



YOUR GUIDE TO THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATIONS:

Third party certifications are labeling criteria stating that a product meets specific environmental standards. They can provide certification for products as well as buildings.

Maybe you've realized the importance of obtaining your green certifications. Or, you're searching for the safest, most efficient products on the market.

Let this guide serve as resource to learning more about the green certificates available to cleaning professionals.



U.S. GREEN BUILDING ASSOCIATION

The U.S. Green Building Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community of leaders working to make green buildings available to everyone within a generation. They specialize in grading buildings on a sustainability scale and awarding LEED certificates. The LEED green building certification program encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through a suite of rating systems that recognize projects that implement strategies for better environmental and health performance. LEED certificates speak volumes to a building overall health and safety. Consider working with the USGBC for your next Green Building project. Here's how to get started.

The USGBC offers four levels of certification available for different business needs. More information can be found on their website. Since every organization has different needs, we recommend contacting them directly to discuss your specific circumstances. You can call USGBC at (800) 795-1747 or email membership@usgbc.org. Especially since certain educational facilities can get their first year free!

MORE USGBC RESOURCES:

[Getting started with O+M](#)

(general resources for LEED teams)

[LEED Professional Credentials](#)

(certify your team with advanced placement testing for LEED certificates)

[LEED Education Base](#)

Get all the help you need to pass your next LEED exam



HEALTHY SCHOOLS LOGO

HSC advocates for policies and practices that allow all students, teachers and staff to learn and work in a healthy school environment. Because almost 25% of children have a chronic disease, the Healthy Schools Non-Profit organization has dedicated itself to protecting the health of our youth through cleaner facilities.

Whether you're managing a school, working facility or concerned about the cleaning habits of your own home you can adopt a healthier cleaning practice today. Get started with the HSC and their many affiliates [here](#).

HEALTHY SCHOOLS RESOURCES:

[5 Steps to Green Cleaning in Schools](#)

[A Green Cleaning Program Starts Here](#)

[Green Cleaning Assessment](#)



CRI SEAL OF APPROVAL

The CRI Seal of Approval program identifies effective carpet cleaning solutions and equipment that clean carpet right the first time and protect a facility's carpet investment. Not all products clean well enough to earn the Seal of Approval distinction, so look for the blue and green CRI Seal of Approval as proof that you are purchasing or using a quality product.

If your equipment can talk the talk it should be able to walk the walk. The CRI seal of approval is proof of just that. Make sure your equipment is CRI certified by search the seal of approval database [here](#). To learn more about what is being tested and how it's tested visit [here](#). To learn more about getting your product certified, visit [here](#).

CRI RESOURCES:

[Seal of Approval Program](#)

[Environmental Benefits](#)

[Benefits of CRI Membership](#)



CRI GREEN LABEL

The Green Label and Green Label Plus testing programs, overseen by independent labs, are designed for architects, builders, specifiers and facility managers who want assurances that carpet and adhesive products meet the most stringent criteria for low chemical emissions and help improve indoor air quality. Currently, carpet, cushion and adhesives as well as vacuum cleaners are tested in these programs.

On average, human beings spend 90% of their time indoors. Meaning the quality of indoor air is vital to our own physical health. In fact, studies have shown that schools with a better IAQ tend to produce better test scores. That's why the CRI has continued to self impose heavy restrictions on vacuums looking to earn the Green Seal of Approval. Vacuums that earn the CRI Green Seal of Approval extract a certain amount of soil from the carpet, while refraining from releasing excess amounts of dust particles into the air or ruining the texture of the carpet. Learn more about the [testing process here](#).

CRI GREEN LABEL RESOURCES:

[Green Label Plus: A Higher Standard For Indoor Air Quality](#)

[SOA/Green Label Vacuums Remove Soil and Protect Indoor Air](#)



DESIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Safer Choice Label, previously known as EPA's Design for the Environment program, recognizes products that are safer for the environment. The Safer Choice Label on a product means that product contains only those ingredients that pose the least concern, but sacrifice none of the cleaning effectiveness you'll find in a product using harsh solutions.

It takes more than an application process for a product to earn the Safer Choice label. During the testing process, every product is put through a series of test to make sure it uses the safest option for every ingredient. Yet, just safety isn't enough to earn this coveted badge. Products must also be packaged sustainably and classified as ["high-performing."](#)

RESOURCES:

[Learn About the Safer Choice Label](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions on Safer Choice](#)



UL ENVIRONMENT'S ECOLOGO AND GREENGUARD

Founded in 1988 by the Government of Canada but now recognized world-wide, EcoLogo™ provides customers – public, corporate and consumer – with assurance that the products and services bearing the logo meet stringent standards of environmental leadership.

