

Buy Green Guide for Paints, Primers, Coatings and Related Cleaners

How Any City Department Can Get Less-Toxic Products
at Discounted Prices From SF Citywide Term Contracts

Current as of February 2, 2021. Product lists may change.

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This guide was developed by San Francisco Environment with technical support from the Responsible Purchasing Network.



Introduction

The ideal “green” product takes into account three things: performance, cost, and impact on the environment and worker health. While San Francisco’s three citywide paint contracts have accounted for each paint product’s performance and cost, they haven’t always considered each product’s environmental and human health impact. One way to determine paint’s impact is to identify three things in its composition: Presence of chemicals of concern, the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the paint, and the amount of chemical emissions from the paint.

This guide highlights the products on citywide contracts that are the healthiest for building occupants and safest for the environment. It relies on single- and multi-attribute certifications that restrict chemicals of concern and limit chemical emissions as well as VOC content. This makes these products safer to use, protecting the City’s painters and building occupants.

How to use this guide

This guide is designed to help City Staff easily identify the healthier (“SF Approved”) paints, primers, coatings and related products available on the City’s paint contracts. It organizes paint products into three categories, each labeled “Required” or “Suggested”. Within each category, products are listed by subcategory and brand, and accompanied by a certification that explains why each is considered safer for painters, building occupants and the environment.

Category 1: Interior Latex Wall and Ceiling Paints & Primers (REQUIRED)

Category 2: Specialty Architectural Paints, Primers and Coatings (SUGGESTED)

Category 3: Paint-Related Cleaners (SUGGESTED)

The latest specifications for each category can be found on SFApproved.org.



REQUIRED.

City staff purchasing interior latex wall and ceiling paints and primers (Category 1) are REQUIRED to meet the City’s specifications for this category to comply with City law. All Category 1 paint products listed in this guide are compliant and have earned strong third-party multi-attribute environmental health certifications.



SUGGESTED

City staff buying products in Categories 2 and 3 are strongly encouraged –but not required— to buy products with the SUGGESTED specifications for these categories. These categories include: exterior and specialty architectural paints and coatings (Category 2), and paint-related cleaners and surface preparation chemicals (Category 3). Products in Categories 2 and 3 all meet the SUGGESTED specifications outlined on SFApproved.org.

Ordinance mandate

San Francisco’s Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Ordinance (Environment Code, Chapter 2) requires City departments to purchase paints and coating products that meet the specifications listed in this document as “Required”. SFApproved.org/guide-city-staff provides a comprehensive list of compliant ‘green’ products and services.

Contract & vendor highlights

There are currently four citywide paint contracts, summarized below. If you have questions about them, contact:

- Airport-originating paint contracts: Gwen Williams, Senior Purchaser, SFO Purchasing Department, Gwen.Williams@sfgov.org, (650) 821-2853.
- MTA-originating paint contract: Hermilo Rodis, Senior Purchaser, SFMTA/HSA-Purchasing, Hermilo.Rodis@sfgov.org, (415) 557-5538.

Note that if you need products from two different paint vendors or contracts, you will need to create separate purchase orders for each contract.

Contracts with SF PaintSource (offers Benjamin Moore and PPG paint products):

- ❖ For information or to place an order with SF PaintSource, contact James Fregosi, President, at (415) 431-6940 or james@sfpaintsource.com.
- Citywide Term Contract: TC89100: Interior Paint and Related Supplies
Originating CCSF Department: San Francisco Airport
PeopleSoft Contract Number: 1000013259
Term: March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2022
- Citywide Term Contract: TC76100: Paint and Related Supplies
Originating CCSF Department: Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA)
PeopleSoft Contract Number: 1000011325
Term: August 15, 2018 through August 14, 2021
- Citywide Award: TC75110: Paint, Sundries and Related Supplies
Originating CCSF Department: San Francisco Airport
PeopleSoft Contract Number: 1000016716
Term: December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2022

Contract with Kelly-Moore (offers Kelly-Moore and Rust-Oleum paint products)

- ❖ For information or to place an order with Kelly-Moore, contact Sean Selsing, Sales Representative, at (650) 280-4051 or sselsing@kellymoore.com.
- Citywide Award: TC75110: Paint, Sundries and Related Supplies
Originating CCSF Department: San Francisco Airport
PeopleSoft Contract Number: 1000016718
Term: December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2022

Products on San Francisco's Paint Contracts

Category 1: Interior Latex Wall and Ceiling Paints & Primers (REQUIRED)


This category includes all interior latex wall and ceiling paints and primers except high-performance products. **When buying these products, City staff must make sure that they have one of the following top-tier, third party environmental health certifications to comply with local law.** These multi-attribute certifications ensure that the paint is free of chemicals of concern (such as heavy metals, benzene and methylene chloride), has a low volatile organic compound (VOC) content, and is certified "low-emitting" of VOC's to prevent indoor air pollution. For more information about these certifications, see Appendix A.

