

Green Seal™ and MPI Certification



Metro is now selling recycled paint (certified MetroPaint™) that has been certified by both Green Seal™ and the Master Painters Institute (MPI).

WHAT IS GREEN SEAL?

Green Seal is **“an independent non-profit organization dedicated to safeguarding the environment and transforming the marketplace by promoting the manufacture, purchase and use of environmentally responsible products and services”** (from the Green Seal website).

Green Seal has developed standards for a variety of products, such as: cleaning products, paper products, heating and cooling equipment, adhesives, degreasers and an array of other products and equipment.

The Green Seal logo on a product assures users that the product has undergone extensive environmental and performance testing, using thorough, state-of-the-art, internationally accepted, scientific evaluation methods.

WHAT DOES GREEN SEAL REQUIRE FOR CERTIFICATION OF RECYCLED PAINT?

The Green Seal Standard for Recycled Paint, designated GS-43, addresses the environmental characteristics of the paint, and requires that it perform as well as new paint. For performance requirements, GS-43 incorporates Master Painter Institute (MPI) specifications, which are explained in greater detail below. In addition to passing MPI's tests, GS-43 requires:

- Strict adherence to sorting procedures that ensure that only safe, good quality leftover paint is incorporated into the final product
- No harmful ingredients are added
- Paint is filtered using a 300 micron or finer filtration system
- A series of quality control tests are conducted on every batch
- Recycled content containers are used for packaging paint, and empty paint cans are recycled, whenever possible
- All operations are conducted in accordance with local state and federal regulations
- GS-43 also establishes the quantity of post-consumer paint that must be in a product for it to be considered recycled. For paint considered “consolidated” recycled paint, it must contain at least 95% post-consumer content. For paint considered “reprocessed” paint, it must contain at least 50% post-consumer recycled content.

In the spring of 2007, Green Seal conducted a thorough on-site audit of the MetroPaint facility, including paint sorting, production and packaging operations, laboratory and quality control processes, and our written procedures and documentation. After requiring some minor modifications, and confirming that MetroPaint met MPI standards, Green Seal issued their approval to use the Green Seal logo on Certified MetroPaint.

WHAT IS THE MASTER PAINTERS INSTITUTE (MPI)?

The Master Painters Institute, MPI, is the leading paint performance certification organization in North America. They have detailed standards for both paint products and paint application that are used by architects, government agencies (including the federal GSA), contractors and others concerned with paint quality and professionalism.

WHAT DOES MPI REQUIRE FOR CERTIFICATION OF RECYCLED PAINT?

MPI's performance requirements for recycled paint are identical to those that MPI certified new paint must meet. In addition, MPI requires submission of samples several times a year, to ensure that the recycling process produces a consistent product over time.

For interior painting, Certified MetroPaint meets the requirements of either MPI#44 or MPI #53. These standards include tests for:

- Scrubbability: how well the paint withstands abrasion
- Fineness of Grind: how free of debris the paint is
- Dry Time: how long it takes the paint to dry
- Hiding Power: how well the paint hides the substrate
- Alkali Resistance: how resistant the paint is to basic cleaners
- Brushing and Rolling Properties: how easy it is to apply the paint
- Flow and Leveling Properties: how smooth the paint looks after application
- Flexibility: how well the paint resists cracking

For exterior painting, Certified MetroPaint meets the requirements of MPI#10. This standard includes all of the above tests, and additional tests for:

- Accelerated Weathering: how well the paint resists sunlight, heat and moisture
- Adhesion: how well the paint adheres to the substrate
- Early Water Resistance: how well the paint resists moisture prior to drying
- Biological Growth: how well the paint resists damage from microorganisms

In spring 2007, MPI also conducted an on-site audit of the MetroPaint operation, and found that it was “capable of producing a consolidated product consistent with MPI requirements.” MPI’s auditor looked at historical samples of batches of MetroPaint, and commented: “I was pleasantly surprised by the historic consistency of the results obtained.”

Bottom Line: The Green Seal and MPI certifications assure buyers that Certified MetroPaint is good for the environment and performs as well as new paint.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

MetroPaint: www.Metro-region.org/paint

Green Seal: www.greenseal.org

MPI: www.paintinfo.com