



Green Seal™ Standard for Sanitary Paper Products, Edition 6.1

A Guide to Leadership in Sanitary Paper

Sanitary paper is widely used for cleaning and convenience. The unsustainable sourcing of fibers that make up the paper can cause significant water pollution and soil degradation. The manufacturing process may release pollution that can be hazardous to human and aquatic life, and may expose workers to harmful chemicals such as chlorine.

To reduce these types of negative environmental and health impacts, Green Seal developed the GS-1 Standard as a comprehensive benchmark for sustainable sanitary paper products. Certification to this standard helps purchasers and consumers identify products that are sustainability leaders in the industry.

Scope of Standard

This standard establishes environmental, health, and social requirements for sanitary paper.

Product-Specific Performance Requirements

The standard addresses basis weight, tensile strength, stretch, water absorbency, and minimum product per roll/package requirements for each product category.

Fiber Requirements

The fiber source must either be made from 100% recovered material, up to 85% agricultural residue, with the balance made from post-consumer material, or any combination of recovered material and agricultural residue, with the balance of the product made from post-consumer material. Products made from recovered material shall meet the following post-consumer material requirements:

Product Category	Post-Consumer Material Requirements
Paper Towels, General-Purpose Wipes, and Napkins	50%
Bathroom Tissue	25%
Facial Tissue	15%
Toilet Seat Covers	25%
Placemats/Tray Liners	40%

Product-Specific Sustainability Requirements

The papermaking processes must be *Processed Chlorine Free* and may not contain any additives or contaminants that are, or are known to produce or release, carcinogens, mutagens, or reproductive toxins. Also prohibited are chlorophenolic biocides; fragrances; heavy metals, including but not limited to lead, chromium, or selenium in both elemental forms or compounds and ozone-depleting compounds.

Optical brighteners used as an additive may not exceed 200 ppm. Any additives used in the papermaking process, except for inorganic compounds, polymers, optical brighteners, and biocides, shall be readily biodegradable.

Social Responsibility

Documentation must be provided that the production of the product meets: Freedom of Association, Collective Bargaining, Freedom of Labor, Freedom from Discrimination, and Occupational Health and Safety Conditions of Employment.

Manufacturing Sustainability Requirements

Air and wastewater monitoring and solid waste data must be reported for processes including re-pulping, deinking, papermaking, product converting, and waste treatment. If a manufacturer only converts, then the supplier of the parent rolls will be required to provide the additional relevant data. The manufacturing process must also meet fresh water and energy use levels set in the standard.

Packaging Requirements

Packaging made from paper or paperboard must be recyclable and made from 100% recovered material. Packaging made from containerboard (corrugated cardboard) must be recyclable and made from at least 30% recovered material. Packaging made from plastic must be recyclable, source-reduced by 20%, or contain 25% recovered material content (pre or post-consumer).

Criteria include limits on inks, dyes, pigments, stabilizers, lead, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium with respect to packaging. Phthalates, bisphenol A, and chlorinated packaging material are prohibited from being intentionally introduced in packaging; an exception shall be made for packages with added phthalates, bisphenol A, or chlorinated packaging material solely from the addition of post-consumer material.

Labeling Requirements

The manufacturer's label shall include a statement encouraging proper disposal of the product and encouraging recycling of packaging.

If used, the Green Seal Certification Mark must appear visibly on the product with a clear written description of the basis for its certification, provided by Green Seal. Any language used that varies from the description provided, may be used with written approval from Green Seal. All labeling of the product must comply with government labeling requirements, in addition to Green Seal requirements.

This is only a summary of the standard.

The full standard is available for download at: GreenSeal.org/GS1

For more information call (202) 872-4000 or email [greenseal@greenseal.org](mailto:green seal@greenseal.org).

Green Seal is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to safeguarding the environment and transforming the marketplace by promoting the manufacture, purchase, and use of environmentally responsible products and services. Founded in 1989, Green Seal provides life-cycle, science-based environmental certification standards that are credible, transparent, and essential to creating a more sustainable world.