

Furniture Extension for **MADE SAFE** Certified

Version 1.2 (2026)

MADEWORKS™
Intelligence

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Products carrying the MADE SAFE seal represent a company's commitment to a healthy and sustainable marketplace and ensure that no known or suspected toxic materials and ingredients were added in their production. This gives shoppers comfort at the point of purchase that products do not contain added substances that are known to be unsafe for use on their bodies, with their families, and in their homes. The MADE SAFE Certification is an incredible badge of honor, meeting the high ingredient and material standards of MADEWORKS and MADE SAFE.

The scientifically rigorous MADE SAFE Screening Process is an independent third-party review that determines that the materials in a given product are made without known or suspected harmful substances. We aim to eliminate the use of harmful chemicals in products, to change the way products are made, and to solve the consumer conundrum over toxic substances.

Our goal is to ensure that products that undergo our certification process do not contain substances known or suspected to be harmful. We screen for known toxic substances in the following categories:

Behavioral Toxins	Fire Retardants	High-Risk Pesticides
Carcinogens	Harmful VOCs	Reproductive Toxins
Developmental Toxins	Heavy Metals	Toxic Solvents
Endocrine Disruptors	Neurotoxins	

The MADE SAFE Screening Process

- 1. MADE Banned List Screen:** We start by doing a search of all materials through the MADE Banned List, which contains over 15,000 of the most harmful substances compiled from authoritative lists from around the world which are prohibited or restricted from use in MADE SAFE Certified products. It is not an exhaustive list by any means, but rather a starting point for companies wanting to pursue MADE SAFE Certification.

Determinations to ban substances—with the goal of avoiding the worst hazards found in products we use in our homes and daily routines—are backed by science from government agencies, scientific organizations and/or subject-area experts. Substances on the MADE Banned List fall into one of the many human and environmental toxicity categories that MADEWORKS evaluates.

The MADE Banned List contains known and probable harmful substances such as:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| - Toxic antibacterials + antimicrobials | - Endangered species | - High-risk pesticides |
| - Harmful artificial colors + dyes | - Ethanolamine ingredients | - Polysorbates |
| - Bisphenols | - Formaldehyde releasers | - Retinol derivatives |
| - Carcinogens | - Toxic flame retardants | - Siloxanes + silanes |
| - Chemicals of high concern | - Fluorinated + PFAS compounds | - Ecotoxic surfactants |
| - Chemicals classified as persistent, bioaccumulative, or toxic to aquatic life or terrestrial life | - Toxic fragrance ingredients | - Paraffin oil, paraffin wax, petrolatum + liquid paraffinum ingredients |
| - Coal tar ingredients | - Genotoxins | - Parabens |
| - Endocrine disruptors | - Heavy metals | - Phthalates |
| - Behavioral toxins | - Isothiazolinone preservatives | - Poisonous plants |
| - Developmental toxins | - Isocyanates | - Silver compounds |
| - Reproductive toxins | - Nanomaterials | - Synthetic musks |
| - Neurotoxins | - Toxic solvents | - Harmful UV blockers + filters |
| - Teratogens | - Persistent organic pollutants | - Harmful VOCs |
| | - PCBs | |
| | - Polyethylene glycol compounds (PEGs) | |

- 2. MADE Substance Database Screen:** If not found on the MADE Banned List, each ingredient/material is run through the MADE Substance Database to determine if it has been previously reviewed. All substances that have not been previously reviewed are put through our MADE Ecosystem Approach, below. If the substance has already been reviewed, the determination on file regarding eligibility for use in certified products is communicated to the company.

3. MADE Ecosystem Approach: If a substance is not on the MADE Banned List and has not been previously reviewed, it is assessed using the MADE Ecosystem Approach. This approach is used to assess individual ingredients/materials to determine whether they are likely to cause adverse effects in humans, the environment, aquatic life, or terrestrial life. The assessment can be completed by answering six general questions:

- a. Is the substance in question likely to bioaccumulate?
- b. Is the substance in question likely to be persistent in the environment?
- c. Does the substance in question exhibit high aquatic toxicity?
- d. Does the substance in question exhibit high terrestrial life toxicity?
- e. Is the substance in question known or suspected to be harmful to human health?
- f. Are unavoidable problematic supply chain or manufacturing impurities known or suspected to contaminate the substance in question?

