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Power of Sustainability

Specifying third-party certified, sustainable wallcoverings just got easier with the new WA Sustainability Standard NSF/ANSI 342. It is the first sustainability standard of its kind in the world. Giving us all peace of mind by ensuring transparency across a product's entire lifecycle and helping you make informed decisions.

In 2008, the Wallcoverings Association (WA) set out to create a standard that would promote transparency and drive continual improvement in environmental sustainability, as well as social responsibility. The result of this four year journey is the WA Sustainability Standard NSF/ANSI 342, a truly unique and comprehensive standard.



The WA Sustainability Standard was developed through a third party (**ANSI**) process with industry, user groups, and public health representatives involved in the standard writing process. WA partnered with NSF to complete the project. **NSF** is an accredited third-party certification body, which tests and certifies products to verify they meet the established standard. Products that meet these standards bear the NSF Mark, which is respected internationally.

NSF/ANSI 342 evaluates all types of wallcovering products across the entire life cycle of the product, from raw material extraction through end of life disposal. The standard allows for transparency into the performance of individual products, their manufacturers and their distributors. It establishes a consistent and comprehensive approach to the evaluation of environmentally preferable and sustainable wallcoverings.

The Sustainability Standard uses a point system to evaluate products in 6 key areas:

- Product Design
- Product Manufacturing
- Long-Term Value
- End-of-Life Management
- Corporate Governance
- Innovation

Both the manufacturer and the distributor must qualify for the standard in order to bring a certified product to market. Each party may gain points in each of the established six categories. The total points gained by each determine if the product certifies and to what level. Products are certified as Platinum, Gold, Silver or Compliant.

This intensive multitier joint certification process encourages manufactures and distributors to collaborate in order to drive continual improvement of their environmental performance and recognizes the exemplary performance of companies that are committed to sustainable practices. The standard was the first to encompass the full chain of distribution in the evaluation of a product and now serves as a model for other standards.

The new WA Sustainability Standard NSF/ANSI 342 allows specifiers to quickly and easily identify wallcoverings that are certified to reduce environmental impact and make an informed decision.

For more information on products that meet the standard please contact one of the distributors or manufacturers listed [here](#).

- [Click here to find a list of Certified Companies](#)
- [Click here for more information about NSF and the NSF/ANSI 342 Sustainability Standard](#)

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