



# GreenScreen Certified® for Reusable Food Packaging, Service Ware, & Cookware

The increasing restrictions on single-use food packaging and food service ware, including disposable plates, cups, bowls, trays, straws and cutlery, has resulted in global demand for zero waste and more sustainable consumption. The GreenScreen Certified® Standard for Reusable Food Packaging, Food Service Ware & Cookware (Reusables Standard), summarized in this factsheet, provides in depth criteria for reusable products that are preferred for human and environmental health.

Manufacturers now have a clear roadmap to meet purchasing specifications for reusable products that are made with preferred chemistry for a clean circular economy while cutting consumption and waste generation.

## What products and materials are covered in the certification?

This certification covers reusable products for the food sector made of glass, ceramics, metals, plastics, and/or fiber or other biological materials such as wood, bamboo, or cork.

The certification also applies to the coatings, films, liners, printing inks, adhesives, glues, waxes, and oils that are applied to the base material of the product.

## What is required to get certified?

**Full Disclosure:** Manufacturers must disclose under confidentiality all intentionally added chemicals greater than or equal to 1 ppm and all residuals and impurities present at or above 100 ppm on a material basis.

**All products must meet the Restricted Substances List (RSL), which is particularly relevant to this industry sector.** The RSL includes chemicals from the following groups or categories, plus other chemicals of concern.

- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
- Organohalogens (including chlorinated plastic)
- Parabens



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- Alkylphenols and Alkylphenol Ethoxylates
- Bisphenols
- Ortho-Phthalates
- Cyclic Volatile Methyl Siloxanes (cVMS)
- Benzophenones
- Organotin Compounds
- Compounds of Cadmium, Chromium VI, Lead, Mercury, Arsenic, Antimony and Nickel
- Specified antimicrobials
- Specified nanomaterials
- Food Packaging Forum Priority Substances List
- Halogenated Flame Retardants

**Reusability criteria** applies to all levels of certification and is defined as the product maintaining its shape, structure, and function after 780 cycles in a cleaning and sanitizing process as defined in the California Health and Safety Codes (see the Reusables Standard for details). Durability testing is required for all products except those made from only uncoated/unfinished ceramic, glass, and/or non-foil metal.

**Analytical testing is required for all materials.**

Chemical content testing is required for plastic materials and heavy metal migration testing is required for all materials. See the Reusables Standard for the list of required test methods, chemical analytes, and thresholds for each material type.

**Recycled Content must meet material-specific criteria.**

Use of post-consumer recycled plastic and biological material content in products is not preferred in food contact applications, but may be allowed if the recycled material is well-defined, fully characterized and meets all other certification requirements, as detailed in the Reusables Standard.

Any amount of recycled glass or metal is allowed in certified products because the recycling processes for these materials typically occur at temperatures that volatilize contaminants. Ceramic materials are

not included in the recycled content criteria because there is currently a lack of recycling infrastructure for ceramics.

**Products can achieve one of three certification levels.**

There are increasingly stringent requirements for selecting preferred chemicals as follows:

- **Silver:** no chemicals with a GreenScreen List Translator score of LT-1.
- **Gold:** a) no chemicals with a GreenScreen List Translator score of LT-1; and b) all chemicals are fully assessed for chemical hazards according to GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals and achieve a GreenScreen score of Benchmark-2 or higher.
- **Platinum:** a) no chemicals with a GreenScreen List Translator score of LT-1; and b) all chemicals are fully assessed for chemical hazards and achieve a GreenScreen score of Benchmark-3 or higher.

These requirements for preferred chemicals apply to 1) any coating or finish that is applied to a base material, and 2) fiber, plastic, and other biological base materials. The GreenScreen for Safer Chemicals hazard assessment requirements at the Gold and Platinum levels are waived if the base material is ceramic, glass, or a metal alloy. See the table below for further details.



## SUMMARY OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Section	Requirements	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Product Inventory	Product Inventory includes: 1. Material Inventory of all homogeneous materials; and 2. Chemical Inventory for all additives in all homogeneous materials including: a) Intentionally added chemical compounds and substances $\geq 0.0001\%$ by mass (1 ppm) in the additive; and b) Impurities and residuals $\geq 0.01\%$ by mass (100 ppm) in the additive.	✓	✓	✓
	Screening with GreenScreen List Translator™: 1. Intentionally added chemical compounds $\geq 0.0001\%$ by mass (1 ppm) in the homogeneous material; and 2. Impurities and residuals $\geq 0.01\%$ by mass (100 ppm) in the homogeneous material.	✓	✓	✓
	Assessment with GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals: <sup>1, 2</sup> 1. Intentionally added chemical compounds $\geq 0.0001\%$ by mass (1 ppm) in the homogeneous material; and 2. Impurities and residuals $\geq 0.01\%$ by mass (100 ppm) in the homogeneous material.		✓	✓
	None of the chemical compounds screened have a GreenScreen List Translator score of LT-1.	✓	✓	✓
	None of the substances assessed have a GreenScreen score of Benchmark-1.	if available <sup>3</sup>	✓	✓
	None of the substances assessed have a GreenScreen score of Benchmark-1 or Benchmark-2			✓
Restricted Substances List	Product meets Restricted Substances List (RSL) requirements and thresholds.	✓	✓	✓
Analytical Testing	Product meets material-specific analytical testing requirements.	✓	✓	✓
Reusability Criteria	Product meets reusability requirements.	✓	✓	✓
Recycled Content	Product meets recycled content requirements or does not contain recycled content.	✓	✓	✓

Download the Reusables Standard and learn more about how you can get certified at [greenscreenchemicals.org/certified/reusables](https://greenscreenchemicals.org/certified/reusables)

1. For the Gold level, GreenScreen assessments are not required for chemicals in the Product Inventory that are on the US Environmental Protection Agency Safer Chemical Ingredients List (SCIL).
2. Exception: the hazard evaluation requirements shall be waived for the base material in products made of ceramic, glass and/or metal alloys. The requirements shall still apply to any coatings and/or finishes.
3. For the Silver level, GreenScreen assessments are preferentially used if they are freely and publicly available.

