

Environmental Responsibility / LEED™

Environmental Responsibility

The environmental impact of any construction project is coming under more and more scrutiny every day. The “Green Movement” is becoming ever more popular and the architectural community is being asked to design and construct longer-lasting, more environmentally sustainable structures. As such, it is the responsibility of the materials suppliers of these projects to do all they can to assist in this effort.

Urethane Grout is one of the most environmentally friendly grouts available in the industry today. It is a revolutionary, Urethane-based grout that contains no epoxy, cement, or pigments and comes pre-mixed and ready to use. The following are some important environmental facts about QuartzLock 2 Grout and StarGlass Grout:

1. Most specified grouts require mixing, which causes the release of airborne particulate that many states are beginning to regulate because of the potential health risk. Urethane Grout is pre-mixed and ready to use, eliminating this risk.
2. Most epoxy grouts produce VOC's (Volatile Organic Compounds) that many states regulate. Urethane Grout utilizes a water-based Urethane, so it produces nearly zero VOC's.
3. Epoxy grouts contain BPA that can produce severe allergies. Jobs can be slowed or not taken by good tile installers because epoxy is specified. Urethane Grout contains no BPA.
4. Urethane Grout wash water is more environmentally friendly because it does not contain epoxy, cement, or pigments.
5. Urethane Grout Technology's crack resistance and durability can lead to longer installation life cycles.
6. Urethane Grout is re-usable; therefore, it produces no waste.
7. Urethane Grout buckets are made of 100% recyclable Class 2 HPDE.
8. Urethane Grout contains 75% natural Quartz Silica.
9. Our manufacturing process produces no waste. All materials that do not end up in the product itself during this process are recycled.
10. Urethane Grout contains up to 80% post consumer recycled content.

LEED™

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ (developed by the U.S. Green Building Council), according to its website, “is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.”

LEED offers project, not product, certification; however, Urethane Grout has many attributes that can help architects and designers attain the points needed to achieve the various levels of LEED certification:

1. **Materials & Resources: MR Credits 2.1 and 2.2: Construction Waste Management: Divert 50% and 75% From Disposal.** Unlike most other grouts, Urethane is re-usable and produces no waste at the job site, allowing you to redirect reusable materials to the appropriate site. Urethane Grout buckets is also made of 100% recyclable Class 2 HDPE plastic.
2. **Materials and Resources: MR Credits 4.1 and 4.2: Recycled Content: 10 and 20%.** Urethane Grout also contributes to the Materials & Resources recycled content credits in the LEED system. It contains post-industrial / pre-consumer recycled content. Specific percentages are available by request, as they may differ by color or body type.
3. **Materials & Resources: MR Credits 5.1 and 5.2: 10 and 20% Extracted, Processed & Manufactured Regionally.** Our Baltimore, MD (Zip Code - 21230) manufacturing facility is located within 500 miles of many major markets for LEED projects. In addition, the facility has been built near the major extraction sources for Urethane Grout's raw materials, which are also within a 500-mile distance of major LEED building markets.
4. **Indoor Environmental Quality: EQ Credit 4.1: Low-Emitting Materials: Adhesives & Sealants.** Urethane Grout produces nearly zero VOC's (far less than the 65 g/L limit for ceramic tile adhesives) and is pre-mixed, eliminating the release of airborne particulate.