



# BLACK & GOLD

SUPPORTING A HEALTHIER PLANET AND PEOPLE  
THROUGH THOUGHTFUL MATERIAL SELECTION

The Black & Gold List is a GFF initiative to source exterior and interior materials that promote environmental and human health throughout the life of a project – from initial manufacturing to end of life cycle. We encourage the selection of materials that are responsibly sourced, low in harmful chemical content, and contribute to reduced carbon emissions.

## THE LIST IS DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES

**BLACK** LIST  
REMOVE

Black List materials or attributes should be avoided when possible due to their negative effects on people and the planet.

**&** LIST  
IMPROVE

& List materials or attributes are being watched by the Sustainability Committee because they have potential to influence environmental or human health. These materials require further research and/or proven alternatives before moving to the Black or Gold list.

**GOLD** LIST  
PROMOTE

Gold List materials or attributes promote sustainable and/or healthy buildings and should be promoted in our projects.

BLACK & GOLD LIST

**VERSION 1.0**

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GFF, INC

# BLACK LIST

“ The time for half measures and outdated targets is over if we are to stop the irreparable destruction of our cities, towns, and natural environments.

**EDWARD MAZRIA**

# BLACK LIST

Design teams are encouraged to avoid the following materials when possible, and advocate for the phasing out of the following materials when there is no proven alternative.

## HEALTHY PLANET

COMING SOON

## HEALTHY PEOPLE

REDUCED CHEMICAL CONTENT

When feasible, avoid products containing non-compliant amounts of substances as defined by the 2021 Edition of International Living Future Institute Red List.

<https://living-future.org/declare/declare-about/red-list/>

Current Red List includes items like Antimicrobials (those marketed with a health claim), Asbestos Compounds, BPA, Chlorinated polymers (including PVC), Formaldehyde, Perfluorinated and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) / Perfluorinated Compounds (PFCs), Phthalates, and Toxic Heavy Metals (Cadmium, Chromium VI Compounds, Lead, Mercury and Arsenic) among others.

For reference, this could apply to items such as:

- Furniture
- Moisture barriers
- Plumbing pipes
- Resilient flooring
- Shower curtains
- Vinyl-backed carpet tile
- Vinyl composition tile (VCT)
- Vinyl wall base
- Vinyl wallcovering
- Vinyl wall siding
- Wall protection systems
- Window blinds and shades

# & LIST

“ You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them, and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them.

**WANGARI MAATHAI**



We are committed to exploring improved alternatives for the materials below. Items on the “&” List will eventually be addressed through the Gold List or Black List once better information / proven alternatives are available.

## HEALTHY PLANET

### EMBODIED CARBON REDUCTION

Determine methods for reducing embodied carbon related to the following types of construction (including but not limited to):

- Steel
- Concrete
- Insulation
- Glass
- Masonry

## HEALTHY PEOPLE

### REDUCED CHEMICAL CONTENT

Determine methods for reducing chemical content related to the following products (including but not limited to):

- Countertops
- Doors
- Fabrics
- Flame-retardant coatings
- Floor sealants
- Gypsum board
- Stain repellents
- Wallcoverings
- Window Coverings
- Zero-VOC options for adhesives, exterior paints / coatings and interior/exterior high-performance specialty paints and coatings.

# GOLD LIST

“ We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.

**ALBERT EINSTEIN**



# GOLD LIST

Projects that meet our Gold Standard will implement the following measures:

## HEALTHY PLANET

### MATERIAL TRANSPARENCY

50% (by quantity) of Building Envelope Materials required to share material transparency by third party assessment. Acceptable examples below:

- ▮ Declare Label
- ▮ Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)
- ▮ Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)

### RESPONSIBLY SOURCED MATERIALS

All wood interior finish products to be FSC Certified, including but not limited to:

- ▮ Wood doors
- ▮ Wood ceilings
- ▮ Planks/Paneling/Trim
- ▮ Veneer

Recommend all wood building products to be FSC Certified where possible, including but not limited to:

- ▮ Wood Composites
- ▮ Substrates and Blocking
- ▮ Dimensional Lumber

### CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Support renewable materials and waste reduction through the following (including but not limited to):

- ▮ Consider higher-quality materials with longer life cycles.
- ▮ Prioritize rapidly renewable materials that regenerate within 10 years or less.
- ▮ Prioritize local/regional materials (provided they meet other categories listed in this document).
- ▮ Encourage reuse of existing materials/elements (when appropriate).
- ▮ Support products/suppliers that reduce waste and incorporate recycling during manufacturing or after end of use.
- ▮ Return samples directly to manufacturer representatives, through “return-to-manufacturer” shipping programs, or through 3rd Party sampling sources such as Material Bank.

# GOLD LIST

Projects that meet our Gold Standard will implement the following measures:

## HEALTHY PEOPLE

### MATERIAL TRANSPARENCY

50% (by quantity) of Interior Finish Materials required to share material transparency by third party assessment. Acceptable examples below:

- ▮ Declare Label
- ▮ Health Product Declaration (HPD)
- ▮ Cradle to Cradle “Material Health” Certification, minimum Silver
- ▮ Product Lens Certification by UL

### REDUCED CHEMICAL CONTENT

#### *Paints and Coatings*

- ▮ All interior flat, eggshell, and semi-gloss paints to be:
  - Water-based
  - VOC-free.
  - Free of Red List chemicals per Living Building Challenge™ 4.0 and/or meet GreenGuard Gold, SCS Advantage Gold, or Green Seal Certification.
- ▮ All exterior paints / coatings and interior/exterior high-performance specialty paints and coatings to be
  - Low-VOC.

#### *Ceilings*

- ▮ All acoustic ceiling panels to be:
  - Free of Red List chemicals per Living Building Challenge™ 4.0 and/or meet GreenGuard Gold.

#### *Flooring and Adhesives*

- ▮ All topically-applied floor coverings to be:
  - Free of Red List chemicals per Living Building Challenge™ 4.0 and/or meet GreenGuard Gold, SCS Floor Score Certification, or SCS Green Squared Certification.
- ▮ All flooring adhesives to be low-VOC.

#### *Architectural Woodwork*

- ▮ All millwork components including wood veneer, plastic laminate, adhesives, and substrates to be:
  - Free of Red List chemicals per Living Building Challenge™ 4.0 and/or meet GreenGuard Gold.

#### *Fixtures, Furnishings, and Equipment*

- ▮ Casegoods
  - Meet or exceed SCS Indoor Advantage, UL GreenGuard, or BIFMA Level 1.
- ▮ Workstations
  - Meet or exceed SCS Indoor Advantage, UL GreenGuard, or BIFMA Level 1.
- ▮ Task Chairs and Conference Chairs
  - Meet or exceed SCS Indoor Advantage, UL GreenGuard, or BIFMA Level 1.