Required certifications for interior latex paints and primers:

- Master Painters Institute (MPI) Extreme Green; or
- Green Wise Gold; or
- Cradle to Cradle (Gold level or higher).



The following tables list the interior latex wall and ceiling paints and primers on San Francisco's citywide paint contracts that meet the green specifications required for this product category, and where you can buy them.

Interior Latex PAINTS				
Manufacturer and Product Name	Photo of Product	Which REQUIRED certification(s) does this product have?	Product's VOC Content (Grams/Liter)	Which vendor offers this product?
Benjamin Moore Natura Zero-VOC Interior Latex Paint <i>(Note: This product may be discontinued.)</i>		 Additional Certification(s): • Green Seal	0	SF PaintSource
Benjamin Moore Aura Waterborne Latex Paint			0	SF PaintSource
Benjamin Moore Eco Spec Waterbased Paint			0	SF PaintSource
Benjamin Moore Regal Select Premium Waterborne Interior Paint			0	SF PaintSource
Benjamin Moore Super Hide Zero VOC Interior Paint			0	SF PaintSource

PPG Pure Performance Zero VOC Interior Latex Paint		 <p>Additional Certification(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UL GREENGUARD Gold 	<p>0</p>	<p>SF PaintSource</p>
PPG SPEEDHIDE PRO EV ZERO Interior Latex Paint		 <p>Additional Certification(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UL GREENGUARD Gold 	<p>0</p>	<p>SF PaintSource</p>
PPG SPEEDHIDE ZERO Interior Latex Paint		 <p>Additional Certification(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UL GREENGUARD Gold 	<p>0</p>	<p>SF PaintSource</p>
PPG Timeless Interior Paint and Primer		 <p>Additional Certification(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UL GREENGUARD Gold 	<p>0</p>	<p>SF PaintSource</p>
PPG ULTRA-HIDE Zero Interior Latex Paint		 <p>Additional Certification(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UL GREENGUARD Gold 	<p>0</p>	<p>SF PaintSource</p>
Kelly-Moore KelPro Interior Latex Paint			<p><2</p>	<p>Kelly-Moore</p>
Kelly-Moore Premium Professional Interior Latex Paint			<p><2</p>	<p>Kelly-Moore</p>
Kelly-Moore Magnum Interior Acrylic Paint			<p><50</p>	<p>Kelly-Moore</p>

Interior Latex PRIMERS

Manufacturer and Product Name	Photo of Product	Which REQUIRED certification(s) does this product have?	Product's VOC Content (Grams/Liter)	Which vendor offers this product?
Benjamin Moore Natura Zero-VOC Interior Latex Primer <i>(Note: This product may be discontinued.)</i>		 Additional Certification(s): • Green Seal	0	SF PaintSource
Benjamin Moore Eco Spec Interior Latex Primer			0	SF PaintSource
Benjamin Moore Ultra Spec 500 Interior Latex Primer			0	SF PaintSource
PPG Pure Performance Interior Latex Primer		 Additional Certification(s): • UL GREENGUARD Gold	0	SF PaintSource
PPG SPEEDHIDE ZERO Interior Latex Primer Sealer		 Additional Certification(s): • UL GREENGUARD Gold	0	SF PaintSource
PPG Timeless Interior Paint and Primer		 Additional Certification(s): • UL GREENGUARD Gold	0	SF PaintSource
Kelly-Moore Acryplex Interior Primer-Sealer			<2	Kelly-Moore
Benjamin Moore Fresh Start High-Hiding All Purpose Latex Primer			<50	SF PaintSource
Benjamin Moore Fresh Start Multi-Purpose Latex Primer			<50	SF PaintSource

Category 2: Specialty Architectural Paints, Primers and Coatings (SUGGESTED)

This category includes exterior, interior-exterior, high-performance and specialty paints and primers, such as floor and safety paints as well as other types of architectural coatings, such as stains, varnishes, sealants and rust-preventative coatings.

