



# RESPONSIBLE PRODUCT STANDARDS

A Better World Through Better Products

## INTRODUCTION

The Home Depot is a leading home improvement retailer offering more than one million products in our stores and online. With our scale and diversity of products comes a responsibility to promote sustainable practices and products throughout our supply chain.

We partner with our suppliers to “green” the products we buy. These efforts have resulted in significant advancements in product sourcing, ingredient and material selection, third party certifications and more.

We understand that our work will never be complete. We are up for the challenge of continuous improvement and are committed to helping minimize the environmental impact of the products we sell and to driving environmental responsibility throughout our supply chain.

## CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

The Home Depot was the first home improvement retailer to set limits on chemicals of concern in building materials that have the greatest impact on indoor air quality by banning 24 chemicals of concern across seven product categories: carpet, fiberglass insulation, household cleaning chemicals, laminate flooring, latex paint, paint remover and vinyl flooring. ([Chemical Management Strategy](#))



### HOME DEPOT EXPECTATION

- Suppliers will comply with our Restricted Substances List
- Suppliers will provide proof of certification for products to qualify for our [Eco Options](#) program:
  - + [GREENGUARD® Gold](#)
  - + [Cradle to Cradle](#) Material Health Certification Silver level or higher
  - + [U.S. EPA SaferChoice®](#)
  - + [Organic Materials Review Institute®](#) (OMRI)
  - + [National Organics Program](#) (NOP) “For Organic Gardening”
- Suppliers will commit to continuous improvement toward sustainable chemistry alternatives to traditional chemical ingredients



### HOME DEPOT ADDITIONAL PREFERENCES

- Home Depot recognizes suppliers who demonstrate a commitment to ingredient transparency. Suppliers should disclose product ingredients in their own communications or on packaging, or through a third party organization including, but not limited to:
  - ✓ Cradle to Cradle Products Institute
  - ✓ HPD
  - ✓ UL Product Lens
  - ✓ Declare Label
- Suppliers of textiles should pursue [OEKO-TEX® Standard 100](#) certification for products
- Home Depot also encourages suppliers to support and participate in the Green Chemistry & Commerce Council (GC3) to promote the advancement of green chemistry

# PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES & ANIMAL WELFARE

## 1. Sustainable Forestry

The Home Depot leads the industry in FSC certification and protection of the earth's forests. We were the first home improvement retailer to institute a Wood Purchasing Policy banning species from at-risk eco regions, and outlining requirements for wood sourcing and certification. In 2017, we furthered our commitment to supporting only sustainable forestry practices by prohibiting wood from key high conservation value forestlands. ([Wood Purchasing Policy](#))



### HOME DEPOT EXPECTATION

- Suppliers will maintain compliance with laws and regulations pertaining to their operations and the products they manufacture
- Suppliers will not source wood from endangered regions around the world as identified
- Suppliers will not source wood from the Amazon or Congo river basin areas, Papua New Guinea or the Solomon Islands unless the product is [Forest Stewardship Council \(FSC\)](#)-certified
- Suppliers will practice and promote the efficient and responsible use of wood and wood products
- Suppliers will obtain FSC certification on products to qualify for our Eco Options program's Sustainable Forestry category
- Suppliers will optimize wood, wood scrap, and wood dust in their own operations and throughout their value chains

## 2. Circular Economy

The Home Depot facilitates the recycling of millions of pounds of product and packaging materials every year in our own operations. We are committed to helping solve circularity in the products we sell as well, and in 2019 added a foundational category to our Eco Options program recognizing products that promote circularity through design, recycled content and recyclability.

We expect our suppliers to share in solving the problem of waste and improved use of recycling and recyclability in their products and operations.



