



The EU Ecolabel for hard covering products



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#EUGreenDeal #EUEcolabel

The EU Ecolabel is the official European Union label for environmental excellence.

The EU Ecolabel is awarded to sustainably designed products, thereby encouraging innovation, and contributing to the EU's goal of climate neutrality by **2050** and to the **circular economy**.

Industry can use the EU Ecolabel to offer consumers an **eco-friendly alternative** to conventional products and help them lower their daily environmental impact.

With some specific exceptions, the hard covering product group generally covers:

- floor tiles, wall tiles, roof tiles, blocks, slabs, panels, pavers, kerbs, tabletops, vanity tops and kitchen worktops made of natural stone, agglomerated stone, ceramic, precast concrete or compressed earth; and
- intermediate products, specifically blocks and slabs of dimension stone from natural stone quarries, and hydraulic cement, hydraulic lime and alternative cement binders.

Ambitious criteria have been set focusing on the main environmental impacts generated over the lifecycle of these products. This ensures that EU Ecolabel hard covering products are among **the best on the market in terms of environmental performance**. Specifically, the EU Ecolabel criteria:

- reduce land use impacts caused by quarrying of raw materials;
- restrict the use of hazardous substances;
- require production processes to be energy efficient;
- encourage the use of renewable energy;
- require production processes to be material efficient, including the reuse/recycling of process waste; and
- limit emissions of pollutants that contribute to global warming, acidification, and eutrophication, and which are detrimental to human health.

Access the full list of EU Ecolabel criteria for hard coverings products [here](#).

The EU Ecolabel covers six key environmental hot topics related to hard covering products.

Hot topics

EU Ecolabel Solution

For the full list of requirements click [here](#).
[Commission Decision \(EU\) 2021/476](#)

Raw material extraction - land use impacts

Industrial and construction mineral extraction

- ✓ Raw material extraction sites must be declared during the application process and legally permitted, underpinned by an environmental impact assessment.
- ✓ Measures must be in place to minimise potential impacts on the surrounding habitat and birds, and to limit the presence of invasive species.
- ✓ A rehabilitation plan for the quarry is required.
- ✓ A minimum threshold for material efficiency of extraction of natural stone blocks is required.
- ✓ Optional: encouragement of measures that limit landscape impacts of natural stone quarries.

Manufacturing – hazardous substances

Restricted hazardous substances

- ✓ All process chemicals used by the applicant in the production processes are screened for substances of very high concern.
- ✓ Tight restrictions are placed on final products containing substances that are toxic, hazardous to the environment, carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction.
- ✓ Specific restrictions on the use of lead and cadmium inks and glazes.

Manufacturing – energy consumption

Impacts generated by energy consumption

- ✓ Specific energy consumption benchmarks set where possible.
- ✓ Commitment to draw up specific energy reduction plans elsewhere.
- ✓ The use of renewables is encouraged.

Manufacturing – emissions to water and air

Reducing water and air emissions

- ✓ Best practice measures required to control dust emissions from multiple sources.
- ✓ Specific limits set for dust emissions from chimneys.
- ✓ Specific limits, where relevant, set for CO₂, NO_x and SO_x emissions from combustion processes.

Manufacturing – waste generation

Reducing waste

- ✓ Minimum targets set for the reuse/recycling of process waste and scrap.
- ✓ Points awarded for products that exceed the minimum reuse/recycling targets.

Use and end-of-life

Extended lifespan and proper disposal

- ✓ Products with relevant performance classes to ensure that the correct specifications are used for each job.
- ✓ User information about installation, maintenance and disposal is required.
- ✓ Limits set on product emissions of volatile organic compounds.

