

HOW BASIX[®] SOLID SURFACE PRODUCTS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO LEED CERTIFICATION

What is LEED?

The acronym LEED stands for **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design**. Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that contribute to a sustainable, healthy environment: energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

LEED is a voluntary certification program that can be applied to any building type and any building lifecycle phase. It promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in key areas:

- Sustainable Sites
- Water Efficiency
- Energy & Atmosphere
- Materials & Resources
- Indoor Environmental Quality
- Locations & Linkages
- Awareness & Education
- Innovation in Design
- Regional Priority

Projects that seek LEED Certification register with the USGBC and utilize a design process that is guided by a particular Rating System pertinent to that particular project. Some examples of the LEED Rating Systems are:

- New Construction and Major Renovations
- Core and Shell
- Commercial Interiors
- Existing Buildings: Operation and Maintenance

In each Rating System, LEED points are awarded on a 100-point scale, and credits are weighted to reflect their potential environmental impacts. Additionally, 10 bonus credits are available, four of which address regionally specific environmental issues. A project must satisfy all prerequisites and earn a minimum number of points to be certified. The level of Certification (Certified, Silver, Gold or Platinum) attained by the project is dependent on the number of points earned by the project. There are pre-determined credit categories under each Rating System consisting of topics including Water Efficiency,

Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources and others. Specific credits are included in each major category. Each credit has a specific Intent, Requirements and Potential Technologies & Strategies description along with an indication of the number of points available under that specific credit. As a project meets the Requirements of the credit, it earns the allowable point(s) for that credit.

It is important to note that neither specific products nor services are certified by the USGBC or LEED. Products may have attributes that contribute to the attainment of points, but the product itself does not actually earn points.

LEED - Basix® Solid Surface Products

In the Basix family of products, there are several credits that are pertinent. The primary area in which surfacing materials have an impact is Materials & Resources (MR). Basix Solid Surface may contribute to the requirements of the following credits:

MR Credit 1.2: Building Reuse – Maintain Interior Nonstructural Elements (1 Point)

In order to earn this point, the project must use existing nonstructural elements in at least 50% of the completed building.

MR Credit 3: Materials Reuse (1-2 Points)

In order to earn points in this credit, the project must use salvaged, refurbished or reused materials for at least 5% (1 point) or 10% (2 points) of the total value of materials on the project.

MR Credit 4: Recycled Content (1-2 Points)

In order to earn points in this credit, the project must use materials with recycled content such that the sum of postconsumer recycled content plus ½ of the preconsumer content constitutes 10% (1 point) or 20% (2 points) of the total value of materials used on the project.

Basix Solid Surface Colors: Autumn, Catalina, Driftwood & Warmth contain 13% Post-Consumer Recycled Content.

LEED CONTRIBUTION: 1 point

Prima Decora Solid Surface Series Colors: Aztec, Bright White, Castle Path, Constellation, Dovetail, Harmony, Maple Lane & Navajo contain 27%+ Post-Consumer Recycled Content.

LEED CONTRIBUTION: 2 points

MR Credit 5: Regional Materials (1-2 Points)

In order to earn points in this credit, the project must use building materials or products that have been extracted, harvested or recovered, as well as manufactured within 500 miles of the project site. Fabricators (manufacturers) located within 500 miles of the project site may be able to contribute a portion of the cost of installed products to this credit.

The use of low-emitting adhesives can also contribute to the Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) area through:

IEQ Credit 4.1: Low-Emitting Materials – Adhesives and Sealants (1 Point)

In order to achieve this point, all adhesives and sealants on a project must comply with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule #1168 which sets specific VOC limits.

Basix® Solid Surface has low VOC content and is made from high quality acrylic ingredients, and produced in a state of the art manufacturing facility. Once the ingredients of Basix® are fully reacted (polymerized) in the manufacturing process, they become a chemically stable solid surfacing material with minimal impact on indoor air quality.

The volatile organic content (VOC) of Basix® was determined by method ASTM D-5116 (Small Scale Environmental Chamber Determination of Organic Emissions from Indoor Materials and Products). In addition, Basix® has been measured against the indoor air quality guidelines published by Greenguard Environmental Institute and California's Special Environmental Requirements Specification Section 01350, used to calculate a material's contribution to indoor air quality after installation. In all cases, Basix® Solid Surface material exceed the indoor air quality (IAQ) requirements of these guidelines and can be considered low-emitting materials.

Basix & Prima Decora Solid Surface

LEED CONTRIBUTION: 1 point

In addition, as a GREENGUARD Certified product, Basix and Prima Decora can contribute to credit for Innovation in Design (ID) under:

ID Credit 1: Innovation in Design (1-5 Points)

In addition to the traditional areas available for credits, the most recent version of LEED (V3) provides for the opportunity to achieve points for exceptional performance through potential credits for Innovation in Design. The project design team will create project-specific initiatives that exhibit exemplary performance or innovative approaches to sustainable design. Examples of ID credits that have been approved include topics such as:

Furniture – Low Emitting

Furniture – GREENGUARD Certified

Furniture – Sustainably Manufactured

For further information on how Basix products can help to contribute to LEED or specific assistance on your project, contact:

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