### HOME DEPOT EXPECTATION

- Suppliers will utilize recycled content whenever possible within the limits of product efficacy and while avoiding chemicals of concern in their products
- Suppliers will design products to optimize dematerialization whenever possible within the limits of product efficacy
- Suppliers will obtain certification of recycled content by SCS Global Certification or another established certifying body to be recognized by our Eco Options program Circular Economy product category
- Suppliers will indicate recyclability, including Resin Identification Code (plastic type number), on packaging for customers to identify recycling options upon product end-of-life
- Suppliers will indicate plastic type number on products with limited life-span
- Suppliers will make reasonable efforts to prioritize material optimization and recycling in their own operations



### HOME DEPOT ADDITIONAL PREFERENCES

- Suppliers should design products for limited material mixture to support product end of life disassembly and recyclability
- Suppliers should avoid single use plastics and hard-to-recycle materials such as EPS and PVC

# PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES & ANIMAL WELFARE

## 3. Protecting Climate through Energy Efficiency

The Home Depot reduces our customers carbon emissions every year through the sale of energy efficient products. And since 2010, we have helped avoid emissions of more than 36 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> through the sale of these products. We have committed to save our customers \$2.8 billion and 20 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> between 2017 and 2020 through the sale of U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR® certified products.

We expect suppliers to share in our commitment to protect climate through energy efficient products and operations.



### HOME DEPOT EXPECTATION

- Suppliers will ensure products meet the U.S. Department of Energy guidelines and Natural Resources Canada Energy Efficiency Guidelines, respectively
- Suppliers will make reasonable efforts to optimize energy efficiency in the products they manufacture
- Suppliers will obtain U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR certification whenever possible, and thereby qualify for our Eco Options program's Energy Efficiency category
- Suppliers will make reasonable efforts to facilitate and support government and utility rebate programs on ENERGY STAR certified products whenever possible to promote energy efficient products and programs
- Suppliers will make reasonable efforts to prioritize energy efficiency in their own operations

## 4. Water Conservation

The Home Depot saved our customers over 52 billion gallons of water in 2019 through the sale of water-efficient products. Our in-store selections of toilets, showerheads and bath faucets are U.S. EPA WaterSense® approved, or meet standards even higher than WaterSense. We have committed to saving our customers 250 billion gallons between 2017 and 2020 through the sale of WaterSense approved products.

We expect our suppliers to share in our commitment to protect this important natural resource through water efficient products and operations.



### HOME DEPOT EXPECTATION

- For products sold in our U.S. stores, suppliers will meet the following minimum standards that are equal to or more stringent than WaterSense. Suppliers have the option of their products performing at even higher efficiency rates than these required:
  - + Toilets: 1.28 gallons per flush
  - + Bath faucets: 1.2 gallons per minute
  - + Showerheads: 1.75 gallons per minute
  - + Kitchen faucets: 1.8 gallons per minute
- Suppliers will ensure products meet the U.S. Department of Energy and Natural Resources Canada Energy Efficiency Guidelines, respectively, gallons-per-minute and gallons-per-flush standards for products sold online
- Suppliers will obtain U.S. EPA WaterSense certification whenever possible, and thereby qualify for our Eco Options program's Water Conservation category
- Suppliers will make reasonable efforts to facilitate and support government and utility rebate programs on WaterSense approved products whenever possible to promote water conservation products and programs
- Suppliers will make reasonable efforts to prioritize water conservation in their own operations

# PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES & ANIMAL WELFARE

## 5. Organic Cotton



The Home Depot recognizes that organic cotton agriculture has less of an impact on natural ecosystems including water use, chemical use in farming, and the health of animals, insects, soil and communities. We give preference to products that contain certified organic cotton, and encourage suppliers to obtain certification from the [Global Organic Textile Standard](#) to ensure their cotton textile products meet responsible ecological and social criteria.

## 6. Animal Welfare



The Home Depot believes that materials obtained from animal resources should promote humane animal practices throughout the supply chain. As a result, suppliers providing products that contain goose or duck down will obtain certification by the Textile Exchange's Responsible Down Standard by September 2019. Suppliers of wool textile products are encouraged to obtain certification by the Textile Exchange's Responsible Wool Standard.

## 7. Packaging

In 2019, Home Depot removed more than 19,000 cubic feet of expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam from our private brand products, along with 38 million square feet of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) packaging. We have committed to a zero-EPS and zero-PVC packaging standard for our private label products by 2023.

The Home Depot expects national suppliers to meet or exceed our work in packaging by complying with our environmentally mindful packaging standards. We give preference to suppliers who demonstrate efforts in support of these standards.

