



Protecting Health in Schools

Certifying Products for Chemical Emissions

More than half of our country's schools are afflicted with poor indoor quality, which is among the top five human health hazards, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Healthy and sustainable schools recognize the connection between indoor air and the academic achievement of students. With the GREENGUARD Children & Schools Program™, sponsored by GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI), schools are taking a major step towards improving indoor air quality for children and educators.

The Challenge



Children are at greater risk to develop health problems due to poor indoor air quality because they are more susceptible to pollutants than adults. Children are still growing and breathe in proportionately more air than adults. This means indoor pollutants, such as certain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particles and allergens can cause more severe health effects in children, including asthma and allergies. One in twelve children suffers from asthma and the problem continues to grow at an alarming rate - 8.7 percent (6.3 million children) in the year 2001 compared to 3.6 percent in 1980 - more than doubling over the last twenty-five years.

By selecting GREENGUARD Children & Schools certified products, schools are tackling the issue at the source – the products used to construct and maintain the school buildings.

The Solution

Achieving the best indoor air quality in schools is fundamental to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of children, and selecting products and materials certified under the GREENGUARD Children & Schools program is a major step in the right direction. The GREENGUARD for Children & Schools standard takes the sensitive nature of school populations and the unique building characteristics found in schools, and presents the most rigorous product emissions criteria to date. GEI is an independent, non-profit organization that specializes in indoor air quality protection by certifying products and materials that meet approved standards for emissions.



Products and materials certified under the GREENGUARD Children & Schools program meet the most rigorous standards to assure healthy schools and daycare centers. "Green" and sustainable school construction programs rely on GREENGUARD Children & Schools as the way to guarantee that products are safe.

A full product listing can be found at www.greenguard.org.

For more information, please email: info@greenguard.org or contact us at 800-427-9681.