted chemical, and
3. Cleaning products must be certified at the time of bid by at least one of the following:
  - Cradle to Cradle Certified Gold level or higher, version 3.1 or later
  - Green Seal
  - Safer Choice
  - UL ECOLOGO

### **Disinfectants and sanitizers**

1. Products must not be in aerosol containers;
2. Concentrated products must be in a spill-resistant package that prevents access to the undiluted chemical;
3. Products must be registered by the US EPA;
4. Products may contain only the following active ingredients:
  - Hydrogen peroxide
  - Lactic acid
  - Caprylic acid
  - Citric acid
  - Thymol
  - Hypochlorous acid
  - Ethanol
  - Isopropanol

## [SPLC Quick Spec – Architectural Paints](#)

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**Interior latex wall and ceiling paints and primers**, including all paint and primer types designated as "Latex, Interior" by MPI except those designated as "Latex, Interior, High Performance Architectural" must be certified by one of the following:

- a. Cradle to Cradle Certified Gold level or higher, version 3.1 or later
- b. Greenwise Gold
- c. Master Painters Institute (MPI) Extreme Green (X-Green)

**Other architectural paints**, excluding specialty paints, shall be certified by one of the following:

- a. Cradle to Cradle (Silver)
- b. Green Seal (GS-11)
- c. Greenwise
- d. Master Painters Institute (MPI) Green Performance Standard (GPS-1 or GPS-2)

## [SPLC Quick Spec – Furniture](#)

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**Furniture**, including fabrics used for the upholstery and reupholstery, must meet the [most recent requirements](#) established by Health Care Without Harm/Green Health Approved.

**Documentation of compliance must include at least one of the following:**

Paper documentation or URL demonstrating that the product line is:

1. Certified under the GreenScreen Certified standard for Furniture and Fabrics Version 1 or higher at the Bronze level, and is listed on the GreenScreen Furniture and Fabric Certification list of certified products; OR
2. Certified by the BIFMA LEVEL program as meeting ANSI/BIFMA e3-2019 Furniture Sustainability Standard, as credit 7.4.4- Targeted Chemical Elimination; OR
3. Certified as meeting ANSI/BIFMA e3-2019 Furniture Sustainability Standard, as credit 7.4.4 Targeted Chemical Elimination, by a third-party certification body deemed acceptable by the [CONTRACTING AGENCY] OR
4. Certified as meeting the requirements in Section I above by a third-party certification body deemed acceptable by the San Francisco Department of the Environment; OR
5. Registered as meeting the above requirements by another organization deemed acceptable by the [CONTRACTING AGENCY].

## SPLC Quick Spec – Carpet

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**Carpet**, including commercial hard-backed carpet tile and broadloom carpet, must meet the following requirements:

1. **Prohibited products:** The following products are prohibited from purchase.
  - a. Broadloom carpets, unless their installation qualifies as a waived category under [CONTRACTING AGENCY WAIVER REQUIREMENTS];
  - b. Cushion-backed carpet tiles.
2. **Carpet tiles** shall:
  - a. Be commercial hard-backed carpet tiles;
  - b. Be Cradle to Cradle Certified™ (C2CC) Silver or higher under v3.1 or newer;
  - c. Meet Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) Green Label Plus certification or other certifications of compliance with the California Department of Public Health Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, also known as CDPH/EHLB Standard Method v1.1 or California Specification 01350 (referred to herein as "VOC requirements");
  - d. Have an Environmental Product Declaration® (EPD) following a US or international carpet product category rule (PCR) that conforms to ISO 14025, 14040, 14044, and EN 15804 or ISO 21930 and has at least a cradle to gate scope;
  - e. Have a compliant Health Product Declaration® (HPD) with content characterized, screened, and inventoried to at least 1,000 ppm under v2.0 or newer; or a Living Building Challenge Compliant (LBCC) Declare SM label;
  - f. Contain no intentionally added:
  - g. Antimicrobials at or above 100 parts per million (ppm)
  - h. Flame retardant chemicals
  - i. PFASs, such as those commonly used as stain, water, or oil resistance treatments
  - j. Contain a minimum of 45% total recycled content, of which at least 10% shall be post-consumer;
  - k. Carpet yarn shall be:
    - i. Type 6 or 6,6 cationic nylon
    - ii. 100% solution-dyed
  - l. Carpet backing shall be free of:
    - i. Coal fly-ash
    - ii. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
    - iii. Polyurethane
    - iv. Synthetic styrene butadiene latex
3. **Carpet tile adhesives** shall meet:
  - a. CAI Green Label Plus certification
  - b. California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers (also known as CDPH/EHLB Standard Method v1.1 or California Specification 01350)
  - c. Carpet tile tape adhesives shall also have a Bronze level or higher Material Health Certificate (MHC) from Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute (C2CPII) under v3.1 or newer;
  - d. Carpet tile wet adhesives shall also:
    - i. Have a Silver level or higher MHC from C2CPII under v3.1 or newer
    - ii. Meet South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1168 (2005) for wet adhesives (< 50g/l)

## SPLC Quick Spec – Resilient Flooring

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For resilient flooring, including its coatings and adhesives, products must meet the [most recent requirements](#) (Silver level or above) established by Health Care Without Harm/Green Health Approved.

