



RESOURCE GUIDE TO LESS TOXIC PRODUCT PURCHASING

This collection of model criteria and specifications, as well as other resources such as purchasing guides and databases, can be used to help create or implement an environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) policy. Each resource below is organized by product category and includes a brief description and a link for further information.

BUILDING MATERIALS

HomeFree: A database from Healthy Building Network that provides a color-coded ranking of building materials (not brands), ranking them in terms of how “green” they are. The site also provides construction teams with the tools to make informed purchasing decisions.

Healthier Buildings: A procurement guide for safer products for new construction and existing buildings from the Oregon Environmental Council.

Building Clean: A database for finding energy efficient products made with minimal toxicants in domestic manufacturing facilities developed by the Bluegreen Alliance Foundation.

CHILD CARE

Eco-Healthy Child Care Checklist: A checklist from the Children’s Environmental Health Network for child care providers to help avoid or eliminate common sources of toxic chemicals in the child care facility.

CLEANING CHEMICALS AND SERVICES

Guidance to Achieve Safer Chemicals Challenge for Green Cleaning: This purchasing guide from Practice Greenhealth provides criteria and model contract language for third-party certified cleaning products. This document prioritizes all purpose cleaners, bathroom cleaners, general/ floor cleaners, and carpet cleaners.

Janitorial Cleaning Products Bid: This request for quotation (RFQ) from Alameda County provides exemplar criteria and contract language for a janitorial cleaning products bids.

DISINFECTANTS

City of San Francisco Disinfectant Criteria: Cleaning with just plain soap, all purpose cleaners, and/or microfiber cloth can reduce 99% or more of bacteria from surfaces. If disinfectants are needed for certain applications, the City of San Francisco's SF Approved site includes products that are safer, including products that contain lactic acid, caprylic acid, citric acid, or hydrogen peroxide as active ingredients.

Disinfectant and Sanitizer Specification and Criteria: Guidance developed by New York State for purchasing green disinfectants and sanitizers.

University of Washington factsheet: Safer cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting strategies to reduce and prevent COVID-19 transmission from the University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.

WIDES Database: The City of Vienna, Austria has created a database of disinfectants that have been evaluated for their health and environmental hazards. This is not a certification program but allows purchasers to compare and choose safer disinfectants.

FLOORING (CARPETING)

Health Care Without Harm: A non-profit organization dedicated to greening the health care sector without compromising safety or care. HCWH creates comprehensive multi-attribute criteria for the health care sector to protect health and the environment and solicits lists of products that meet the criteria. HCWH does not verify the information because it is not a certification. HCWH has created [Healthy Carpet Criteria](#) and a [list of carpeting](#) that meet Healthy Carpet criteria. HCWH criteria is widely used in other sectors.

Carpet Technical Specifications: These carpeting technical specifications, created by the Center for Environmental Health and Health Care Without Harm, are for use in invitations to bid and requests for proposals. The requirements in this model technical specification align with Health Care Without Harm's criteria

FLOORING (RESILIENT)

Health Care Without Harm: A non-profit organization dedicated to greening the health care sector without compromising safety or care. HCWH creates comprehensive multi-attribute criteria for the health care sector, to protect health and the environment and solicits lists of products that meet the criteria. HCWH does not verify the information because it is not a certification. HCWH has developed [Healthy Flooring Criteria](#) and a [list of flooring](#) that meet healthy flooring criteria.

Resilient Flooring Technical Specifications: These resilient flooring technical specifications, created by the Center for Environmental Health, are for use in invitations to bid and requests for proposals. The requirements in this model technical specification align with Health Care Without Harm's criteria.

Healthy Flooring Purchasing Guide: This spreadsheet contains flooring products that comply with Health Care Without Harm and Center for Environmental Health's criteria and model specifications. The content is periodically updated.

FOOD

Healthier Food Purchasing Guidance: A comprehensive and vetted list of third-party certifications and label claims for sustainable food criteria from Health Care without Harm and Practice Greenhealth.