Typically, if the answer to any of the questions above is “yes,” the substance is generally not eligible for use in MADE SAFE products, though there are some exceptions.

Ingredients or Materials in Question: There may be times that a substance isn’t conclusively problematic, nor is it definitively safer. In those instances, we send the ingredient or material to toxicologists, researchers, and/or area-specific experts in order to get more information. When we have questions that cannot be answered, we typically opt to exercise the Precautionary Principle and so do not allow such substances, until further study is available.

Hazard-Based Approach: MADEWORKS evaluates substances using a hazard-based approach, as opposed to a risk-based approach. A risk-based approach asks, at what percentage or level can a substance be used before it’s considered toxic? A hazard-based approach says, if a substance is toxic, it should not be used. As an organization, MADEWORKS primarily employs a hazard-based approach and typically does not permit substances known to be toxic to people or the ecosystem, regardless of concentration. Please note that there are exceptions.

Furniture Standard for MADE SAFE Certification

The MADE Banned List

The MADE Banned List (MBL) is not a comprehensive list of all the substances prohibited from use in MADE SAFE Certified products. Rather, the MBL is the first step towards MADE SAFE Certification. In the screening process, a company's ingredients and/or materials are screened against the MADE Banned List. If a MBL substance is not added to the product, it may proceed to the next step, in which it undergoes numerous additional layers of scrutiny. If a MBL substance is added to the product, it is typically not eligible for MADE SAFE Certification or it may have restrictions.

The MADE Ecosystem Approach + Material Eligibility

Below, some materials and their associated use case restrictions determined as a result of review via the MADE Ecosystem Approach process are listed. Note that it's not possible to provide a comprehensive list of all materials and their criteria, as new materials are consistently hitting the market and materials are continually being used in novel ways that have not been previously reviewed by MADEWORKS.

Below, you'll find materials listed with their corresponding eligibility for use in MADE SAFE Certification, as well as use case restrictions that apply to that material.

Material	Eligibility for Use in MADE SAFE Certified Products	Use Case Restriction Details
Acrylic	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted for minor necessary uses (safety buckles, drawer hardware, etc.). Not permitted for use as a textile.
Adhesives	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted for coil adhesion and select structural uses. Not recommended.
Alpaca, organic	Eligible	N/A
Cotton, organic	Eligible	N/A
Elastic	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted for fitted sheets and necessary clothing elastic bands. Other uses approved on case-by-case basis.
Graphite	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as flame retardant in mattresses and furniture.

Hemp, organic	Eligible	N/A
Kapok	Eligible	N/A
Laminated veneer lumber (LVL) (NAF)	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as minor component in furniture.
Laminated veneer lumber (LVL) (Standard or ULEF)	Not Eligible	
Latex, natural	Eligible	N/A
Medium-density fiberboard (MDF) (NAF)	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as minor component in furniture; justification required.
Medium-density fiberboard (MDF) (Standard or ULEF)	Not Eligible	
Nylon	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as zipper teeth only. Metal zipper recommended. Also permitted for necessary safety features.
Paint	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	See below for more information on paint.
Particleboard (NAF)	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as minor component in furniture; justification required.
Particleboard (Standard or ULEF)	Not eligible	
PFAS	Not Eligible	
Paraffin wax, paraffin oil, and mineral oil	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted for select durable goods: limited to coatings/paint in furniture.
Plastic	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as zipper teeth only. Metal zipper recommended. Also permitted for necessary uses like drawer slides.
Plywood (NAF)	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as minor component in furniture.
Plywood (Standard or ULEF)	Not Eligible	
Polyester	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as sewing thread to boost product longevity for durable goods (mattresses, furniture, etc.), select uses for waterproofing, and as cover/ticking material in crib mattresses when specifically used to prevent suffocation.
(Poly)ethylene vinyl acetate (PEVA)	Not Eligible	
Polylactic acid (PLA)	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as waterproofing and for select uses to boost product longevity for durable goods (mattresses, furniture, etc.).
Polypropylene	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as waterproofing and for select uses to boost product longevity for durable goods (mattresses, furniture, etc.).