There's three primary benefits to ECOLOGO® Certification. Firstly, more than 60% of consumers in North America recognize the ECOLOGO® and understand its significance. Second, UL Environment, the certificate issuers, is backed by a quality reputation having been dedicated to a safer planet for over 120 years. Finally, the ECOLOGO® is kept by vigorous standards for environmental and human health.

Manufactures seeking qualification for their own products can begin the application process here. Facility managers and BSCs can assure themselves that they're using the safest products by searching here. To learn more about the ECOLOGO program visit [UL Environment](#) today.

GREENGUARD Certification is designed to assist manufactures to make products with lower producing emissions. As well, the GREENGUARD Certification mark is there to assist consumers in quickly identifying low-emitting VOC products.

RESOURCES:

[Test Methods - Environmental Chamber Testing](#)

[GREENGUARD Certification Program](#)

[Safer Choice Standard](#)

[Safer Chemicals Ingredient List](#)

[Step by Step get Safer Choice Label](#)



CIMS TRAINING: CLEANING INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT STANDARD

CIMS is a program designed for organizations looking to enhance their green cleaning practices. Yet, not only will you receive the proper training and inspections, but you'll also gain the benefits of being certified by one of the world most notorious green cleaning programs. In fact, BSCs with CIMS training have set themselves apart from their competition with eco-friendly cleaning standards that are as productive as their competition and money saving. CIMS training is the first pre qualification step for some customers when choosing a BSC. In fact, CIMS-GB certified individuals have the knowledge to help customers obtain LEED certification for their facility.

RESOURCES

[CIMS - Getting Started](#)

[Demonstrate Your Commitment to Sustainability and Green Cleaning With CIMS-GB](#)



ENERGY STAR

EnergyStar is that little blue logo you can find listed on a majority of modern household appliances. While approximately 85% of people recognize the logo for energy efficiency, many are unaware of just how far this label extends. In 2014, household Energy Star products saved approximately [21 billion dollars](#). Yet, did you know that EnergyStar products for buildings and industrial facilities saved north of ten billion dollars? Commercial, educational and industrial facilities can browse [EnergyStar's complete range of certified products](#) here.

RESOURCES

[Energy Star Products](#)

[2014 Annual Report](#)



THE CHLORINE FREE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (CFPA)

Chlorine is dangerous for a number of reasons. Not only does this harmful chemical cause cancer, but it's also a major hinderance to the health and safety of air quality. Unfortunately, because of the poisoning effect of chlorine is slow, most of us never realize the negative impact chlorine in our homes is having on our own health.

The Chlorine Free Products Association (CFPA) is a non-profit working to increase sustainability practices in our manufacturing to remove the use of chlorine. Look for the processed or totally chlorine free logos when buying any products for you facility or home.

RESOURCES

[How to get your product certified](#)

[Membership Benefits and Resources](#)

[Medical Hazards of Chlorine](#)

CALIFORNIA VOC

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been well documented and identified as harmful to the environment and safety of building occupants. Many organizations have taken it upon themselves to educate the public on VOCs, as well as provide the necessary resources for facility managers to limit the amount of harmful VOCs and improve the overall IAQ. At the forefront, California has set strict but [necessary regulations](#) on the concentration of VOCs in consumer products.

RESOURCES

[California VOC Regulations](#)

[Volatile Organic Compounds' Impact on Indoor Air Quality](#)

ASTM INTERNATIONAL

Formerly the American Society for Testing and Materials, now ASTM International exist to provide consumer confidence in a variety of products, from the airplanes we fly in to the cleaning products we use. As part of their mission, they've developed a guide for facility maintenance to improve the health a building and safety for its occupants through better cleaning practices. Though there is no certification needed, facility managers of any sort will find their guide useful to improving the sustainability of their own buildings.

RESOURCES

[Standard Guide for Stewardship for the Cleaning of Commercial and Institutional Buildings](#)

ABOUT US:

Tornado Industries, Inc. is dedicated to delivering "Best-in-Class" commercial and industrial cleaning equipment and after-sale service that meets and exceeds the expectations of our customers. In the industrial cleaning business for over 85 years, Tornado® has a strong entrepreneurial history of partnering with in-house cleaners, contractors and facility managers to provide cleaning solutions that deliver innovation, reliability and competitive pricing.

Thanks for taking the time to download this ebook. If you would like to explore additional topics pertaining to running a cleaning business visit the [Resources section](#) on our website. For more information about Tornado products and services, or to schedule a product demonstration, visit our website at www.tornadovac.com or contact our sales and marketing team directly at marketing@tornadovac.com.

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