



## Difference between FloorScore Vs GreenGuard

### FloorScore Certification:

- **Purpose:** FloorScore is a certification program specifically for flooring products. It ensures that flooring materials meet strict indoor air quality (IAQ) emission requirements.
- **Emissions Criteria:** FloorScore measures the total volatile organic compounds (TVOCs), formaldehyde, and other harmful chemicals emitted from flooring materials.
- **Testing:** Products undergo rigorous testing in independent laboratories to ensure they meet the standards for low emissions.
  - *Floorscore has three tiers that you will see on the certificates: 0.5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> or less, between 0.5 and 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, or 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> or more.*
  - *Floorscore certificates will indicate which range the product falls under.*
  - *There is no upper limit for total VOCs, they go by upper limits on each of the 35 Volatile Organic Compounds specified by the California Standard Method for VOC Emissions Testing and Evaluation (Standard Method V1.2), otherwise known as CA Section 01350.*
- **Usage:** This certification is primarily used in the flooring industry, indicating that a flooring product has been tested and proven to have low emissions, promoting healthier indoor air quality.
- **Standards:** It is recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED program and can contribute to earning LEED points for indoor air quality.

### GreenGuard Certification:

- **Purpose:** GreenGuard certification is broader and not limited to flooring; it covers various products and materials used indoors, including furniture, building materials, and electronics.
- **Emissions Criteria:** Like FloorScore, GreenGuard focuses on indoor air quality and measures emissions of various chemicals such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs), formaldehyde, and phthalates.
- **Testing:** Products are tested for emissions in environmentally controlled chambers to simulate indoor conditions.
  - *GreenGuard allows – 500 µg/m<sup>3</sup> total VOCs. (GreenGuard Children and Schools which also measured for phthalates as well as VOCs, no longer exists).*
  - *For reference, the average house has a total VOC level of about 200 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, and the outdoor or “background rate” is about 1/10th of that (20 µg/m<sup>3</sup>).*
- **Usage:** Since it covers a wide range of products beyond flooring, GreenGuard certification indicates that a product meets stringent standards for low chemical emissions, promoting healthier indoor environments.
- **Standards:** There are different levels of GreenGuard certification, such as GreenGuard Certified and GreenGuard Gold, with Gold being more stringent and indicating even lower emissions.

### Main Differences:

- **Scope:** FloorScore is specifically for flooring products, while GreenGuard is for a broader range of indoor products.
- **Focus:** Both certifications focus on indoor air quality, but GreenGuard has a wider range of chemicals it tests for.
- **Recognition:** FloorScore is particularly recognized in the flooring industry and by organizations like the USGBC for LEED certification, while GreenGuard is recognized across various industries beyond flooring.

*When a Floorscore certificate indicates total VOCs (TVOC) of 0.5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, this is the same level as standard GreenGuard.*