Polyurethane coating	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as waterproofing in mattresses.
Polyurethane foam	Not Eligible	
Powder coating	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted on case-by-case basis.
PVC/Vinyl	Not Eligible	
Rayon	Not Eligible	
Silica	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as flame retardant in mattresses and furniture.
Silk, organic	Eligible	N/A
Spandex	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted for fitted sheets and necessary clothing elastic bands. Other uses approved on case-by-case basis.
Stain, wood	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	See below for more information on stain.
Steel or other metals	Eligible; Use Case Restrictions	Permitted as zipper, coil component, drawer hardware, etc.
Synthetic flame retardants	Not Eligible	
Tencel	Eligible	N/A
Viscose, bamboo-derived	Eligible	N/A
Viscose, tree-derived	Eligible	N/A
Waxes and oils, plant-derived	Eligible	Permitted based on plant species.
Waxes and oils, synthetic	Eligible	Permitted based on substance type.
Wood, solid	Eligible	N/A
Wool, organic	Eligible	N/A

Note: Non-organic versions of the eligible materials listed above may be eligible for use case exceptions, depending on sourcing and function. Determinations are made only after submission for review and evaluation using the MADE Ecosystem Approach.

Note on Use Case Exceptions: Use case exceptions are determined on a case-by-case basis. New use cases (i.e. novel ways of using a material) that have not been previously reviewed by our team are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Typically, commitment to phasing out the material over time is required in order for approval for certification, though this is also determined on a case-by-case basis. We aim to continually push the market to innovate on substances and materials granted use case exceptions. Therefore, it is our expectation that companies are not stationary when it comes to use case exception materials and innovation; companies should perform their due diligence to identify and source materials that are safer and more sustainable with the goal of improvement over time.

Considerations for Selecting Eligible Materials and Manufacturing Inputs

Wood and Wood-Derived Materials

Wood and wood-derived materials are permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products, with use case restrictions and as overviewed below. MADE SAFE standards are adapted from Habitable's Interior Wood Doors, Cabinetry, and Millwork Product Guidance.

Permitted; preferred:

The following material is the leading option for MADE SAFE Certified products:

- Solid wood: permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products, with few use case restrictions

Permitted; not preferred:

The following best-in-class materials are generally permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products as components.

- Laminated veneer lumber (LVL) (NAF): LVL with no added formaldehyde is permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products as a minor component with use case restrictions. Solid wood should be prioritized.
- Plywood (NAF): Plywood with no added formaldehyde is permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products as a minor component with use case restrictions. Solid wood should be prioritized.

Permitted with approved justifications; not preferred:

The following materials are generally permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products as minor components. Companies who wish to use these materials must submit a justification petition to MADEWORKS overviewing the purpose of the material and why it's necessary in the product. Permission is based on MADEWORKS' approval of the justification petition.

- Medium-density fiberboard (MDF) (NAF): MDF with no added formaldehyde is permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products as a minor component with use case restrictions when justification petition is approved by MADEWORKS. Solid wood should be prioritized.

- Particleboard (NAF): Particleboard with no added formaldehyde is permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products as a minor component with use case restrictions when justification petition is approved by MADEWORKS. Solid wood should be prioritized.

Not Permitted:

The following materials are generally not permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products.

- Laminated veneer lumber (LVL) (Standard or ULEF)
- Medium-density fiberboard (MDF) (Standard or ULEF)
- Particleboard (Standard or ULEF)
- Plywood (Standard or ULEF)

Wood and wood-derived materials are typically subject to the following additional requirements. Note that this is not an exhaustive list of requirements and not all requirements are required for all wood and wood-derived materials

- Complete composition declaration, including identity of glues used, if applicable
- Complete manufacturing process information
- Sustainable sourcing documentation (FSC, SFI, etc.)
- GREENGUARD Gold certification or equivalent

Paint

Paint is permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products, with use case restrictions and as overviewed below. MADE SAFE standards are adapted from Habitable's Interior Paint Product Guidance.

Permitted; preferred:

The following paints are the leading options for MADE SAFE Certified products

- Lime paint: Lime paint is permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products, with use case restrictions
- Mineral silicate paint: Mineral silicate paint is permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products, with use case restrictions

Permitted; not preferred:

The following best-in-class paint is generally permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products

- Acrylic/latex paint free of APEs and PFAS: Acrylic/latex paint free of APEs and PFAS is permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products with use case restrictions. Paint in the preferred category should be prioritized.

