

GREEN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What does green paint mean?

It could mean the color of the paint, but more than likely it refers to a paint or coating that is environmentally-friendly. Today, there is no universally accepted definition or standard in order to label a coating as environmentally-friendly. There are two main factors to consider when assessing the environmental impact of a coating, VOC content and sustainability.

What is VOC?

VOCs are organic chemical compounds that have high enough vapor pressures to significantly vaporize and enter the atmosphere. VOC may contribute to poor air quality. Some VOCs are believed to react with nitrogen oxides in the presence of sunlight to form ozone. While ozone in the upper atmosphere is beneficial, ground level ozone, commonly referred to as smog, can cause respiratory problems. VOC may also contribute to poor indoor air quality and sick building syndrome. The leading organization creating benchmarks for high performance green commercial buildings only limits VOC content on interior coatings.

What is sustainability?

Sustainability is most commonly defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In practice, sustainability is conserving energy and natural resources, while maximizing the life cycle of used materials. How a coating performs is key to maximizing environmental benefits while limiting the impact on the ecosystem. The length of service of a coating before re-application is key to preventing wasteful and inefficient use of energy and material resources.

Are there any Federal government regulations on VOC?

The Federal government currently limits the amount of VOC in a coating that is applied to a standing structure. These limits were established by the Environmental Protection Agency and put into effect in 1998. For standard types of paint, the limits are 250 g/L for flat coatings and 380 g/L for non-flat coatings.

What is LEED?

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) was created by the U.S. Green Building Council. Established to provide "independent, third-party verification that a building is environmentally responsible, profitable and a healthy place to live and work". LEED is used mainly by architectural firms in designing new, green commercial buildings. However, LEED has also developed a set of standards for residential projects. LEED's most commonly used format limits VOC content of interior coatings to 50 g/L for flat coatings and 150 g/L for non-flat coatings.

How does Diamond Vogel incorporate green in the manufacturing process?

As a Coatings Care® participant, Diamond Vogel is committed to protect worker and community health and safety, the environment, and ensure facility security at our manufacturing facilities. Diamond Vogel uses several environmentally friendly programs within the manufacturing process. We reduce energy use by employing new advanced manufacturing equipment, replacing roofing materials with reflective materials, using energy efficient, lighting technologies and reengineering shipping areas to reduce heat loss. Diamond Vogel conserves the use of natural materials throughout the manufacturing process by reusing cleaning solvents and wash water, recycling old coatings into new batches and implementing a recycling program for paper, cardboard, containers and light bulbs.

**For additional information please contact your Diamond Vogel representative or
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