Each product in this category has at least one of the following third-party, multi-attribute or single-attribute environmental certifications. These certifications ensure that the product is free of chemicals of concern (such as heavy metals, benzene and methylene chloride) and has a low volatile organic compound (VOC) content. Some of these products are also certified “low-emitting”, which prevents indoor air pollution and smog. For more information about these certifications, see Appendix A.

Suggested certifications for specialty architectural paints, primers & coatings:

- Master Painters Institute (MPI) Extreme Green
- MPI Green Performance Standard (GPS-1 or GPS-2)
- Green Wise or Green Wise Gold
- Cradle to Cradle (Silver level or higher)
- Green Seal



In addition, each product in this category meets the applicable VOC limit established by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). These stringent air quality regulations were developed to prevent smog in and around the City of Los Angeles.

The following tables list the specialty paints, primers and coatings on San Francisco’s citywide paint contracts that meet the green specifications suggested for this product category, and where you can buy them. Note that products’ certifications are highlighted in shades of green; the darker the shade, the more stringent (ie greener) the certification.

Exterior and Interior-Exterior Architectural PAINTS

Manufacturer and Product Name	Photo of Product	Which SUGGESTED certification(s) does this product have?	Product's VOC Content (Grams/Liter)	Which vendor offers this product?
Benjamin Moore Impervex Latex Paint (for interior and exterior applications)			<50	SF PaintSource
Benjamin Moore Ultra Spec EXT Exterior Paint		GPS-2 	<50	SF PaintSource
Benjamin Moore Aura Waterborne Exterior Paint		GPS-2 	<50	SF PaintSource
Kelly-Moore Acryshield Exterior Wood Paint		GPS-2 	<50	Kelly-Moore
Kelly-Moore ENVY Exterior Latex Paint		GPS-2 	<50	Kelly-Moore
Kelly-Moore Premium Professional Exterior Latex Paint		GPS-2 	<50	Kelly-Moore
PPG Acri-Shield Max Exterior Latex Paint and Primer		GPS-2 	<50	SF PaintSource
PPG Permanizer Exterior Acrylic Latex Paint		GPS-2 	<50	SF PaintSource
PPG Timeless Exterior Paint and Primer		GPS-2 	<50	SF PaintSource

Exterior and Interior-Exterior Architectural PRIMERS

Manufacturer and Product Name	Photo of Product	Which SUGGESTED certification(s) does this product have?	Product's VOC Content (Grams/Liter)	Which vendor offers this product?
Rust-Oleum Bulls Eye Zero Water-based Primer-Sealer			0	Kelly-Moore
Benjamin Moore Fresh Start Multi-Purpose Latex Primer			<50	SF PaintSource
Benjamin Moore Sure Seal Latex Primer Sealer			<50	SF PaintSource
Kelly-Moore Kel-Bond PVA Primer and Sealer			<50	Kelly-Moore
Rust-Oleum Sierra Performance S30 System Griptec Acrylic Primer		<p style="text-align: center;">GPS-2</p> 	0	Kelly-Moore
Benjamin Moore 790 Advance Primer (Alkyd)		<p style="text-align: center;">GPS-2</p> 	<50	SF PaintSource
PPG Acri-Shield Max Exterior Latex Paint and Primer		<p style="text-align: center;">GPS-2</p> 	<50	SF PaintSource
PPG Timeless Exterior Paint and Primer		<p style="text-align: center;">GPS-2</p> 	<50	SF PaintSource

Specialty Architectural COATINGS

Manufacturer and Product Name	Photo of Product	Which SUGGESTED certification(s) does this product have?	Product's VOC Content (Grams/Liter)	Which vendor offers this product?
PPG SPEEDHIDE Hi Fill Masonry Latex Block Filler		 <p>Additional Certification(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UL GREENGUARD Gold 	<50	SF PaintSource
Benjamin Moore Elastite 100% Acrylic 20 Mil Elastomeric Waterproof Coating		<p style="text-align: center;">GPS-2</p> 	<50	SF PaintSource
Benjamin Moore INSL-X Cabinet Coat Enamel		<p style="text-align: center;">GPS-2</p> 	<50	SF PaintSource
Kelly-Moore Durapoxy 100% Acrylic Enamel		<p style="text-align: center;">GPS-2</p> 	<50	Kelly-Moore
Kelly-Moore Elastakote Acrylic Elastomeric Coating		<p style="text-align: center;">GPS-2</p> 	<50	Kelly-Moore
Benjamin Moore Arborcoat Waterborne Exterior Stain		<p style="text-align: center;">GPS-1</p> 	<100	SF PaintSource
PPG Amercoat Amershield VOC Urethane Sealer		<p style="text-align: center;">GPS-1</p> 	<100	SF PaintSource
PPG Pitt Glaze WB1 (Acrylic Epoxy)		<p style="text-align: center;">GPS-1</p>  <p>Additional Certification(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UL GREENGUARD Gold 	<100	SF PaintSource