**Documentation of compliance** must include at least one of the following:

1. Resilient flooring and/or adhesives are certified as meeting the requirements above by a third-party certification body deemed acceptable by [CONTRACTING AGENCY]; OR
2. Resilient flooring and/or adhesives are registered as meeting the above requirements by the [Center for Environmental Health, Health Care Without Harm/ Green Health Approved](#), or another organization deemed acceptable by the [CONTRACTING AGENCY].

## [SPLC Quick Spec – Electronic Equipment/IT](#)

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### Personal Computers

All desktops, laptops, tablets, workstations, thin clients and computer monitors are required to be registered in the EPEAT system at the time of purchase at Gold level or higher -OR- by TCO Certified. Preprogrammed, automated energy savings settings shall not be overridden by the department before distribution.

EPEAT for Personal Computers is a registry of products satisfying the IEEE 1680.1™ – 2018 Standard for Environmental and Social Responsibility Assessment of Computers and Displays. The EPEAT registration criteria and a database of all registered products are provided at <http://www.epeat.net>. TCO Certified is third-party certification for IT products; its criteria and list of certified products are provided at <https://tcocertified.com/>.

### Servers

Computer servers, with the exception of blades, purchased by [AGENCY] departments will be reviewed for compliance with this Policy during the [CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER] Review process and any purchases are encouraged to be registered as Bronze level or higher in the EPEAT system at the time of purchase. EPEAT for Servers is a registry of products satisfying the NSF/ANSI 426 – 2017 Standard for Environmental Leadership and Corporate Responsibility Assessment of Server.

IT purchasers are encouraged to “right-size” their server specification in terms of memory and redundant power supplies, to review manufacturer data sheets of servers that meet the given need, and to choose models with high efficiency over a range of operating loads.

### Imaging Equipment

All imaging equipment purchased or leased by [AGENCY] departments, including copiers, digital duplicators, facsimile machines, multifunction devices, printers, mailing machines and scanners (as defined by the U.S. ENERGY STAR® Imaging Equipment Specification) are required to achieve Gold registration in the EPEAT system at the time of purchase. An exception is granted for cases where specialized finishing equipment is needed but is unavailable. In these cases, purchasers must be prepared to demonstrate due diligence in seeking compliant alternatives, and purchased equipment must meet the highest available EPEAT certification.

EPEAT for Imaging Equipment is a registry of products satisfying the IEEE 1680.2a™ – 2017 Standard for Environmental Assessment of Imaging Equipment.

## Televisions and Large Displays

All televisions or large displays purchased or leased by [AGENCY] departments are required to achieve at the time of purchase at least one of the following:

- Certification to TCO Certified
- Registration in the EPEAT system
- Qualified under the current version of Energy Star® Program Requirements for Televisions
- Qualified under the current version of Energy Star® Program Requirements for Displays

EPEAT for Televisions is a registry of products satisfying the IEEE 1680.3a™ - 2017 Standard for Environmental Assessment of Televisions.

## Exceptions

Exempt from the policies above are the following devices and equipment:

- Network infrastructure
- Appliances
- Blades

## IT Packaging

In ordering IT equipment of any kind, [AGENCY] staff shall ensure that:

1. The equipment is packaged using materials:
  - a. That contain the maximum available level of recycled content
  - b. That contain the maximum available level of recyclable content,
  - c. That are easily separable and minimize the use of foam.
2. Where feasible and available, the equipment should be ordered in bulk packaging as an alternative to single unit packaging in the primary ordering process. Bulk packaging should serve as primary packaging from the point of product assembly to delivery. Re-boxing of a finished product from single unit packaging to bulk packaging will not be considered an acceptable option. Bulk packaging should result in either reduced packaging weight, as compared on a per unit basis to the single unit packaging, or reduced packaging volume, as compared on a per unit volume basis to single unit packaging.

## [SPLC Quick Spec – Food Service Ware](#)

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*Note: This specification applies to areas with municipal composting facilities.*

### **Compostable Products**

- All compostable foodware must be certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) except for napkins, stirrers, splash or cocktail sticks, toothpicks and utensils made entirely of natural fiber.
- All plastic products claiming to be compostable must be certified compostable by BPI proving that the finished product meets ASTM standards D6400 or D6868 of compostability. Compostable plastic products must be clearly labeled "compostable" in green color or within a green band in order to distinguish the product from conventional plastic. Cutlery must be embossed with the word "compostable" on each piece.

### **Compostable Or Recyclable Paper Products made from plant-based materials**

Compostable or recyclable foodware made from paper or other plant-based renewable materials must meet or exceed the following requirements:

- Soup containers: Minimum of 85% post-consumer recycled content
- Hot drink cups: PLA-Lined, maximum post-consumer recycled content preferred, with a minimum of 10% post-consumer recycled content
- Cup sleeves for hot drinks: Unbleached paper, minimum 100% post-consumer content
- Napkins must contain a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content (per EPA CPG) and either be certified by Green Seal, UL EcoLogo or FSC, or contain 100% total recycled content. Unbleached napkins preferred, maximum post-consumer recycled content preferred.