Healthier Food Purchasing Standards: Purchasing guide fact sheet developed by Healthcare Without Harm and Practice Greenhealth. Details “sustainable” and “local” label claims and third-party certifications for general food items, meat, poultry, dairy, and seafood. Check out their article, “[Why Eat Local?](#)” for more information on how eating local is environmentally preferable.

Sustainably-raised Meat & Poultry: Procurement guide from Healthcare Without Harm on why and how to buy sustainable meat and poultry, including information on third-party certifications and label claims.

FOOD SERVICE WARE

Center for Environmental Health (CEH): CEH has created a [database of foodware](#) without PFAS chemicals. This is not a certification program, but these products have been tested for PFAS. You can find more information [here](#).

Clean Production Action: Clean Production Action has created a database of foodware without PFAS chemicals. This is not a certification program, but these products have been tested for PFAS. You can find the PFAS-free food service ware product list [here](#).

Purchasing Safer Compostable Food Service Ware: Guidance for purchasing PFAS-free compostable food service ware, including a list of various alternative options, from the Collaborative Network for a Cancer Free Economy.

Food Service Containers and Wrappers Specification: Guidance for purchasing food service containers and wrappers developed by the state of New York.

Low- or No-Fluorine Disposable Food Ware Purchasing: Report from the Center for Environmental Health on avoiding PFAS in disposable food ware products and guidance for purchasing alternatives.

Single-Use Food Service Utensils: Specifications and guidance for purchasing single-use food service utensils developed by the state of New York.

Environmentally Preferable Food Service Ware: Healthcare Without Harm’s guide for purchasing reusable and sustainable bio-based food ware products (such as disposable plates, cutlery, and to-go containers), including sustainability criteria for “preferred” products.

FURNISHINGS

Health Care Without Harm (HCWH)/ ANSI/ BIFMA e3-2019 Furniture Sustainability Standard: A non-profit organization dedicated to greening the health care sector without compromising safety or care. HCWH created the multi-attribute healthy interiors criteria to protect health and the environment, and solicits lists of products that meet the criteria. The criteria seeks to reduce or eliminate the use of formaldehyde, perfluorinated compounds, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), antimicrobials, and all flame retardants in furnishing and furniture products. HCWH does not verify the information because it is not a certification. HCWH has created [Guidance for Achieving Healthy Interior Furnishing](#) and a [list of furnishings and textiles](#) that meet the healthy interiors criteria. However, the [ANSI/BIFMA e3-2019 Furniture Sustainability Standard](#), includes the Targeted Chemical Elimination credit 7.4.4 credit, which mirrors the HCWH healthy interiors criteria.

NASPO Guide to Environmentally Preferable Furniture: This guide, developed by the State of Minnesota, Clean Water Action, and the Center for Environmental Health, will help furniture purchasers identify healthier furniture options without the use of formaldehyde, VOCs, antimicrobials, flame retardants, PVC, or fluorinated chemicals.

NASPO Furniture Products Database: A spreadsheet of environmentally preferable furniture products created as part of the State of Minnesota's Participating Agreement to join the NASPO office furniture contract led by the State of Utah.

MULTIPLE PRODUCT CATEGORIES

San Francisco Approved: A registry of many products in a diverse array of categories that meet the city of San Francisco's model health and environmental standards.

New York EO4 Specifications: A collection of all specifications that meet the state's environmentally preferable purchasing policy standards.

The National Agency for Public Procurement: A Swedish database of criteria for a number of products and services. Their [library of sustainability criteria](#) provides environmental and social requirements across multiple categories.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Reduced Risk Pesticide List: A list of pesticides approved for landscape contractors hired by the City of San Francisco.

Outdoor Pest Management: Guidance and specifications for outdoor pest management created by the state of New York.

Indoor Pest Management: Guidance and specifications for indoor pest management created by the state of New York.

NOFA Standards for Organic Lawn Care: Standards for organic lawn care developed by the Northeast Organic Farming Association.

Integrated Pest Management Contract: This document from Practice Greenhealth contains sample language for a request for proposal for an integrated pest management contract.