

## Why?

Here at Alcatop we care about the impact our buildings have on the environment, occupants, and community. The materials we choose for our projects have a direct impact on environmental and human health. We believe in taking a holistic view of material selection, incorporating their health and life cycle impact as part of our decision-making process. Because there are chemicals used in the production of materials that are now known to have wide-reaching health impacts, Alcatop is taking steps to reduce toxic chemical use in our buildings. We chose to eliminate the following chemicals as they are extremely prevalent in many building products, and have known wide reaching health impacts from extraction to use to disposal.

## NO: HIGHLY FLUORINATED CHEMICALS

**What:** Treatments for stain and water repellant properties that contains a class of over 3,000 long-chain chemicals (PFCs or PFAs). They migrate out of products and make their way into air, dust, and bodies.

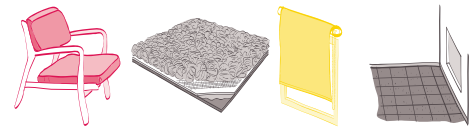
**Where:** Carpet, textiles, furnishing, grout, sealants, coatings

**Ask:** Specify products without added stain treatments  
For carpet, solution-dyed with waterproof backing is stain resistant without added treatments

**Why:** Health hazards: carcinogen, development toxicity, reproductive toxicity, endocrine disruptor

Environmental hazards: persistent, bioaccumulative

Part of Green Science Policy Institute's Six Classes of Chemicals of Concern



## ANTIMICROBIALS (ADDED AS PART OF HEALTH CLAIM)

**What:** Chemicals added to products to kill or inhibit the growth of microbes. Also called antibacterials or biocides.

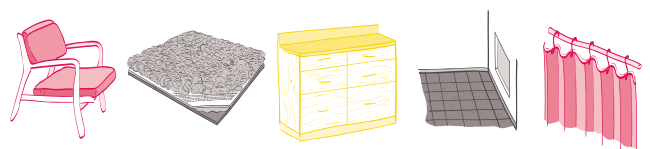
**Where:** Countertops, carpet, ACT, insulation, furniture, flooring

**Ask:** Specify products without added antimicrobial treatments, especially ones that are part of health claims (language such as "controls growth of," "reduces growth of," and "controls allergens"). Use materials that are antimicrobial by nature like stainless steel or cork. Antimicrobials are frequently used in building products as preservatives, but it is currently not feasible to remove them from most products.

**Why:** Health hazards: antibiotic resistance, asthmogenic, endocrine disruption

Environmental hazards: persistent, bioaccumulative, and harmful to aquatic ecosystems

Part of Green Science Policy Institute's Six Classes of Chemicals of Concern



## NO: FLAME RETARDANTS

**What:** Chemicals that are added to materials with the intention, but actually do very little, to prevent and slow ignition of fire. They migrate out of products and make their way into air, dust, and bodies.

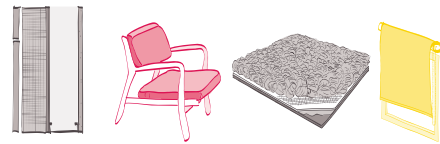
**Where:** Carpet, carpet padding, insulation, furniture foam, textiles, gypsum board, interior shades

**Ask:** Specify products that meet CA TB117-2013 and contain “no added flame retardants”  
Use a barrier fabric when necessary to meet fire code, and/or use materials that are flame retardant by nature like wool, mineral wool or cork

**Why:** Health hazards: carcinogen, development & reproductive toxicity, endocrine disruptor, neurotoxicity

Environmental hazards: persistent, bioaccumulative, and harmful to aquatic ecosystems

Part of Green Science Policy Institute’s Six Classes of Chemicals of Concern



## VINYL

**What:** A chlorinated plastic including PVC, CPVC, PVDC

**Where:** Carpet backing, interior shades, resilient flooring, wall base, wall covering, roofing, shower curtains

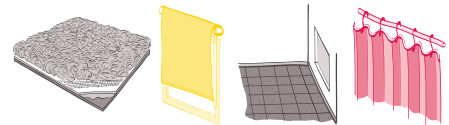
**Ask:** Specify vinyl-free alternative such as TPO shades and rubber, linoleum or resinous flooring

**Why:** Dioxin, a carcinogen, is released during manufacturing & disposal, toxic additives leach out during use, asbestos consumed and released during production

Health hazards: carcinogen, asthmogenic, development toxicity

Environmental hazards: persistent

On the Living Building Challenge Red List



## FUTURE INVESTIGATION:

- Embodied energy impact / Life cycle assessment
- Materials used in the office to build models and furniture

Sources:

Green Science Policy Institute, Six Classes: <http://www.sixclasses.org/>

Perkins + Will, Precautionary List: <https://transparency.perkinswill.com/>

Living Building Challenge Red List: <https://living-future.org/declare/declare-about/red-list/> Harvard

<https://green.harvard.edu/chemicals-concern>

Healthy Building Network: <https://healthybuilding.net/reports>

May 20, Dec 2022

RE: Product Content Transparency

Dear Building Material Manufacturer Representative:

At Alcatop we care about the impact our buildings have on the environment, occupants, and community. The materials we choose for our projects have a direct impact on the environment and human health. Product selection is a complex process, but we believe in taking a holistic view for material selection, incorporating health and life cycle impact as part of our decision-making process.

To understand how our material decisions affect human health and the environment, we are asking for you to share information about product contents, their associated health hazards, and in addition eliminate specific chemicals of concern. Alcatop's material policy is focusing on eliminating specific chemicals of concern: highly fluorinated chemicals (PFCs), antimicrobials, flame retardants, and vinyl (PVC, CPVC, PVDC).

Products that meet our policy will have preference in our physical library. See attached policy document for more details. This is meant to be a living document that will evolve as industry knowledge expands and as Alcatop further develops our design and selection process. We are also requesting transparency for products regarding health and environmental impacts. Our overall material policy goal is to use materials in our projects that positively impact human health, climate, environment, and society. Alcatop is a signer of the Material Pledge letter committing to this.

The Health Product Declaration Open Standard (HPD) is an easy-to-reference standard format that systematizes reporting language to enable the consistent disclosure of building product content and associated health information. It is freely available for your use from the HPD Collaborative. Additionally, the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) protocol facilitates the consistent development and reporting of flows of energy, carbon, water and other pollutants from product Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) and characterizes related environmental impacts. We urge you to complete, and make publicly available, an HPD and EPD for each of your products.

We are integrating the comprehensive health and environmental product information provided by complete HPDs and EPDs into our daily practice and are eliminating the chemicals of concern as stated in Alcatop's material policy. Working together, we can truly enhance the human experience of our built environment, enrich the health of building occupants, and protect the environment.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Alcatop Signatory Authority