

## **GREENGUARD GOLD CERTIFICATION Q&A FOR CONSUMERS**

### **WHAT IS GREENGUARD CERTIFICATION?**

- The UL GREENGUARD Certification Program helps consumers identify products that are verified for low emissions of harmful VOCs. GREENGUARD Gold Certified products are tested to meet some of the most stringent health-based requirements for over 300 different VOCs.
- It means that representative samples of products have been independently tested and certified to demonstrate that they meet rigorous third-party GREENGUARD Certification standards.
- GREENGUARD Gold Certified products must undergo annual testing to remain certified.
- GREENGUARD Gold Certification includes safety factors to account for sensitive individuals such as children and the elderly.

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BUYING GREENGUARD GOLD CERTIFIED PRODUCTS?**

- GREENGUARD Gold Certified products are built to contribute to healthier air.
- GREENGUARD Gold Certified products can help create a healthier, cleaner home for your family.
- Choosing GREENGUARD Gold Certified products helps you make healthier choices for your family.
- GREENGUARD Gold Certified products are VOCs low emitting thus contributing to the reduction of indoor air pollution.

### **HOW DO I IDENTIFY GREENGUARD CERTIFIED PRODUCTS?**

- Look for the GREENGUARD Gold Certification Mark on products, indicating that products have been tested and verified to meet stringent chemical emissions limits.

### **CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF POOR INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

- People spend more than 90% of their time indoors. Air pollutants indoor are 2-5 times higher than outdoor - *Source US EPA.*
- One of the primary sources of this pollution are furnishings and building materials, which can release hundreds of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the air.
- Breathing these pollutants is linked to a variety of health problems, including allergies, asthma, cardiovascular disease, reproductive disorders and some forms of cancer.
- Children are especially at risk to the health effects of poor indoor air quality because their immune and neurological systems are still developing.
- In order to protect children's health, it is vital to limit their exposure to chemicals in homes, schools and other indoor environments.

- The use of low-emitting products such as GREENGUARD Gold Certified products can help reduce VOCs in indoor environments.

#### **WHAT IF MY GREENGUARD CERTIFIED PRODUCT SMELLS?**

- Almost all furniture products emit some level of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). These are chemicals that are used to make plastics, coatings, adhesives, textiles, and other common furniture materials.
- VOCs are emitted into the air from new products and we may detect them as an odor.
- While many VOCs that produce odors are harmless, some VOCs may be harmful and can cause eye irritation, headaches or respiratory issues with no smell at all.
- Furniture products emit the highest level of VOCs when they are new and the emissions typically decrease over time. It is not uncommon for new interior products to exhibit some smell during initial installation.
- While even GREENGUARD Gold Certified products may have some detectable smell when new, consumers should feel comfortable that the smell will go away quickly and is not likely to cause harm.