



Healthy Purchasing Guide

Right now, we know very little about what chemicals are in the goods and services we use. In most cases, our current laws don't require this type of information to be shared with the public. Of the approximately 143,000 chemicals used in commerce globally, the federal government has only required health and safety testing on a few hundred of them.

By integrating healthy purchasing elements into your existing purchasing and business processes you are encouraging the marketplace to provide the safest and least toxic goods and services. Additionally, you are protecting the health of your employees, the public, and the environment.

Healthy Purchasing Guidance

This guidance is designed to help you integrate healthy purchasing elements into a variety of different procurement tools. Healthy purchasing elements can be included in solicitations, contracts, and in vendor outreach to ensure safer and less toxic products and goods.

The following sections provide guidance to help you determine the most relevant options for integrating healthy purchasing elements into procurement documents. Within your existing business processes and purchasing tools there are multiple approaches for ensuring the safest and least toxic products and goods.

1) Solicitation language

Architecture RFPs

Decisions to promote public health and to protect the environment can have the greatest impact and cost effectiveness when applied early to the design and development phase of a process or product. Architects from the outset of any given project can influence the design of a project and the selection of materials and products.

Assign evaluation criteria and points for:

- How materials and production were selected on past projects
- How materials and products will be selected to ensure the safest, least toxic, and most economical options

Engineering RFPs

Decisions to promote public health and to protect the environment can have the greatest impact and cost effectiveness when applied early to the design and development phase of a process or product. Engineers from the outset of any given project can influence the design of a project and the selection of materials and products.



Healthy Purchasing Guide

Assign evaluation criteria and points for:

- How materials and products were selected on past projects
- How materials and products will be selected to ensure the safest, least toxic, and most economical options.

CMGC RFPs

Working collaboratively with the project architect and engineering teams, the CMGC can contribute to project design, value engineering, and material selection decisions that promote public health and protect the environment with the greatest impact and cost effectiveness when applied early to the design and development phase of a project.

Assign evaluation criteria and points for:

- How materials and products will be selected to ensure the safest, least toxic, and most economical options.
- How CMGC will work with architect and engineer teams to design and specify safest, least toxic, and most economical building, products, and materials

Commodities

Healthy purchasing considerations can be applied to a variety of commodities. Given the potential for exposure to workers and the public, as well as the environment, some of the most common products to apply healthy purchasing elements include flooring, furniture, electronics, and cleaning products. Depending on the purchasing tool some options include:

RFPs

- Request a Green Screen hazard score
- Provide the opportunity to describe how safer, less hazardous chemicals were used in the design and manufacture the good

Bids & ITB's

- Specify a relevant third-party certification for safer less toxic products
- Require that product meets specific Green Screen hazard score or other third-party testing standards
- Restrict specific substances or chemicals of concern such as the Living Building Challenge Red List
- Require completed Health Product Declarations as responsive bidding information for specific products



Healthy Purchasing Guide

2) Contract language

When creating contracts, there are a number of simple options for integrating healthy purchasing elements.

Options to consider for contracts:

- Specify the exclusion of specific chemicals of concern such as the Living Building Challenge Red List
- Require relevant third-party certification for products and materials (such as Green Seal)
- Require Health Product Declarations (HPDs) for specific product by a specific time frame
- Require HPDs for multiple products annually

3) Market feedback loops

While integrating healthy purchasing into solicitation and contracts is important, promoting information exchange with your vendor pool will support informed decision-making. Clearly communicating about the importance of human health will lead to the creation of safer chemistries and innovative products. Some options for including healthy purchasing in your vendor outreach include:

- Provide feedback to vendors that unsuccessfully address healthy purchasing in proposal during debriefs
- Share information about chemical hazard, industry best practices, or green chemistry with vendors
- Convene industry forums prior to developing solicitations to gather industry best practices, latest market trends, and industry feedback

For additional resources and tools:

www.multcopurch.org

www.multco.us/purchasing/healthy-purchasing

www.oconline.org