

## **HOMEFREE PAINT VETTING WORKSHEET**

This document walks through the steps you can take to vet a specific paint product against the HomeFree Paint Hazard Spectrum criteria. For a list of example products that HBN has vetted in the past, see our blog post [here](#) or our HomeFree Paint Specifications [here](#).<sup>1</sup> To walk through vetting an example paint product, see the online course *Selecting Healthier Paint with HomeFree* [here](#).

### **Overall Safer Paint Recommendations:**

- Whenever possible, prefer paints that meet the Green Seal 11 (GS-11) standard, or specify paints known to be free of alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEs).
- Specify bases with 10 g/L of VOCs or less, and colorants that do not increase the overall VOC content.
- At a minimum, specify paint bases and colorants with a VOC content of 50g/L or less.
- Look for paints that have VOC emission testing and meet the requirements of the [CDPH](#) (California Department of Public Health) Standard Method for Testing and Evaluation of VOC Emissions.
- Avoid paints marketed as antimicrobial and claiming or implying a health benefit.
- Ask for and prefer products that have a [Health Product Declaration \(HPD\)](#).

## **PAINT VETTING PROCESS**

### **1. IDENTIFY PRODUCT OR PRODUCTS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

- a. Product name:
- b. Manufacturer:

### **2. CHECK FOR CONTENT TRANSPARENCY** - Note that different finishes (gloss, eggshell, flat, etc) may have different content, different VOCs, and different certifications, so make sure the HPD/Declare Label is for the finish of interest.

- a. Does the product have an HPD (Health Product Declaration)? Check the [HPD Public Repository](#). You can search by manufacturer name or product name or filter using the filters on the left.
  - i. Yes or No
- b. Does the product have a Declare Label? Check the [Declare database](#). Search by product name or manufacturer, or filter by manufacturer.
  - i. Yes or No

### **3. RANK ON THE HOMEFREE HAZARD SPECTRUM** - Place the product on the HomeFree Hazard Spectrum based on attributes identified in the hazard spectrum. For interior paints, use the following vetting process to collect data and place the product on the [Paint Hazard Spectrum](#).

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<sup>1</sup> These lists do not constitute an exhaustive list of all safer paints and are not an endorsement or certification of the manufacturer or products listed. These products were screened using manufacturer-supplied information and not independently tested or verified. Product characteristics may have changed since originally screened or some paints may no longer be available.

### Collecting the Data for HomeFree Hazard Spectrum Ranking:

Paints that are specialty products like dry-erase or magnetic paint are ranked red on the hazard spectrum. Recycled paints are ranked light red on the hazard spectrum. These types of products are not recommended. Further vetting is not necessary.

Use the questions below to collect the needed data.

- Is the product GS-11 certified? Check the [GS-11 database](#).
  - Yes
  - No
  
- Is the product APE-free? Here are three ways to check: 1) Ask the manufacturer: The easiest way to find out if a paint contains APEs may be to contact the manufacturer. An information request template is available on HomeFree in the Related Resources section [here](#). 2) GreenSeal Certified: If a paint is GS-11 certified then it is APE-free. 3) Declare Red List Free: If a paint has a Red List Free Declare Label, then it is APE-free. You can access the Declare Database [here](#). On the web page of a Declare Label, you can check the Living Building Challenge Compliance section to see if it is Red List Free. In addition, all interior latex water-based wall paints available at Home Depot are APE-free.

Did you receive a manufacturer declaration that the paint is APE-free, confirm that it has a current GS-11 certification, or confirm it has a current Red List Free Declare Label?

- Yes
- No

Search the manufacturer website for information on VOC content and VOC emissions. This information is often included on the product webpage or a technical data sheet (TDS). If you have an HPD or Declare Label, information on VOC content and emissions can be found here as well. Colorant VOC content information may be on a separate colorant page on the manufacturer website or may be found in specific product literature.

- What is the VOC content of the base paint?
  - $\leq 10$  g/L
  - $\leq 50$  g/L (compliant with SCAQMD Rule 1113)
  - $>50$  g/L
  
- What is the VOC content of the colorant?
  - Colorant does not add to the VOC content
  - Colorant VOC content  $\leq 50$  g/L (compliant with SCAQMD Rule 1113)
  - Colorant VOC content  $>50$  g/L
  
- Is the product certified to have low VOC emissions per the CDPH standard? Review product literature for notation of CDPH compliance or certifications that use the standard such as UL GreenGuard Gold, SCS Indoor Advantage Gold, Master Painters Institute (MPI) Extreme Green (X-Green), or GreenWise Gold.
  - Yes
  - No

- Are there antimicrobial claims associated with the product that are related to human health? Search the manufacturer website for product literature such as a technical data sheet. Check for claims about antimicrobials that impact human health. Claims specifically related to avoidance of mold or mildew are okay.
  - Yes - if there are antimicrobial claims related to human health, then the product is ranked red on the hazard spectrum. Look for alternative products that do not make these claims.
  - No

Rank the Product on the Hazard Spectrum:

The Hazard Spectrum below identifies the criteria a product must meet in order to be ranked that color on the hazard spectrum. A product must meet all the criteria of a row in order to be ranked that color.

Review the data points for your paint against the hazard spectrum below. Does it meet all the criteria for dark green? If not, it is not dark green ranked. Does it meet all the criteria for light green? If not, it is not light green ranked.

	<b>GS-11 Certified</b>	<b>APE-free</b>	<b>VOC Content of Base</b>	<b>VOC Content of Colorant</b>	<b>Low VOC Emission Certification</b>
GS-11 Certified, Very Low VOC content, and Low VOC Emissions	Yes	Yes* If GS-11 certified, then APE-free.	≤ 10 g/L	Colorant does not add to the VOC content	Yes
APE-free, Low VOC Content, and Low VOC Emissions		Yes	≤ 50 g/L	≤ 50 g/L	Yes
Low VOC Content			≤ 50 g/L	≤ 50 g/L	
Standard			>50 g/L	>50 g/L	
Recycled Paint	Recycled paint				
Specialty Paint	Specialty paint such as dry erase or magnetic paint				
Paints Advertised and “Antimicrobial”	Paints advertised and “antimicrobial” with a human health claim				

Overall color ranking for product: \_\_\_\_\_

Did the product have an HPD or Declare Label?: \_\_\_\_\_

Consider whether there are any product types higher in the Hazard Spectrum that you could use. Work toward taking steps up the Spectrum to safer products. If the product does not have content transparency, consider those that disclose content and hazards through HPDs or Declare.