

# Building Materials: Finishes and Furniture



## Introduction

When purchasing furniture, PCC and Facilities Management Services (FMS) employees give preference to furniture that contains recycled content or sustainably harvested bio-based materials; is made from 100% Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood (FSC-certified); is refurbished, is [Cradle to Cradle Certified](#) and/or is sourced (extracted, manufactured and purchased) within 100 miles of the campus. FMS also frequently repurposes and reuses furniture on campus through our surplus program. For assistance with getting a surplus property item, please email [stores@pcc.edu](mailto:stores@pcc.edu).

FMS specifies flame retardant-free furnishings (where feasible) in new construction and remodels and applies. FMS staff considers the entire life cycle of the product, from materials to disposal.

## Finishings and Exterior Furniture

In general, adhesives, sealants, paints and coatings shall comply with low-volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and low-emitting requirements. Paints, Flooring, Composite Wood, Gypsum Board, Acoustic Ceiling Tile, Thermal Insulation and Acoustic Insulation shall comply with [California Department of Public Health Standard Method v1.2 emissions testing standards](#). Paints, Flooring, Composite Wood, Walls, Ceilings and Insulation shall comply with emissions testing standards.

For all projects, all wood should be priced as FSC certified in order to analyze cost impacts of FSC wood procurement. FSC wood procurement will be analyzed for each project, with a preference for at least 50% FSC wood.

## Exterior Landfill, Recycling Receptacles and Recycling and Garbage Enclosures

Where requested by PCC, a single combination landfill and recycling receptacle shall be used. Receptacles should not be placed above storm drains.

## Furnishings

PCC is working to reduce the number of toxic chemicals used in the furniture products we buy. Other considerations include the materials, the sourcing of materials, production methods, finishes, life cycle impacts and product emissions. Adhesives, sealants, paints and coatings shall comply with low-Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and low emitting standards in specification section 01 81 13 Sustainable Design Requirements. Refer to [PCC Design & Construction Standards](#) (Division 12 - Interior Furnishings) for further information about sustainability requirements.

PCC's strategy for sustainable purchasing includes design considerations that use recycled materials in the manufacturing process, purchasing products that can be disassembled and recycled after their useful life, purchasing products that contain materials without toxins or make fewer greenhouse gas emissions in the manufacturing process. Sustainable furniture design is a closed-loop cycle in which materials and products are perpetually recycled so as to avoid disposal in landfills.

## Community Benefits

- Health and Wellness benefits from better indoor air quality
- Minimize harmful waste
- Healthier for surrounding environment
- Cost efficiency
- Materials last longer
- Reduced negative impact on environment