Not Permitted:

The following paints are generally not permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products

- Waterborne alkyd paints free of APEs and PFAS
- Acrylic/latex paint containing APEs and/or PFAS
- Waterborne alkyd paints containing APEs and/or PFAS
- Solventborne alkyd paints

Paints are typically subject to the following additional requirements. Note that this is not an exhaustive list of paint requirements.

- Complete composition declaration
- PFAS-free documentation
- APE-free documentation
- GREENGUARD Gold certification or equivalent

Stains, Finishes + Coatings

Stains, finishes, and coatings materials are permitted in MADE SAFE Certified products, with use case restrictions and as overviewed below. All materials are subject to review through the MADE SAFE screening process, and eligibility depends on the complete composition and intended use.

Wood Stains

Wood stains are eligible for use in furniture with use case restrictions. The specific types of stains that may be permitted and the applicable rules will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Required documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- Complete composition declaration
 - PFAS-free documentation
 - APE-free documentation
 - GREENGUARD Gold certification or equivalent
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Paraffin Wax, Paraffin Oil, and Mineral Oil

Paraffin wax, paraffin oil, and mineral oil may be permitted for select durable goods as alternatives to coatings or paint in furniture. These materials are subject to use case restrictions and review of their refining history.

Required documentation includes:

- Complete composition declaration
- Full refining history demonstrating control of potential polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon contamination

Plant-Derived Waxes and Oils

Plant-derived waxes and oils are eligible, subject to review of the specific plant-derived material and any applicable substance-specific requirements.

Synthetic Waxes and Oils

Synthetic waxes and oils are eligible, subject to review of the specific ingredient and any applicable substance-specific requirements.

Powder Coatings

The eligibility and requirements for powder coatings are determined on a case-by-case basis. Powder coatings must be submitted for review, and no general eligibility determination should be assumed.

General Textile Manufacturing Input Guidance

Manufacturing inputs (pigments, dyes, finishes, processing aids, sizing agents, spinning aids, washing surfactants, etc.) that are GOTS approved inputs must be used exclusively in manufacturing in order to achieve MADE SAFE Certification. Note that while accepted as a substantiation of compliance, finished products do not need to be GOTS certified to gain MADE SAFE Certification. Rather, individual inputs may be demonstrated to be GOTS permitted.

Plant-Derived Materials + Manufacturing Inputs

Endangered Plants

Endangered plants are restricted within MADE SAFE Certified products. While we generally recommend removing or replacing them, if appropriate proof of sustainability can be provided, the ingredient may be permitted in the formulation in some cases.

Palm-Derived Ingredients

Palm-derived ingredients, materials and inputs are permitted within certified products, but must be sourced from sustainable palm. Documentation demonstrating compliance is required. This typically comes in the form of RSPO certification.

Genetic Engineering

MADEWORKS defines genetically engineering as an ingredient that consists of, contains, is produced from, is produced with, or is produced by GMOs. This includes, but is not limited to, raw materials; processing aids like enzymes, bacteria, yeast, and fungi; additives like preservatives, pH adjusters, solvents, etc.; manufacturing inputs like media, extraction solvents, manufacturing inputs, etc.; and novel materials like synthetic biology silk.

NonGMO documentation is required for all ingredients that carry a risk of genetic engineering.

Manufacturing and Supply Chain Contaminants

As part of the MADE Ecosystem Approach, MADEWORKS considers potential contaminants that could arise from manufacturing and/or supply chain contaminants. Because requirements regarding contamination are substance-specific, they cannot be listed here due to space constraints.

Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of criteria. Due to the depth and breadth of our screening, as well as the vast number of substances in the marketplace, not all requirements can be listed here.

Documentation for Certification + Substance-Specific Requirements

All substances are subject to substance-specific requirements. These are set based on knowledge of the substance's typical raw materials, manufacturing process, and potential contaminants. Because these requirements are specific to the substance, they can only be presented to the company after submission for MADE SAFE Certification review. However, we have listed some of that documentation that may be required as well as some tips for determining which criteria may apply to an ingredient.