Category 3: Paint-Related Cleaners (SUGGESTED)





This category includes paint-related cleaners (i.e., surface preparation products). Currently, there are only two paint-related cleaners on the City's paint contracts that have a recommended certification, Safer Choice. The Safer Choice Program is a multi-attribute, third-party environmental health certification developed and maintained by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For more information about this certification, see Appendix A. Other credible third-party certifications that may offer similar products are also included below.

Suggested certifications for paint-related cleaners:

- Safer Choice
- Green Seal
- UL EcoLogo
- Cradle to Cradle (silver level or higher)



The table below lists paint-related cleaners on San Francisco's citywide paint contracts that meet the green specifications listed above for Category #3, and where you can buy them.

Paint-related Cleaners				
Manufacturer and Product Name	Photo of Product	Which SUGGESTED certification(s) does this product have?	Product's VOC Content (Grams/Liter)	Which vendor offers this product?
Rust-Oleum Krud Kutter Cleaner Degreaser			180	SF PaintSource
Rust-Oleum Krud Kutter Gloss Off			180	SF PaintSource

Questions?



For questions about the contracts, contact the SF Office of Contract Administration (OCA):



- Airport-originating paint contracts: Gwen Williams, Senior Purchaser, SFO Purchasing Department, Gwen.Williams@sfgov.org, (650) 821-2853.
- MTA-originating paint contract: Hermilo Rodis, Senior Purchaser, SFMTA/HSA-Purchasing, Hermilo.Rodis@sfgov.org, (415) 557-5538.




For questions about SFApproved.org, contact SF Environment: BuyGreen@sfgov.org.

APPENDIX A – Quick Guide to Paint Certifications

The following table describes all of the environmental health certifications required or suggested for products in this guide.

Certification	Applies to which products in this guide?	Certification Description
<p>Master Painters Institute, Extreme Green</p> 	<p>Category 1 (Interior Latex Wall and Ceiling Paints and Primers)</p> <p>Category 2 (Specialty Architectural Paints, Primers and Coatings)</p>	<p>Master Painters Institute (MPI) has developed and administers a three-tier certification program for architectural and traffic paints as well as other types of coatings (e.g., stains and varnishes) that includes chemical component restrictions, maximum allowable limits on volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and performance requirements.</p> <p>MPI's most stringent standard, Extreme Green, ensures that products are certified low-emitting based on the CA 01350 emissions test, have 50 grams/liter or less of VOCs, and meet its other Green Performance Standard requirements. MPI has certified only latex and other water-based paints and primers to this standard.</p> <p>MPI's Extreme Green-certified products are listed as X-Green in MPI's searchable Specify Green Database, which can be accessed at www.specifygreen.com.</p>
<p>Cradle to Cradle, Gold level or higher</p> 	<p>Category 1 (Interior Latex Wall and Ceiling Paints and Primers)</p> <p>Category 2 (Specialty Architectural Paints, Primers and Coatings)</p>	<p>Cradle to Cradle (C2C) is a non-profit organization based in Oakland, CA that certifies a wide array of institutional and consumer products (including paints and coatings) based on environmental, health and social criteria using a tiered rating system that includes five levels: basic, bronze, silver, gold and platinum. C2C Gold restricts chemicals of concern and verifies that the product is low-emitting.</p> <p>Cradle to Cradle-certified products are listed in C2C's Green Products Registry and are searchable by manufacturer, product name and MPI category. The C2C Green Products Registry can be accessed at www.c2ccertified.org/products/registry.</p>

