



# The Power of Sustainability

NSF/ANSI 342 Sustainability  
Assesment for Wallcovering Products



# Setting the Standard for Sustainability

The WA Sustainability Standard NSF/ANSI 342 brings the architectural and design community clarity and peace of mind when specifying sustainable wallcoverings. The Wallcoverings Association (WA) alongside NSF International, a leader in standards development and product certification, developed this third-party certification through a consensus-based public process that included a multi-stakeholder group, including manufacturers, suppliers, regulatory agencies, customers, end users, academics and other industry participants. Certified products are third-party verified to the standard to assure you that those you select are truly sustainable.

The first of its kind in the world, this multi-attribute sustainability standard for wallcoverings requires both a qualified distributor and manufacturer to certify product. Certification goes beyond the product to ensure that the manufacturer and the distributor adhere to sustainable practices. Certification is available for all categories of wallcoverings if they can meet criteria in six key areas, including:

- ✓ Product design
- ✓ Product manufacturing
- ✓ Long-term value
- ✓ End-of-life management
- ✓ Corporate governance
- ✓ Innovation

Products are evaluated from raw material extraction through manufacturing and distribution. Based on this thorough evaluation process, wallcoverings are certified as **Platinum, Gold, Silver or Conformant**.

The NSF/ANSI 342 standard for sustainable wallcoverings is designed to drive continuous improvement in environmental performance by encouraging collaboration within the industry and recognizes exemplary performance of companies that are committed to sustainable practices.



## What makes this standard unique?

Unique to NSF/ANSI 342 is the participation of both the manufacturer and distributor. Product certification is a combination of the points from both entities. Products can carry different certification levels based on the specific manufacturer/distributor pairing. A database is available at [www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org).

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is NSF?

NSF International is an independent not-for-profit organization committed to certifying products and writing standards for food, water and consumer goods.

## What is ANSI?

ANSI is the American National Standards Institute, a private, non-profit organization that oversees the development of voluntary consensus standards for products. The process is open to representatives from all interested parties, promoting the development of a balanced, consensus-based standard.

## What makes NSF/ANSI 342 important?

As a leader, the WA developed this standard which establishes transparency in product manufacturing, and goes beyond to follow the life of certified products all the way through the distribution channel into the marketplace. In doing so, this is the only standard which includes distributor participation. Our goal is to continue to be at the table with GSA, USGBC, Green Globes and other leaders to build acceptance and recognition for the standard. This cooperation will assist members of the A&D community as they make educated decisions on sustainable product selections for their projects.

## How is this standard multi-attribute?

This standard considers an entire spectrum of characteristics that impact the environment, such as recycled content, low VOC, energy consumption, carbon footprint, chemicals of concern, waste stream, social responsibility and more.

## Why is third-party certification important?

NSF/ANSI 342 is verified by NSF International, the certifying body. NSF evaluates claims and monitors processes to ensure the standard is met. Yearly evaluation and requalification are required. Self-certified standards simply do not have the same credibility as third-party certified standards.





Wallcoverings Association

[www.wallcoverings.org](http://www.wallcoverings.org)

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