

Lead to LEED

Flooring and LEED-CI

Prime Flors

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At Prime Flors, our environmental commitment isn't just about where we are. It's about where we want to go. Every day we focus on the steps that will take us there. We're constantly learning, revising, improving.

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system has emerged as an important force in today's building industry, serving as a touchstone for those seeking to build high performance, more sustainable buildings. We're working to understand all of the program's ramifications and implementation challenges.

This brochure is designed to help our customers understand the role we can play as a manufacturer of flooring products. We have outlined and illustrated how our products contribute to the achievement of certain LEED credits.

Overview of the USGBC

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is the nation's foremost nonprofit coalition of over 10,000 companies and organizations from across the building industry promoting high-performance green buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable, and healthy places to live and work. The USGBC developed LEED as a voluntary, consensus-based national standard to support and validate successful green building design, construction, and operations.

Overview of the LEED Rating System

The USGBC LEED program offers third-party certification of qualifying buildings and interiors, high-performance design guidelines, and professional training and accreditation services. After a project's completion, it may be qualified at LEED Certified, Silver, Gold or Platinum level. LEED was created to:

- > define "green building" by establishing a common standard of measurement
- > promote integrated, whole-building design practices
- > recognize environmental leadership in the building industry
- > stimulate green competition
- > raise consumer awareness of green building benefits
- > transform the building market

The LEED Rating System evaluates projects over 5 core and 1 bonus credit categories:

- > Sustainable Sites
- > Water Efficiency
- > Energy & Atmosphere
- > Materials & Resources
- > Indoor Environmental Quality
- > Bonus Credits for Process and Design Innovation

LEED Certified projects achieve 40% or more of the Core Credits

LEED Silver projects achieve 50% or more of the Core Credits

LEED Gold projects achieve 60% or more of the Core Credits

LEED Platinum projects achieve 80% or more of the Core Credits

Overview of LEED Programs

The LEED Rating System originated as a program designed to evaluate new construction and major renovations for office buildings. Due to market demand and the variety of other project types needing to apply the LEED Rating System, the USGBC has created several other LEED Products.

LEED-NC (New Construction & Major Renovations)

Version 2.2 Released 2005

LEED-NC is designed to be applied to Commercial and Institutional buildings that are either new or undergoing major renovations with a focus on office buildings. Practitioners have also applied the system to K-12 schools, multi-unit residential buildings, manufacturing plants, laboratories and many other building types. LEED-NC Version 2.2 was released in late 2005.

LEED-CI (Commercial Interiors)

Released 2004

LEED-CI is designed to address the specifics of tenant spaces primarily in office and institutional buildings. LEED-CI provides the opportunity for building tenants to design and certify high performance, healthy, durable, affordable and environmentally sound workplaces.

LEED-EB (Existing Buildings)

Released 2004

LEED-EB is designed to be a set of performance standards for the sustainable operation of existing buildings. It includes building operations and upgrades of systems and/or processes in existing buildings where these upgrades do not significantly change the interior or exterior surfaces of the building.

LEED-CS (Core & Shell Development)

Released 2006

LEED-CS is a set of performance standards for the sustainable design and construction of speculative and core-and-shell buildings. Based on the LEED-NC Rating system, LEED-CS has been developed in recognition of the unique nature of core and shell development, especially the lack of developer control over key aspects such as interior finishes, lighting, and HVAC distribution. LEED-CS is designed to complement the LEED-CI Green Building Rating System so that a LEED-CS certified building that also incorporates a LEED-CI certified interior fit-out will be the equivalent to a LEED-NC certified building.

How Prime Flors Can Contribute Points

Although LEED is comprised of five core and one bonus category, flooring products typically only play a role in two core credit categories: Materials & Resources and Indoor Environmental Quality.

Also another consideration to keep in mind is that the Materials & Resource Credits are mainly based on the cost of the material and the relative percentages that those materials contribute to the overall budget of the project.

Projects certifying under the LEED-CI program typically have budgets that range from \$30/sf to \$150/sf. Flooring materials typically average between \$2.00/sf - \$8.00/sf. On a commercial interior/tenant improvement project, floor covering may be a major component of the costs associated with materials. Therefore it is important to review the impacts of varying recycled content percentages and their overall impact on the LEED Calculation.

Projects certifying under the LEED-NC program will typically have budgets that range from \$120/sf to \$400/sf. Flooring materials typically average between \$2.00/sf - \$8.00/sf. On an entire building project floor covering is only a fraction of the costs associated with materials. Therefore differences of minor %'s when calculating recycled content do not necessarily have significant impacts in LEED calculations.

Note: No single product can, by itself, obtain a LEED Credit. Products can, in aggregate, contribute to attaining credits. The only exception is the Indoor Environmental Quality – Low Emitting Materials (Carpet) Credit.