Safer Product Selection For Health & Environmental Justice

Roberto Valle Kinloch, HBN's HomeFree Manager

March 1, 2023





All people and the planet thrive when the environment is free of toxic chemicals.



Sustainable Built Environment

Energy
Water
Carbon
Location
O&M
Products &
Toxic
Chemicals







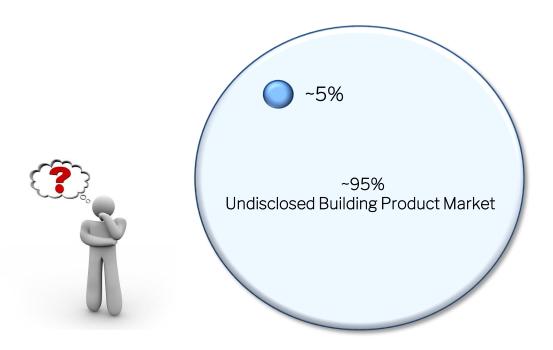
Current approaches to safer material selection



Product Transparency & Hazard Avoidance



How do you make an *informed decision* when the product you want is not yet disclosed?





Best in Class Better Good Reduce **Eliminate Worst in Class**

Actionable Guidance Built upon the Science

Packages rigorous material health analysis into digestible information.

Simple Color Ranking System

Let's you know what product types to avoid and what to prefer.

Tangible Connection to Impacts

Helps you visualize the potential health impacts of decisions.









Project Organization / Portfolio Policy



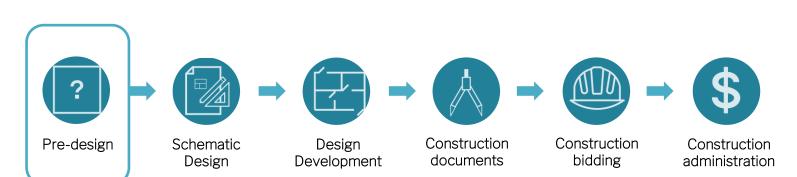
Project Level | Phases of Design, Building Typology, and Project Size

Pre-Design

- ✓ Materials modeling
- → opportunities for sustainability
- ✓ Stakeholder alignment & buy-in Residential Education Culture

Construction Administration

- - ✓ Value Engineering
 - ✓ Defend product choices
 - Engage contractors and suppliers Assembly Public spaces Industrial



Commercial

Project Level | Case Studies



Type: Residential Multifamily Affordable

Size: +70,000 sqft

Construction completed

- Linoleum
- Unfaced fiberglass insulation
- Low VOC APE-free paint

- Several hundreds of PVC avoided
 *compared against carpet tile with PVC backing
- Isocyanates and HFRs*compared against Spray Polyurethan Foam
- ★ Hundreds of pounds endocrine disruptors *compared against non-APE free paint



Type: Mixed-use Commercial

Size: +600,000 sqft (multi-phase)

Currently under construction

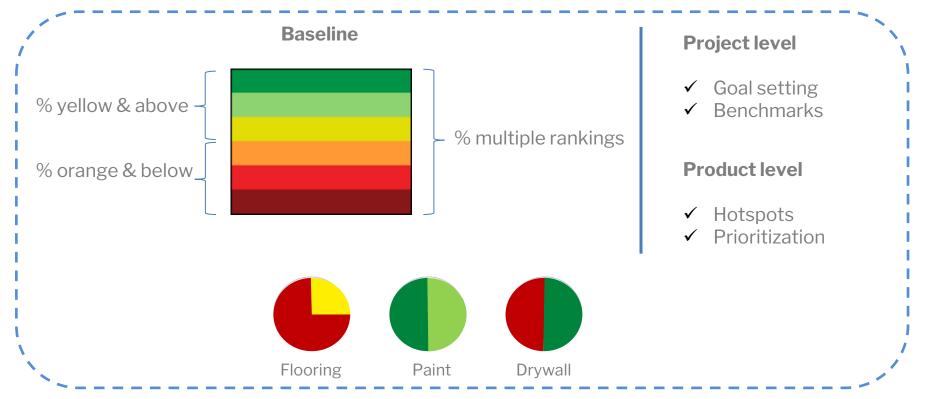
- ✓ Carpet reduction
- ✓ Avoid vinyl wall covering
- ✓ Avoid recycled tire crumb rubber

- Potentially avoid several thousands of PVC
- Carcinogens and developmental toxicants



Portfolio Level | Healthier Design Guidelines





Policy Level | Green Building Certifications



Integrative Design















Water Conservation

Integrative Design

- ✓ Project Priorities
- ✓ Stakeholder education and alignment
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Health Action Plan



- ✓ Material health is central to Sustainability efforts
- ✓ Consider impacts across the product lifecycle
- ✓ Think materials modeling
- ✓ Empower users to make informed, safer decisions

Thank You

Roberto Valle, rvalle@healthybuilding.net HomeFree Manager