### HOME DEPOT EXPECTATION



- Suppliers will test packages to ISTA standards to assure performance – and Home Depot recommends ISTA series 2 or 3 for retail products and ISTA 3 or Amazon 6 for online products
- Suppliers will minimize packaging size and materials by removing excess material; the utilization ratio of package volume to product volume should be >40% for all products
- Suppliers will prioritize utilization of materials that are widely and commonly recyclable. Preferred material is paper including corrugated, honeycomb or molded pulp. For resin, preferred material is rPET or PET (#1), secondarily acceptable materials include HDPE (#2) and PP (#5)
- Suppliers will indicate the Resin Identification Code (plastic type number) on plastic packaging



### HOME DEPOT ADDITIONAL PREFERENCES

- Suppliers should avoid the use of hard-to-recycle materials including PVC (#3) and any foam including polyurethane, polyethylene, and polystyrene foams
- Suppliers should limit mixture of different materials to enable simpler recyclability
- Supplier should utilize FSC-certified paperboard or corrugated board whenever possible
- Suppliers should utilize a meaningful percentage of post-consumer recycled content where packaging efficacy will not be compromised:
  - ✓ >30% Post Consumer for paperboard or corrugated board
  - ✓ >15% for resin
- Supplier should utilize bio-based plastics and materials where packaging efficacy will not be compromised
- Supplier should utilize the How2Recycle logo on packaging to simplify and facilitate recycling
- Suppliers of cotton products are urged to use cotton certified by the [Better Cotton Initiative](#) or meet [Fairtrade Standards](#) for all non-organic cotton.

# ECO OPTIONS PROGRAM

## ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED PRODUCTS



The Eco Options program identifies products that have less of an impact on the environment than comparable products in six key product categories: Energy Efficiency, Water Conservation, Healthy Home, Clean Air, Sustainable Forestry and Circular Economy. The program is voluntary and serves as a classification system based on criteria developed in 2007 with SCS Global Services, a leading, independent third-party certification body.

Until all industries create and abide by a reporting formula that measures product attributes according to a common sustainability standard, Home Depot will continue to utilize the Eco Options program to help customers sort through “green” product claims.



### HOME DEPOT EXPECTATION

- Product will qualify for Eco Options if it has been certified by one of the below third-party certifications
- If product does not have third-party certification, supplier will provide documentation outlining product environmental attributes the prove environmental benefits
- Supplier will select Eco Options in Item Data Management (IDM) system if product qualifies for Eco Options



#### ENERGY EFFICIENT

- LED Bulbs
- LED Light Fixtures
- Radiant Barriers
- Solar Lighting
- Solar Power
- Wind Power
- Window Film

#### ENERGY STAR® Qualified Products

- Insulation
- LED Bulbs
- Light Fixtures & Ceiling fans
- Shingles
- Smart Thermostats
- Water Dispensers
- Water Heaters
- Windows, exterior doors
- Air Conditioners
- Appliances
- Battery Chargers
- Holiday Light Strings
- Home Sealing (spray foam, caulk, weather stripping, door sweeps, house wrap, attic hatch covers, recessed can light covers, pipe insulation, electrical outlet gaskets/sealed boxes, attic fan covers, foundation to sill plate sealer, sealing house wrap/sheathing/window tapes)



#### WATER CONSERVATION

- Aerators
- Compost Toilets
- Rainwater Collection/Rain Barrels
- Dual Flush Converter Kits

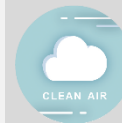
#### WaterSense® Labeled Products

- WaterSense High Efficiency Toilets
- WaterSense High Efficiency Bath Faucets
- WaterSense Faucet Aerators
- WaterSense High Efficiency Showerheads
- WaterSense High Efficiency Irrigation Controllers
- WaterSense Urinals



#### HEALTHY HOME

- Biodegradable Lawn Bags
- Biodegradable Peat Pots
- Composters
- SaferChoice Standard certified Cleaners
- Products containing 100% Post-Consumer Recycled content (does not include packaging)
- OMRI or NOP (For Organic Gardening) Listed Fertilizers, Pesticides, Plant Food & Soils
- USDA Approved Organic Plants, Pesticides & Seeds
- Cradle to Cradle Material Health Certified Silver, Gold or Platinum



