Why Google is involved in building design and construction

Everyone knows Google for lightning fast search results, advanced technology, self-driving cars, and having fun with our logo. Not everyone knows that our people work in buildings that are just as innovative as our technology. Constructing buildings isn’t our core business, but we apply the same focus as our products, putting users first. The result: we create healthy and productive work environments that inspire and energize our people.
New Healthy Materials Program
Open for business.

Google’s Healthy Materials Program was created to identify the healthiest products and materials for every Google building around the world. In 2014, we tested the beta version of the Healthy Materials database. We asked a lot of questions and made key improvements to make it easier for project teams and manufacturers to upload product information. Now we’re launching Portico, our streamlined online portal for all parties involved in the drive for healthy, innovative buildings. It all starts with manufacturers entering product information into Portico, the Google Healthy Materials Database.

Introducing Portico—the Google Healthy Materials online portal

![Diagram of Portico process]

**Designer & Manufacturer Collaboration**
Bring products into Portico

**REWS\(\text{TM}\) Team**
Manage Portico database
Work with project teams

**Designers/Specifiers & Contractors/Project Managers**
Use Portico to spec healthy materials

**Healthy Buildings**
Everyone enjoys healthier buildings

Portico enables users to

**Respond**
to the increasing market demand for healthy materials, transparency, LEED certification, and industry standards.

**Access**
product and materials information in a simple, easy-to-understand format.

**Understand**
material properties and potential impacts on human health.

**Make**
informed selections of products and materials based on reliable and transparent data.
Our goal is big: grow the database to 10,000 products by the end of 2016. And we would like your help.

Industry-recognized standards lead to greater choice.

Google's Healthy Materials Program gathers product information collected by the three recognized industry standards, and assigns scores indexed according to material health and transparency. With objective information shared transparently in a secure database, the design and construction community and project owners can make smart decisions about which products and materials to use.

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Industry standards and approach to material health assessments
Google rewards transparency.

Transparency benefits everyone in the design/build ecosystem. Google’s Healthy Materials Program evaluates all building products and materials through a rigorous screening process based on industry recognized standards that value transparency and material health. Products that meet these criteria are eligible to be specified and procured for Google design and construction projects around the globe.

Dynamic criteria simplify acceptance. Project teams will only specify products with scores of 4 or better.

Material health and transparency are based on
- Ingredient/chemical inventory and disclosure
- Ingredient/chemical hazard assessment
- Material optimization
- Accurate information
More freedom for design and construction teams

Google’s Portico is an online resource for architects, designers and contractors to find the latest, innovative healthy materials and products to specify for Google projects. As more products and materials are entered into the database, architects and designers enjoy increasing freedom to design the most innovative, creative, productive, and healthy buildings possible.

Google Healthy Materials selection criteria is aligned with industry standards and LEED v4.

More ROI for manufacturers

Google’s Portico enables manufacturers to bring their products and materials to the attention of architects and designers involved with Google projects, and more. Google has worked hard to help manufacturers see the value of the program and has made it easier to manage their product information. As an incentive for manufacturers to upload product information, Google scores products higher when information is disclosed publicly and made accessible to design and construction teams outside Google.

Join us.

Visit google.healthymaterials.net to learn more about the Healthy Materials Program.

If you’re a manufacturer, enter product information and share it.

If you’re an architect or contractor, access information about materials that meet Google’s criteria and specify them for projects.

Together, we can all take a big step toward creating the healthiest buildings possible.

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