The first phase of screening provides a list of applicable required documentation for each substance.

Documentation

Required for all ingredients/materials:

Complete Composition Declaration: Documentation that accounts for 100% of the composition of an ingredient or material. This document should explicitly list each sub-substance or state that the substance is only one single substance or material.

Required when mandated by an ingredient/material's substance-specific requirements:

Non-GMO Documentation: Documentation affirming that the substance is non-GMO. This includes all raw materials, inputs and processing aids. See more information on how MADEWORKS defines genetic engineering above.

Sustainable Palm Documentation:

Certification demonstrating the palm-derived ingredients are sourced sustainably. This typically comes in the form of RSPO (Supply Chain or Mass Balance) certification, but other certifications may be accepted. (Note: typically, manufacturer statements do not contain sufficient evidence demonstrating compliance.)

Non-Synthetic Biology Documentation:

Paperwork to demonstrate that synthetic biology is not used in the process of making a substance. Acceptable non-synthetic biology documentation demonstrates that genetic engineering has not been used at any point in the manufacturing process, including raw materials, inputs, and processing aids. This includes microorganisms. See more information on how MADEWORKS defines genetic engineering above.

Non-Nanomaterial Documentation:

Documentation that demonstrates that the material in question is not a nanomaterial, as per MADE SAFE standards. (Lab testing must demonstrate that the material's primary particle size is larger than 100 nanometers. Two lab testing methods are required for some substances and recommended for all substances.)

Heavy Metals Panel:

Results from heavy metals lab testing. This may be included within a COA, MSDS, ingredient dossier or otherwise. Lab testing must include a metal-by-metal panel, including antimony, arsenic, cadmium, lead, mercury and nickel and must be compliant with MADE SAFE determined detection limits. Other metals may be required in select instances.

Non-Synthetic Documentation:

Documentation demonstrating that the ingredient or material is not of synthetic origin.

Manufacturing Process Flow Chart / Description:

This document provides a detailed description of the process used to synthesize, produce, or manufacture a material or substance. This paperwork must include all chemical inputs and their identities, including CAS numbers.

Sustainable Sourcing Documentation:

Documentation that demonstrates that the ingredient or material has been sourced sustainably. This is most commonly requested for endangered plant ingredients and wood and wood-derived materials.

Certification:

Documentation that demonstrate that the material or ingredient is compliant with a specific certification's standards (ex: GOTS, Oeko-Tex, GREENGUARD, etc.)

Free-of Documentation:

Documentation that demonstrate that the ingredient or material is free of a specific substance or group of substances, as specified by MADEWORKS (ex: PFAS-free, flame retardant-free, etc.)

Best Practices: Transparency, Disclosure and Confidentiality

Transparency

MADEWORKS requires disclosure of materials on packaging or the web. Providing shoppers with a list of materials builds customer trust and allows consumers to make the best possible decisions for themselves and their families.

Disclosure

We require full disclosure to MADEWORKS as part of our MADE Ecosystem Approach. During our vetting processing, we evaluate every material to make determinations on ecosystem-soundness. Without full disclosure, we cannot make a determination on the substances' eligibilities for certification. Documentation that accounts for the entirety of every material is required.

Confidentiality

We understand that companies rely on confidential business information and trade secrets for protection. That is why MADEWORKS can work with manufacturers under NDA to protect this sensitive information. Manufacturers can opt to work with us directly (fees may apply). However, we recommend looping in the company for whom the product is formulated for to increase efficiency, trust, and transparency.

We do not typically require disclosure of ingredient/input concentrations to us; rather, we require a comprehensive list of all ingredients that are used in the relevant formulation. Some ingredients are subject to concertation restrictions. In those instances, we ask for the concentration of the ingredient(s) in question in the final product formula. For substances undergoing comprehensive screening, we will also ask for substance-specific documentation, manufacturing information, and/or derivation information as part of our vetting process.

MADEWORKS Intelligence™ (formerly MadeSafe.org) has been driving marketplace change since 2015. We are building a bridge to a safer, more sustainable future for all. Using the Ecosystem Approach, MADEWORKS Intelligence generates insights that support better product development and advance systemic change. By bringing together science, industry leadership, and informed consumer choice, we help turn meaningful information into action, transforming the marketplace for a healthier world.