#### CLEAN AIR

- Low/Zero VOC Paints: Follow the SCAQMD VOC limits for 2008
- ENERGY STAR Qualified Air Purifiers
- Push Reel Mowers
- GREENGUARD Gold certified products



#### SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

- FSC 100% or Mix Percent Certified Products (does not include FSC Recycled)



#### CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Products that demonstrate key circular economy principles:

- Design with intent to avoid pollution and waste in manufacturing, use and end of product life
- Minimize the depletion of natural resources
- Facilitate the reuse of material indefinitely
- Protect the natural environment

# RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

The Home Depot and our subsidiaries respect and support the dignity, well-being and human rights of our employees, the workers in our extended supply chain, the communities in which we live and those affected by our operations. We are committed to respecting internationally recognized human rights. We review and are informed by the United Nations (UN) Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the International Bill of Human Rights, International Labour Organization's (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the UN Global Compact. Please refer to our full [Responsible Sourcing Guidelines](#) document online.



## HOME DEPOT EXPECTATION

- The Home Depot expects that all suppliers will abide by all applicable international and local laws, rules, and regulations in the manufacture and distribution of merchandise or services provided to The Home Depot.
- All suppliers must be able to demonstrate compliance with these requirements at the request of The Home Depot. These guidelines provide an introduction to the minimum requirements that all suppliers must meet in order to conduct business with The Home Depot.
  - + **Laws and Regulations** - Suppliers must operate in full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations of the countries in which they operate.
  - + **Child Labor** - Suppliers must not employ workers younger than the greater of 15 years of age – or 14 where the local law allows such exception consistent with International Labour Organization guidelines – or the age for completing compulsory education or the minimum age established by law in the country of manufacture. In addition, suppliers must comply with all local legal requirements for the work of authorized young workers, particularly those pertaining to hours of work, wages and working conditions.
  - + **Forced Labor**
    - Suppliers must not use forced, bonded (including debt bondage) or indentured labor, or prison labor, nor shall suppliers participate in slavery or trafficking of persons. This includes transporting, harboring, recruiting, transferring or receiving persons by means of threat, force, coercion, abduction or fraud for labor or services.
    - There shall be no unreasonable restrictions on workers' freedom of movement in the facility in addition to unreasonable restrictions on entering or exiting company provided facilities.
    - As part of the hiring process, workers must be provided with all documents relevant to their employment in a language they understand with a description of terms and conditions of employment prior to the worker departing from his or her country of origin, and there shall be no substitution or change(s) allowed in such documentation upon arrival in the receiving country unless these changes are made to meet local law and provide equal or better terms.
    - All work must be voluntary and workers shall be free to terminate their employment. Employers and agents may not hold or otherwise destroy, conceal, confiscate or deny access by employees to their identity or immigration documents, such as government-issued identification, passports or work permits, unless such holdings are required by law.
    - Foreign migrant factory workers shall not be required to pay employers' or agents' recruitment fees or other related fees for the purpose of being hired or as a condition of employment.

