



Clean Air Counts

www.CleanAirCounts.org

DuPage County

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Inside this issue:

Green Seal Certified Paints Available Locally 2

Tips For Choosing Paint Colors 2

Sources of Additional Information 2

Special points of interest:

5 TONS PER DAY !

Clean Air Counts will result in reducing pollution by five (5) Tons a day.

Clean Air Counts is a northeastern Illinois regional initiative to reduce ozone-causing emissions, thereby improving air quality and enabling economic development.

It is a collaborative effort between the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, City of Chicago, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. This multi-year initiative seeks to achieve specific and significant reductions in targeted smog-forming pollutants and major reductions in energy consumption.

This program will reduce costly health problems caused by air quality and demonstrate a voluntary approach to air quality improvement.

Clean Air Counts Welcomes New DuPage

Members:

- Bloomington Park District
- C.B. Richard Ellis—Oakbrook
- Elmhurst Memorial Healthcare
- Elmhurst Park District
- Elmhurst Public Library
- Pella Windows and Doors
- Sims Recycling Solutions



Decorate With Air Friendly Paint

When choosing paint, consumers typically focus on color, type of finish, and price. Clean Air Counts suggests that you also consider how paint choices will impact air quality inside your home.

Many commercial paints contain high levels of chemicals known as VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds). The VOCs in paint can come from coloring agents, fungicides, biocides, and spreading agents. VOCs are released as the paint dries, creating much of that familiar new paint odor.

As VOCs evaporate inside a building, they create indoor air pollution that can cause a host of negative health effects. These include eye, nose, and throat irritation, headaches, and loss of coordination. Ex-

posure to VOCs can trigger asthma attacks in people with the disease. And if the room being painted is a nursery, the American Lung Association warns that VOCs can compromise a baby's health.¹

Even when the smell is gone, chemical emissions can continue for extended periods of time after application. One study estimates that less than 50% of the VOCs in latex paint are emitted in the first year.²

Increased awareness of possible health risks and air quality concerns have created a demand for products lower in VOCs. Today, alternative manufacturing techniques allow production of paints that contain minimal levels of VOCs and are virtually odor free.



What's in your paint?

Low-VOC paint can be applied in exactly the same way as conventional paint, performs just as well, and is comparable in price. And, with fewer fumes, newly painted rooms can be re-occupied much sooner. With so many benefits, why not make your next decorating project healthy as well as beautiful by using low-VOC paint?

How to Identify Alternative Paints

What's the easiest way to identify a low-VOC paint?



Choose a product certified by Green Seal, an independent non-profit that sets standards for green products. Green Seal certification is based on VOC content, the absence of chemicals, durability, and per-

formance among other criteria. Look for products that display the Green Seal logo, or with information stating that it meets the Green Seal Standard GS-11. (See page 2 for a partial list of certified paints.)

The VOC content of any paint can be determined by reading the label, and is normally listed on the back of the container. VOCs are expressed in grams per liter (g/l). Interior paints

certified by Green Seal have a VOC content of less than 50 g/l (for flat sheen) or 150 g/l (for non-flat sheen).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations set a standard of no more than 250 g/l for low-VOC interior latex paints. Thus, the VOC content of paints that can be called "low-VOC" varies widely. Read labels carefully before making a selection.

Green Seal Certified Paints Available Locally

MANUFACTURER	PRODUCT LINE	WEBSITE	WHERE TO BUY
Benjamin Moore	Eco-Spec Interior	www.benjaminmoore.com	Local hardware & paint stores
Dutch Boy	Clarity Interior Latex	www.dutchboy.com	Local hardware & paint stores
Olympic Paint and Stain	Zero-VOC Olympic Premium Interior	www.lowes.com	Lowes
PPG Architectural Finishes, Inc.	Pittsburgh Paints Pure Performance	www.ppg.com	Area-wide Pittsburgh Paint stores and other authorized
Southern Diversified Products	American Pride	www.southerndiversifiedproducts.com	Green Maker Supply (Chicago) Baby Supermall (Elgin)

Tips For Choosing Paint Colors



Shari Hiller, star of HGTV's Room By Room provides these tips for making color choices for wall paint:

Pull a color out of something else that is going to be in the room such as chosen fabrics. Narrow down to two or three of these colors and purchase a quart of each. Paint sample boards and let dry. Hold boards up to furniture, fabrics, and surfaces already in the room. The larger color swatch

makes it much easier to decide if a color is right or not.

If the choice between two colors is difficult, set one of the boards up and hide the other behind it. If you can't commit, switch the boards until you feel more comfortable with one.

A perfect match is not always the best wall color choice so allow at least one of the sample boards to be an imperfect match.

Says Shari, it just might be the spark that gives your room that non-formulated designer look.

When shopping for paint colors, you may find that paints with the very lowest VOC content are not available in very dark or intense colors. Try to select a product line that has a low-VOC designation, even if VOC content is not as low as the Green Seal standard.

Sources of Additional Information



"A Baby's Breath", published by the American Lung Association of Florida (For a free booklet on creating a healthy nursery call: 1-561-659-7644)

About.com: Home Repair Low VOC Interior Paint and Other Healthy Alternative Paints

Clean Air Counts Strategy Fact Sheets Low-VOC Paints and www.CleanAirCounts.org

Greenfeet.com Eco-Friendly Products for Everyday Living

www.greenseal.org
²Sparks LE, GuoZ, Change JC, and Tichenor BA, 1999. Volatile organic compound emis-

sions from latex paint-part I. Chamber experiments and source model development, *Indoor Air* 9:10-17.

www.HGTV.com

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