



Understanding the Role of Nydree Flooring Products in LEED

LEED® -- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

Introduction

For organizations concerned about increasing the value and efficiency of their buildings, the most sought-after certification is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification, developed and administered by the U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org), a member-based non-profit organization. The LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Multiple studies have shown that LEED certification has concrete benefits:

- Enhanced occupant well-being and comfort
- Reduced operating costs
- Reduced environmental impact
- Increased building valuation
- Increased return on investment
- Marketing advantage
- Reduced absenteeism and employee turnover
- Increased retail sales

LEED Certification

LEED evolves with time. The version of LEED that is most commonly used today is LEED 2009 (also known as LEEDv3). The most recent version of LEED is LEEDv4 and was launched in the fall of 2013. As of October 31, 2016 all new LEED projects must register using LEEDv4.

LEED rating systems are organized into a number of broad environmental categories:

LEED 2009

Sustainable Sites (SS)
Water Efficiency (WE)
Energy and Atmosphere (EA)
Materials and Resources (MR)
Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ)
Innovation in Design (ID)

LEEDv4

Integrative Process (IP)
Location & Transportation (LT)
Sustainable Sites (SS)
Water Efficiency (WE)
Energy and Atmosphere (EA)
Materials and Resources (MR)
Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ)
Regional Priority (RP)
Innovation (IN)

These categories are further subdivided into Prerequisites and Credits that cover a particular green measure that fits in the broad category. Prerequisites must be fulfilled in order for a building to achieve a LEED rating. Credits are associated with one or more points. Each Credit is identified by the letters that are abbreviations of the category it fits in and a number. For example, Sustainable Site Credit 3 in LEED 2009 is for Brownfield Redevelopment and is identified as SSc3, and Materials and Resources Credit 7 is for Certified Wood and is abbreviated MRC7.

There are four different levels of achievement under LEED: from lowest to highest, Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. These levels are attained by earning successively higher numbers of points (and, of course, by satisfying all prerequisites). The number of points you need to earn to achieve a given level varies according to the rating system, but Platinum is much more difficult to achieve than Certified.

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Nydree Flooring and LEED

Following are the LEED Credits (LEED 2009 and LEEDv4) for which Nydree Flooring products can help earn points.

LEED 2009

Materials & Resources Section

MRC4 – Recycled Content

How the Credit Works: To earn a point, the LEED project must use materials with recycled content such that the sum of post-consumer recycled content plus one-half of the pre-consumer content constitutes at least 10% (based on cost) of the total value of materials in the project.

How Nydree Flooring Qualifies: *Nydree Flooring's Reclaimed products are made up of 22% post-consumer content (the reclaimed wood wear layer)*

MRC5 – Regional Materials

How the Credit Works: To earn a point, the LEED project must use building materials or products that have been extracted, harvested or recovered, as well as manufactured, within 500 miles of the project site for a minimum of 10% (based on cost) of the total materials value.

How Nydree Flooring Qualifies: *Nydree Flooring's manufacturing facility is located in Karthaus, Pennsylvania in proximity to one of the most populous regions of the United States. Certain wear layer species, constituting approximately 22% of our engineered flooring by volume, qualify for this credit.*

MRC7 – Certified Wood

How the Credit Works: To earn a point, at least 50% (by cost) of the permanently-installed wood products used in the LEED project must be certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

How Nydree Flooring Qualifies: *The majority of our products are available as FSC-Certified. The FSC claim for our flooring is FSC Mix 78%.*

FSC License Code: FSC-C100512

FSC Certificate Code: SCS-COC-003343

Indoor Environmental Quality Section

EQc4.1 – Low-Emitting Materials-Adhesives & Sealants

How the Credit Works: All adhesives and sealants need to comply with low VOC limits.

How Nydree Flooring Qualifies: *MRA1585™, the recommended adhesive for all Nydree Flooring products, contains no solvents. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) is 0 grams/liter, as calculated per SCAQMD 1168.*

EQc4.3 – Low-Emitting Materials-Flooring Systems:

How the Credit Works: All hard surface flooring (including wood flooring) must be certified as compliant with the FloorScore® standard by an independent third party.

How Nydree Flooring Qualifies: *Nydree Flooring has been independently tested and is certified under the FloorScore program. (Registration # SCS-FS-02349) Nydree Flooring conforms to California specification 01350.*

EQc4.4 – Low-Emitting Materials-Composite Wood &

AgriFiber Products: Composite wood products may not contain added urea-formaldehyde resins.

How Nydree Flooring Qualifies: *No additional urea-formaldehyde resins are used in the manufacture of Nydree Engineered Acrylic Infused Wood Flooring, nor in the subcomponents thereof.*

LEEDv4

Materials & Resources Section

MRC3 – Building Product Disclosure and Optimization – Sourcing of Raw Materials

How the Credit Works: MRC3 offers two options for compliance, each of which offers 1 point. Option 1 rewards the use of products where the manufacturer issues a report on raw material suppliers meeting a complex list of requirements. Option 2 rewards the use of products meeting any of the following environmental criteria:

- Extended producer responsibility

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- Bio-based materials meeting the Sustainable Agriculture Standard
- FSC-certified wood
- Materials reuse
- Recycled content

In order to earn the point, at least 25%, by cost, of the total value of permanently installed building products used in the project must meet at least one of the above criteria.

How Nydree Flooring Qualifies: *The majority of our products are available as FSC-Certified. The FSC claim for our flooring is FSC Mix 78%. In addition, some of our products are made up of 22% post-consumer content (the reclaimed wood wear layer)*

MRC4 – Building Product Disclosure and Optimization – Material Ingredients

How the Credit Works: MRC4 offers three options for compliance, each of which offers 1 point. Option 1 awards a point for the use of at least 20 different permanently installed products from at least 5 different manufacturers that use any of the following programs to demonstrate the chemical inventory of the product to at least 0.1% (1000 ppm):

- Manufacturer Inventory
- Health Product Declaration
- Cradle to Cradle certification (Basic or Bronze level)

Option 2 awards a point for the use of building products that document their material ingredient optimization through one of the following paths:

- GreenScreen Benchmark
- Cradle to Cradle certification (Silver, Gold, Platinum level)
- REACH optimization

Option 3 awards a point for the use of products that use a complex supply chain optimization process.

How Nydree Flooring Qualifies: *Nydree Flooring is soon to have a Health Product Declaration that is third-party certified by Scientific Certification Systems. Nydree flooring will then qualify for MRC4 Option 1.*

Indoor Environmental Quality Section

EQc2 – Low-Emitting Materials

How the Credit Works: EQc2 covers volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions to indoor air and the VOC content of materials, as well as the testing methods by which indoor VOC emissions are determined. Different materials must meet different requirements to be considered compliant.

Nydree's engineered flooring is a hardwood wear layer on a plywood platform and falls in the Composite Wood category for this credit. As such, it must be documented to have low formaldehyde emissions that meet the California Air Resource Board (CARB) ACTM for formaldehyde requirements for ultra-low-emitting formaldehyde (ULEF) resins or no added formaldehyde (NAF) resins.

How Nydree Flooring Qualifies: *Nydree's wood flooring uses ULEF resins and is compliant with CARB Phase 2, the most recent and stringent CARB regulations. Our CARB compliance is confirmed on our invoices and on label on our boxes of flooring.*

All information included in this document is communicated solely as interpreted by Nydree Flooring and in no way attempts to represent the opinion of the United States Green Building Council. Nydree Flooring strongly recommends that a LEED Accredited Professional be involved at all stages of the building and certification processes.

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