# RESPONSIBLE SOURCING



## HOME DEPOT EXPECTATION

- + **Harassment and Abuse** - Suppliers must treat all workers with respect and dignity. No worker shall be subject to corporal punishment or physical, sexual, psychological, or verbal harassment or abuse. In addition, suppliers will not use monetary fines as a disciplinary practice.
- + **Compensation** - Suppliers must meet or exceed the minimum wage and compensation requirements as defined under applicable labor laws, applicable agreements and local regulations for regular work, overtime work, production rates, and other elements of compensation and employee benefits.
- + **Hours of Work** - Suppliers must ensure that, except in extraordinary business circumstances, on a regularly scheduled basis, workers shall not be required to work more than the lesser of (a) sixty (60) hours per week, including overtime or (b) the limits on regular and overtime hours allowed by the law of the country of manufacture. In addition, except in extraordinary business circumstances, all workers shall be entitled to at least one day off in every consecutive seven-day period.
- + **Non-Discrimination** - Suppliers will ensure employment – including hiring, salary, benefits, advancement, discipline, termination and retirement – should be based solely on the person’s ability to perform the job requirements and not the person’s beliefs or any other personal characteristics.
- + **Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining** - Suppliers must recognize and respect the rights of workers to exercise lawful rights of free association, including joining or not joining any association.
- + **Health and Safety** - Suppliers must provide a safe and healthy working environment in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
- + **Environment** - Suppliers must comply with all local environmental laws and regulations applicable to the workplace. **Subcontracting** - Suppliers must not use subcontractors in the manufacture of products or product components for The Home Depot without disclosing such information to The Home Depot, and only after the subcontractor has adequately demonstrated compliance with our Responsible Sourcing Standards.
- + **Communication** - Suppliers must communicate the provisions of The Home Depot Responsible Sourcing Standards to all workers and supervisors.
- + **Business Ethics** - Suppliers will take no actions directed at improperly impacting the results of any audit including presentation of falsified records or coaching of employees. Consistent with The Home Depot Gift and Entertainment policy, suppliers will not offer any incentives to The Home Depot’s associates or audit firm representatives.
- + **Monitoring and Compliance**
  - The Home Depot will undertake affirmative measures, such as announced and unannounced on-site audits of production factories, to monitor compliance with these Responsible Sourcing Standards. Suppliers must maintain on-site all documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with our Responsible Sourcing Standards, and suppliers must allow associates and/or representatives from The Home Depot full access to production facilities, worker records, production records and workers for confidential interviews in connection with monitoring visits.
  - Suppliers are expected to take necessary corrective actions to promptly remediate any noncompliance. The Home Depot reserves the right to terminate its business relationship with any supplier who is unwilling to comply with these Responsible Sourcing Standards.



# APPENDIX

## CHEMICALS RSL, WATER STANDARDS

### THE HOME DEPOT RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES LIST (RSL)

Installed Wall-to-Wall Indoor Carpet	Fiberglass Insulation	Household Cleaning Chemicals (Effective DEC 2022)	Laminate Flooring	Interior & Exterior Latex Paint	Paint Remover (Effective JAN 2019)	Vinyl Flooring
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) or perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)	Brominated flame retardants	Propyl-paraben	0.0073 ppm or less of formaldehyde	Triclosan	Methylene chloride	Ortho-phthalates
Triclosan	Halogenated flame retardants	Butyl-paraben		Isocyanates	N-Methylpyrrolidone (NMP)	
Organotins	Antimony trioxide	Diethyl phthalates		Formaldehyde		
Ortho-phthalates	Formaldehyde	Dibutyl phthalates		Lead / Heavy Metals		
Vinyl Chloride	Added heavy metals	Formaldehyde		Alkylphenol ethoxylates and Nonylphenol ethoxylates (Effective DEC 2019)		
Nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs)		Nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs)				
Coal Fly Ash		Triclosan				
Formaldehyde		Toluene				
Added heavy metals		Trichloroethylene (TCE)				
Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)						

### THE HOME DEPOT WATER EFFICIENCY IN-STORE PRODUCT STANDARD

PRODUCT	DEPT OF ENERGY	WATERSENSE	HOME DEPOT
Toilets	1.6 GPF	1.28 GPF	1.28 GPF or better
Kitchen Faucets	2.2 GPM	n/a	1.8 GPM
Bath Faucets	2.2 GPM	1.5 GPM	1.2 GPM
Showerheads	2.5 GPM	2 GPM	1.75 GPM

GPF: gallons per flush  
GPM: gallons per minute

# APPENDIX CERTIFICATIONS

## CHEMICALS OF CONCERN



## FORESTRY



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY



## WATER CONSERVATION



## CIRCULAR ECONOMY



## ORGANIC COTTON



## ANIMAL WELFARE



## PACKAGING



# THE HOME DEPOT SUSTAINABILITY CONCEPT

## WHY

Our Mission

A Better World Through Better Products

## WHAT

Our Influence

Human Capital | Sustainable Product

Our Focus

GHG  
Emissions  
Reduction

Waste  
Management

Natural  
Resources  
Protection

Suspect  
Chemical  
Elimination

Water  
Stewardship

## HOW

Our Guidelines

Innovation | Collaboration | Leadership | Integrity | Transparency

SUST

AIN

ABILITY

**RESPONSIBLE  
PRODUCT  
STANDARDS**

A BETTER WORLD  
THROUGH BETTER  
PRODUCTS

