

NEWS RELEASE



**Wallcoverings Industry Celebrates a Milestone of More  
Than 2,000 Styles Certified to NSF 342**

CHICAGO, IL – October 17, 2019 – As part of the ongoing efforts to advance the sustainability profile of the industry, wallcovering providers today announced they have certified more than 2,000 styles to the [NSF 342 Sustainability Standard](#). Developed by NSF International and the [Wallcoverings Association](#), NSF 342 is the only industry standard that requires certification by both the manufacturer and distributor for a product to carry the designation. The standard helps architects, designers, retailers and consumers identify environmentally preferable wallcoverings. Certified products are eligible for a LEED® v4 Pilot Credit entitled “Certified Multi-attribute Products and Materials.”

To help specifiers and purchasers find NSF 342-certified products, the Wallcoverings Association has created a new identity mark that will be displayed on qualifying wallcoverings. Look for NSF 342-certified products from companies including: Colour & Design, Fidelity, J. Josephson, Koroseal Interior Products Group, Len-Tex, Levey Industries, MDC Wallcovering, D.L. Couch, Tri-Kes, Eykon, National Wallcovering, Roysons, Shaw Industries Group, Versa Designed Surfaces, Vescom, Wolf-Gordon, and York.

A variety of wallcovering materials are covered by NSF 342, including textiles, vinyl, vinyl-coated, alternative polymer, alternative polymer-coated, paper and natural fiber products. The industry continues to broaden the selection of certified materials by developing new standards such as W102 that allows alternative materials to qualify for NSF 342 certification.

“The wallcoverings industry has made significant progress in reducing the environmental impact of wallcoverings,” said Dan Brandt, Wallcoverings Association President and MDC Wallcovering Director of Product and Marketing. “The NSF Sustainability Standard is a means by which these achievements can be measured quantifiably. Architects, designers and end users seeking environmentally preferable

wall finishes can select from a vast array of designs, textures, colorways, constructions and performance attributes.”

“The new identity for the NSF 342 Sustainability Standard integrates the Wallcovering Association’s distinctive green wave into the unifying symbolism of the circle,” added Marybeth Shaw, head of the Wallcoverings Association Marketing Committee and Chief Creative Officer of Wolf-Gordon. “Sans serif typography plays counterpoint to the WA’s serified mark in clean, modern styling. Providing seals for specific certification levels—Platinum, Gold, Silver and Certified—allows our WA members to attest to their commitment to more sustainable product manufacturing and distribution with pride.”

### **How NSF 342 Certification Works**

Similar to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for buildings, NSF 342 assigns point values in categories across the product’s life cycle, from raw material extraction through manufacturing, distribution, use and end-of-life management. Unique to this standard is the requirement to combine points from both the manufacturer and distributor to determine the product certification level, including Conformant, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Each organization is responsible for its own rating and applies for certification individually.

Manufacturers and distributors undergo a comprehensive and independent NSF assessment that evaluates the environmental and social impacts of their operations. Products made by a qualified manufacturer and sold by a qualified distributor are certified to NSF/ANSI 342 at a level equal to the combined point totals of both organizations. Certified products earn the use of the NSF Sustainability Certified mark on product packaging and marketing materials, a signal to specifiers, purchasers and end-users of the products’ sustainability.

### **About the Wallcoverings Association**

The [Wallcoverings Association](#) is a nonprofit trade association representing wallcoverings manufacturers, distributors and suppliers. The WA educates consumers, designers and specifiers about the beauty and use of wallcoverings. The association keeps the industry at the forefront of sustainability with specifier tools such as NSF 342 and Environmental Product Declarations. Learn more about wallcoverings and obtain an industry Sample Book [here](#).

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