

CARPET

A Guide to Comparing Chemical and Material Criteria of Product Certifications and Eco-Labels

This guide will enable purchasers to compare criteria of the most chemically rigorous multi-attribute eco-labels for carpet in the U.S., so they may choose which best aligns with their organizational needs.

Multi-attribute eco-labels include numerous requirements within one host certification, reducing purchaser burden as they seek to understand the full environmental story of a product. We did not evaluate the rigor and methodology of how product compliance is determined among these eco-labels.

This guide does not include any manufacturer or industry-created eco-claims or labels nor does it address environmental factors outside of toxics such as water usage, recyclability, and manufacturer take back requirements.

Many multi-attribute eco-label systems for carpet do not address fair or safe labor and manufacturing practices nor issues related to a product's carbon footprint. We therefore could not compare their performance in these areas.

The chemicals and materials in the comparison criteria are those known to be used, or could potentially be used, in the manufacturing of carpet and known to be toxic to human and environmental health.



CARPET Product Certifications and Eco-Labels

CARPET Product Certifications and Eco-Labels	 Greenhealth APPROVED		 CERTIFIED cradle to cradle					
COMPARISON CRITERIA	GOLD	SILVER	PLATINUM and GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE			
CHEMICALS AND MATERIALS OF CONCERN								
Product does not contain:								
Alkylphenols, alkylphenol ethoxylates, or related compounds, total amount above 100 ppm	✓	✓	✓ ¹	✓ ¹	✓ ¹	✓	✓	
Added antimicrobials or preservatives of any kind	✓	✓				✓	✓ ²	
Bisphenol A (BPA) and its structural analogs above 1000 ppm	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Bitumen	✓	✓						✓
Caprolactam (or Nylon-6)	✓	✓						
Dyes and pigments prohibited in Appendix A of the Blue Angel Low-Emission Textile Floor Coverings	✓	✓	✓ ³	✓ ³	✓ ³		✓	
Epichlorohydrin-based formulations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Flame retardants above 100 ppm	✓	✓	✓ ⁴	✓ ⁵	✓ ⁶	✓	✓	
Fly ash	✓	✓						
Added formaldehyde or formaldehyde-based formulations	✓	✓	✓ ⁷	✓ ⁷	✓ ⁷	✓	✓ ⁹	✓ ⁸
The following metals: lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium (chromium VI), or organotins above 50 ppm	✓	✓	✓ ¹⁰	✓ ¹⁰	✓ ¹⁰	✓ ¹⁰	✓ ¹¹	✓
Nanomaterials: deliberately engineered	✓	✓						
Total ortho-phthalates above 50 ppm	✓	✓	✓ ¹²	✓ ¹²	✓ ¹²	✓ ¹³	✓	
Perfluorinated and Polyfluorinated (PFAS) chemicals above 100 ppm	✓	✓	✓	✓ ⁵	✓ ⁶	✓	✓	✓ ¹⁴
Persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) chemicals above 1000 ppm	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓






- 1 Restricts phenol derivatives above 1000ppm
- 2 Restricts microbistatic, microbicidal or fungicidal
- 3 Restricts only azo dyes
- 4 Restricts only organohalogen above 100 ppm
- 5 Restricts only organohalogen exceeding 1% by weight

- 6 Restricts only organohalogen above 1000ppm
- 7 Restricts only formaldehyde, oligomeric reaction products with aniline
- 8 Restricts formaldehyde above 16 µg/m³
- 9 Restricts formaldehyde above 0.02 ppm

- 10 Restricts lead, mercury, and hexavalent chromium (chromium VI) at 1000ppm & cadmium at 100ppm
- 11 Restricts lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium at 1000 ppm

- 12 Restricts ortho-phthalates above 1000 ppm
- 13 Restricts ortho-phthalates above 100 ppm
- 14 Restricts only C8 or higher fluorocarbon
- 15 Restricts substances under EU REACH

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COMPARISON CRITERIA	GOLD	SILVER	PLATINUM and GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
CHEMICALS AND MATERIALS OF CONCERN (continued)					
Product does not contain:					
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) above 0.5 ppm	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Polyurethane	✓	✓			
Intentionally added chemicals listed in CA Proposition 65 at levels requiring a warning in California	✓	✓			✓ ¹⁵
Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or other chlorinated polymers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recycled tires	✓	✓			
Volatile methylcyclsiloxanes D4, D5, or D6 above 100 ppm	✓	✓			
Styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR)-based formulations	✓				
FACE FIBER CRITERIA (FOR SYNTHETIC MATERIALS ONLY)					
The face fiber must be solution-dyed.	✓	✓			
At least 95% of the face fiber must be made of a single synthetic polymer.	✓	✓			
PRODUCT CONTENT TRANSPARENCY					
The product must have either 1) a complete Health Product Declaration with all substances characterized and screened at or above 1000 ppm, or 2) a fully disclosed Declare label that is Red List Free at 100 ppm, and with no proprietary information claimed for any ingredient above 1000 ppm.	✓	✓	✓ ¹⁶	✓ ¹⁷	✓ ¹⁸
VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUND (VOC) CERTIFICATIONS					
The product must be certified as meeting Carpet and Rug Institute Green Label Plus, Blue Angel, or Cradle to Cradle Gold or Platinum.	✓	✓	✓		✓ ¹⁹
16 Requires 100% of all ingredients are analyzed for human and ecological toxicity.					
17 Requires 95% of ingredients are analyzed for human and ecological toxicity.					
18 Requires 75% of ingredients are analyzed for human and ecological toxicity.					
19 VOC criteria only met with Platinum & Gold					

CERTIFICATION AND ECO-LABEL VERSIONS:

[Greenhealth Approved 2020 v.1](#) [Cradle to Cradle 2020 v.4](#) [Declare Red List 2020 v.3](#) [Blue Angel 2020 v.2](#) NSF/ANSI 140 2019