<p>Green Wise Gold</p> 	<p>Category 1 (Interior Latex Wall and Ceiling Paints and Primers)</p> <p>Category 2 (Specialty Architectural Paints, Primers and Coatings)</p>	<p>Green Wise is a two-tier certification program (Standard and Gold) for latex paint developed and maintained by an international organization of paint manufacturers called the Coatings Research Group. Green Wise verifies environmental and health criteria as well as performance.</p> <p>Green Wise confirms, “The following chemical compounds are not used as ingredients in the manufacture of the listed product: methylene chloride, 1,2 dichlorobenzene, phthalates, isophorone, formaldehyde, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, and the following heavy metals: antimony, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, lead, and mercury.” In addition, Green Wise Gold-certified products have been “tested and certified to pass the indoor air quality requirements of the California 01350 Small Chamber Emissions Test and to contain less than 5 grams VOC per liter, even after tinting with specified colorants.”</p> <p>Green Wise Gold-certified products are listed at www.greenwisepaint.com/products/.</p>
<p>Master Painters Institute, Green Performance Standard (GPS-1 or GPS-2)</p> 	<p>Category 2 only (Specialty Architectural Paints, Primers and Coatings)</p>	<p>Master Painters Institute (MPI) has developed and administers a three-tiered certification program for architectural and traffic paints as well as other types of coatings (e.g., stains and varnishes) that includes chemical component restrictions, limits on volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and performance requirements. The three tiers include Extreme Green (described above) and two less-stringent Green Performance Standards, GPS-1 and GPS-2.</p> <p>MPI’s GPS-2 standard limits VOC content to 50 grams/liter, while GPS-1 sets a higher VOC limit by category. Products certified to meet the GPS-1 or GPS-2 standard are listed at www.specifygreen.com/APL/ProductIdxByMPInum.asp</p>
<p>Cradle to Cradle, Silver level or higher</p> 	<p>Category 2 only (Specialty Architectural Paints, Primers and Coatings)</p>	<p>Cradle to Cradle (C2C) is a non-profit organization based in Oakland, CA that certifies a wide array of institutional and consumer products based on environmental, health and social criteria using a tiered rating system that includes five levels: basic, bronze, silver, gold and platinum. C2C-certified at the silver and higher levels are often specified because restrictions on chemicals of concern are only included in those tiers. All C2C Gold products are also certified low-emitting.</p> <p>Cradle to Cradle-certified products are listed in C2C’s Green Products Registry, which can be accessed at www.c2ccertified.org/products/registry.</p>

<p>Green Seal</p> 	<p>Category 2 only (Specialty Architectural Paints, Primers and Coatings)</p>	<p>Green Seal is a non-profit organization that certifies products based on standards that address multiple health and environmental impacts. Its standards typically ensure that certified products are free of carcinogens, reproductive toxins, asthmagens and other chemicals of concern.</p> <p>Green Seal-certified products include, but are not limited to, paints, primers, and other types of architectural coatings as well as cleaning and floor maintenance chemicals, hand cleaners, and paper products. Its paint standard (GS-11) limits VOCs to California Air Resources Board (CARB) levels, restricts heavy metals and other chemicals of concern, and verifies product performance.</p> <p>Green Seal-certified products can be found at https://greenseal.org/certified-products-services.</p>
<p>Green Wise (Standard)</p> 	<p>Category 2 only (Specialty Architectural Paints, Primers and Coatings)</p>	<p>Green Wise is a two-tier certification program (Standard and Gold) for paints and coatings developed and maintained by an international organization of paint manufacturers called the Coatings Research Group.</p> <p>Green Wise verifies environmental, health and performance criteria. It confirms, “The following chemical compounds are not used as ingredients in the manufacture of the listed product: methylene chloride, 1,2 dichlorobenzene, phthalates, isophorone, formaldehyde, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, and the following heavy metals: antimony, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, lead, and mercury.”</p> <p>Green Wise-certified products are listed at www.greenwisepaint.com/products/.</p>
<p>Safer Choice</p> 	<p>Category 3 only (Paint-related Cleaners)</p>	<p>Safer Choice is the US Environmental Protection Agency’s certification and labeling program safer chemical-based products, including cleaners, degreasers and other types of facility maintenance chemicals purchased by individual consumers, businesses and institutions.</p> <p>According to EPA, “To be eligible for the label, a product must comply with the Safer Choice Standard, which has very stringent human health and environmental criteria that address potential health and environmental concerns such as cancer, reproductive harm, and accumulation in human tissue or in the environment...”</p> <p>Over 2000 Safer Choice-certified products are listed at www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products.</p>