

Subscription Research Prospectus:

Wallcoverings

July 2019

Our interior spaces have an enormous impact on our health and productivity. We spend 90% of our time indoors. What we put in our buildings matters. It matters for our health, and the health of our children. It matters for the people and places throughout the manufacturing supply chain and construction trades interacting with materials. And, it matters for the health of the planet.

Unfortunately, there are chemicals of concern in everyday building products. Researchers and scientists have clearly linked exposure to these toxic chemicals to harmful human health impacts, yet, few of the large number of chemicals in use have been adequately tested for human health impacts. Significantly reducing toxic chemical use, especially those chemicals of concern deemed unnecessary, is essential to creating a healthy home.

In this project Healthy Building Network will research wallcoverings to establish best practice guidelines that can be incorporated into product specifications. The research will include identifying:

- different types of wall coverings
- relative market share of each
- common product content of each
- alternate content used
- hazards associated with the common and alternate content

This information will be used to develop best practice guidelines for wall coverings, guidance on specification language, and educational materials for manufacturers and product specifiers and purchasers.

I. Methodology

With decades of experience researching building materials and chemicals of concern, the Healthy Building Network is uniquely positioned to research and evaluate the content of wallcoverings.

The HBN research team will draw from its vast archives of product and chemical hazard data, including our Pharos Database. We will interview industry experts, and gather data from industry databases, patents, and publications.

Product Research: Research material content of selected product types and the hazards associated with this content using the HBN Common Product research methodology available at <https://www.pharosproject.net/material/cpmethodology>

Specification Guidance: Develop specification guidance, suggest best practice product selection criteria using HBN's HomeFree "Hazard Spectrum." (See: <https://homefree.healthybuilding.net/products>)

We will synthesize and provide full citations for the results in public work products.

HBN will retain editorial control over this work from start to publication. Please see our [Research & Consulting](#) webpage for our Subscription Research policy.

The project will have four components:

1. Scoping wallcoverings product category HBN will review the typical product types used in the marketplace, typical market share of each product type, and identify the most relevant product types to include in the research project.
2. Product Research HBN will evaluate up to 5 product types for the product category using the [Common Product Methodology](#), where data requirements are met we will generate a Common Product Profile to be hosted on the [Pharos website](#). These profiles include:

- a. A definition that describes the generic, non-manufacturer-specific composition and use of the product, researched and compiled by HBN.
- b. A Health Hazard Screening that describes the aggregated human health impacts of the product's composition, compiled by HBN through the Pharos Project database.

Product types recommended for review by HBN (subject to change based on information gathered during scoping phase):

- Vinyl coated paper
 - Solid sheet vinyl
 - Acoustical wall coverings
 - Polyethylene/polypropylene (standard and biobased)
 - Adhesive
3. Specification Guidance HBN will create product category hazard guidance. Where data are sufficient, [Product Category Hazard Spectrum](#) will be generated. We will produce a list of attributes for each product category that can be used to evaluate specific products. These attributes can be used by manufacturers to prioritize product improvement efforts and incorporated into master specifications and used by project teams to evaluate and prefer specific manufacturer's products. Examples of Product Category Hazard Guidance can be viewed here: <https://homefree.healthybuilding.net/products>
 4. Education HBN will provide a briefing to Subscribers in advance of the public release of our research. This will include a webinar presentation presenting the results for each product type, access to recorded versions of webinar, and advance notice of the public release date for the research.

II. General

- HBN will provide subscribers timely responses to questions on topics covered within this scope of work.
- HBN will participate in documentation and public presentations of the project as mutually agreed.

III. Timeline/Milestones:

Month	Milestones
1	Scoping Completed
4	Product Research and Specification Guidance completed
5	Subscriber briefing & public release.

IV. Cost, Payment & Subscription Terms:

Cost of the Subscription Research project described above is \$30,000.00 to be split equally among project subscribers.

The research schedule described above will commence upon receipt of subscription fees from all participating subscribers. If full payment by all subscribers is not received, funds will be returned to paying subscribers.

All subscribers will be acknowledged.

Subscribers acknowledge that this is not a collaborative research project. HBN will retain editorial control over this work from start to publication. Please see our [Research & Consulting](#) webpage for our Subscription Research policy.

V. Special Conditions or Instructions:

Product Category Hazard Guidance and Spectra and Common Product Research may be published on HBN's Websites and available for the public to use.

VI. Subscriber Contact Person(s) at HBN:

- Technical Contact: Teresa McGrath, Chief Research Officer, 651-261-2817, tmcgrath@healthybuilding.net

HEALTHYBUILDING.NET

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- Billing/Contracts Contact: Sarah Pickell, Finance Manager, 877-974-2767 x705, spickell@healthybuilding.net

VII. About HBN

Since 2000, HBN has defined the leading edge of healthy building practices that increase transparency in the building products industry, reduce human exposures to hazardous chemicals, and create market incentives for healthier innovations in manufacturing. We are a team of researchers, engineers, scientists, building experts, and educators, and pursue our mission on three fronts:

- Research & Policy – Uncovering cutting-edge information about healthier products and health impacts,
- Data Tools – Producing innovative software platforms that ensure product transparency and catalog chemical hazards, and
- Education and Capacity Building – Fostering others’ capabilities to make informed decisions

We work to reduce toxic chemical use, minimize hazards, and eliminate exposure, especially to those chemicals of concern deemed unnecessary or fail to improve product performance. We promote the development of affordable green chemistry solutions that support a healthy, successful, circular economy.