



ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATION GUIDANCE FOR CARPET

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](#).



Scope

The environmental specification addresses carpet or any services that involve the use or installation of carpet.

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

EPPS Requirements

Carpet and carpet installation services purchased by the District of Columbia shall meet the environmental criteria defined below.

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

- Cradle to Cradle
- NSF/ANSI 140 Sustainability Assessment for Carpet
- CRI Green Label Plus

BENEFITS

1.8 Million

tons of rugs and
carpets are sent
to local landfills
each year.

Sustainable
carpets help
minimize the
ecological impact

Sustainable
carpets act as
undercover air
filters and
promote higher
Indoor Air
Quality (IAQ)

SOURCES

<https://www.millicare.com/blog/2019/november/indoor-air-quality-did-you-know-your-carpet-is-a/>

<https://www.greenamerica.org/green-living/eco-friendly-flooring>



Additional Information



Cradle to Cradle (C2C) is a multi-attribute standard that covers a range of products, including carpet, across five categories: material health, material reutilization, renewable energy and carbon management, water stewardship, and social fairness. Product certification is awarded at five levels (Bronze to Platinum). The Bronze standard generally includes an inventory and a commitment to ongoing assessment, while higher levels require products to meet minimum performance thresholds in each category. To achieve a higher level, requirements at all lower levels need to be met as well. C2C certified products can be found in the Certified Products Registry on the [Cradle to Cradle website](#).



NSF is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and leads the development of voluntary standards that promote public health, safety, sustainability assessment, and the environment. NSF/ANSI standards are developed through a public process that ensures balanced input from industry representatives, public health and regulatory officials, certification bodies and testing labs, and users. Certification levels include Silver, Gold, and Platinum, and are earned by meeting prerequisite and optional criteria in categories such as material use and management, manufacturing processes, corporate governance, end-of-product-life management, and innovation. [NSF/ANSI 140: Sustainability Assessment for Carpet](#) provides a market-based definition and path to more sustainable carpet through performance requirements for the individual product and the manufacturing organization. NSF-certified products can be searched through the [Listing Directory](#).



The Carpet and Rug Institute's [Green Label Plus \(GLP\) program](#) is recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) [Recommendations of Specifications, Standards, and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing](#). This recognition places the GLP program as a top-tier program for certification. The Green Label Plus symbol informs customers that they are purchasing the lowest emitting carpet, adhesive, and cushion products on the market. Look for the CRI Green Label Plus logo as proof that the product has been tested and certified by an independent laboratory and has met stringent criteria for low emissions. Underwriters' Laboratory (UL) handles testing of carpet, adhesive, and cushion samples for CRI using the most current, dynamic environmental chamber technology. The test methodology was developed in cooperation with the U.S. EPA and has been adopted by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) as D5116 – Standard Guide for Small-Scale Environmental Chamber Determinations of Organic Emissions from Indoor Materials/Products.



Environmental Hotspots The most important environmental benefits associated with this specification

POLLUTANTS/TOXICITY/ HEAVY METALS	Carpet products certified under NSF/ANSI 140 emit fewer volatile organic compounds (VOCs) than non-certified products, improving indoor air quality. C2C certified products are required to be assessed for potentially harmful materials (assessed as “X”); C2C Bronze certification requires a phase-out strategy for “X” substances; Silver certification dictates strict limits on “X” substances; and Gold and Platinum products may not contain any “X” substances.
MATERIALS USE / SUSTAINABLE SOURCING	C2C certification emphasizes the use of cycled and/or renewable content, and explicitly references responsibly sourced materials for levels Silver and above.
ENERGY CONSUMPTION	The manufacturing of NSF/ANSI 140 certified carpet products uses fewer fossil fuels than non-certified products. C2C requires that some amount of electricity used in the manufacturing process be renewable, with varying amounts for each level of certification.
WATER CONSUMPTION	C2C sets requirements for water stewardship at each level of certification. These requirements include compliance with water quality regulations and guidelines, monitoring and optimization of chemicals in effluent and sludge, and reduction of water use in stressed locations. NSF/ANSI 140 includes credits for water reduction and water quality.

Significance to the District

LEGISLATION This specification supports compliance with [DC’s Green Building Act](#) which requires LEED Gold certification for New Construction.

SUSTAINABLE DC PLAN [Sustainable DC](#) Plan Built Environment: Goal 3: “Improve the performance of existing buildings by reducing energy and water use, advancing health, and increasing livability” aims to provide a healthy environment for building occupants. Many sustainable carpets improve indoor air quality and/or emit fewer VOCs, which helps the District to meet this goal.

LEED FOR BUILDING INTERIORS [LEED v2.2 awards one point for low-emitting materials – carpet systems](#) which requires that “All carpet cushion installed in the building interior shall meet the requirements of the Carpet and Rug Institute Green Label program. All carpet adhesive shall meet the requirements of EQ Credit 4.1: VOC limit of 50 g/L.”

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](tel:202.724.4477) or email sppdc@dc.gov.

