



The GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI) is an industry-independent, non-profit organization that oversees the GREENGUARD Certification Program, the largest industry independent certification program for low-emitting products. The program establishes standards for test methods, allowable emissions levels, product sample collection and handling, testing type and frequency, and program application processes and acceptance. GEI's mission is to improve human health and quality of life through programs that improve indoor air quality.

As an ANSI Authorized Standards Developer, GEI establishes acceptable indoor air standards for indoor products, environments and buildings. GEI was founded by Air Quality Sciences, Inc. (AQS) an expert indoor air quality firm, in June 2001 to establish an independent third-party product certification program based on proven emissions standards and verification processes. The first GREENGUARD certification was awarded in the fall of 2002. The **GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certification Program**<sup>®</sup> is for low-emitting interior building materials, furnishings and finish systems. The GREENGUARD certification program uses performance-based, field-validated standards to define products and materials with low chemical and particle emissions for use indoors. GREENGUARD requires products to be tested on an annual basis for over 2,000 individual volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

The GREENGUARD certification mark helps architects, builders, designers and specifiers identify products and materials that undergo rigorous testing and meet stringent standards for chemical emissions. Currently, more than 150 manufacturers voluntarily participate in the program, offering more than 170,000 products in our online product guide at [www.greenguard.org](http://www.greenguard.org).

In 2005, GEI developed a new standard and product certification for low-emitting building materials, furnishings, and finish systems used in daycare, K-12 and healthcare facilities. An extension to the GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certification Program, the **GREENGUARD for Children & Schools**<sup>SM</sup> **Product Certification** was developed by evaluating the chemical sensitivities of children and the unique building characteristics of schools, and presents the most stringent product emissions criteria to date. Products certified under GREENGUARD Children & Schools meet the criteria of CA DHS (Section 01350), and are specified in the USGBC's LEED for Schools Rating System, the CHPS Best Practices Manual, and the Green Guide for Healthcare as criteria for low-emitting materials. GREENGUARD Children & Schools complies with the State of California's Department of Health Services Standard Practice (CA Section 01350) for testing chemical emissions from building products used in schools.

In 2006, GEI introduced **GREENGUARD for Building Construction**, a mold risk reduction program that for the first time "certifies" new constructed multi-family and commercial properties that follow best practice guidelines for preventing moisture and mold during the design, construction, and ongoing operations of the building. In this program buildings undergo comprehensive evaluations and incorporate a series of steps for preventing moisture and fungal growth. Builders, developers and owners work closely with authorized building consultants to implement these guidelines in order to help inhibit indoor mold growth. The verification protocol that incorporates these principles is being reviewed as a national ANSI standard.

For more information on GEI and GREENGUARD programs, please visit our website at [www.greenguard.org](http://www.greenguard.org), send an email to [info@greenguard.org](mailto:info@greenguard.org) or contact our staff at 1.800.427.9681.