Hard wall covering

Criteria
All wall coverings meet at least one of the following criteria:

• are reused;
• if new, are manufactured with at least 70% recycled content and recyclable content, measured by mass (excluding wall tiles);
• if a new wall tile (ceramic, glass, clay, stone, porcelain), are manufactured with at least 50% recycled content and recyclable content, measured by mass;
• if new, have a Cradle to CradleTM Gold or Platinum certificate; or
• are supplied with an environmental product declaration, written in accordance with ISO 14025 standards.

And:

• if timber, meet the criteria of good practice measure D20 Timber.

Scoping
This measure applies if wall coverings are specified or installed.

Note: Wallpapers (both paper and vinyl) and paints are covered by good practice measures M16 and M14 respectively. This good practice measure covers all other products, such as tiles, wood, metal, etc.

Assessment

At design stage: check specifications explicitly reference the criteria or specify a product that meets the criteria.

At handover stage: collate manufacturers’ data for installed products responding to the criteria or provide a statement of retention/reuse of existing wall coverings.

At occupancy stage: if wall coverings have been changed or added then carry out the handover stage assessment. If this measure was achieved at handover stage and wall coverings have not been changed or added, this measure will be achieved by default.

Rationale
The aim is to reduce the embedded lifetime environmental impacts of materials that can be estimated using life cycle analysis (LCA). LCA takes account of environmental impacts over the lifetime of a product, for example the impact arising from mineral extraction, manufacturing, transport and end-of-life disposal. LCA is the basis of environmental product declarations and environmental preference methods for materials selection, for example BRE’s The Green Guide to Specification.
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(continued)

Guidance
The reuse of existing hard wall coverings either from the stripping out of existing walls on site or from the purchase of second hand wall coverings is the most sustainable source.

The target for the recycled content of hard wall coverings is based on the target set for products, such as composite timber products, by WRAP. See Choosing construction products: Guide to the recycled content of mainstream construction products, Reference guide, GB Version 4.1, WRAP, June 2008.

The term recycled content includes both post-consumer waste and secondary materials, defined as a waste by-product from a different industry. Processing waste recycled in-house should not be included in the recycled content calculations for the product.


The Cradle to Cradle™ program lists all the products that have been certified.