

Real Wood Floors takes concerns about the safety of our products seriously. Many of us have RWF floors in our own homes so it is just as important to us and our families.



TSCA Title VI and CARB II

The amount of formaldehyde in flooring products is a common concern. Excessive formaldehyde exposure can potentially cause adverse health effects. Learn more about formaldehyde in the next section.

Some types of wood flooring are required to be compliant with the Environmental Protection Agency TSCA Title VI ruling. Though the ruling doesn't name any flooring specifically, it does apply to some of the products Real Wood Floors produces. The purpose of this rule is to

reduce exposure to formaldehyde emissions from certain wood products produced domestically or imported into the United States.

Before this national regulation, the state of California created its own CARB II regulation, (California Air Resources Board) to attain and maintain healthy air quality. The two regulations effectively perform the same. Under the TSCA Title VI regulation, after March 22, 2019, composite wood products must be labeled as TSCA Title VI compliant. These products include: hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, and particleboard, as well as household and other finished goods containing these products.

Real Wood Floors' products are tested to be compliant to meet TSCA Title VI and CARB II requirements, and are labeled to show compliance. Real Wood Floors has maintained compliance to the California standards a full 9½ years before it became national law under TSCA VI.

Please note that not all wood floor product types are regulated by TSCA Title VI or CARB. Solid wood flooring and lumber core engineered flooring, sometimes referred to as 3-ply, do not fall under these regulations.

For more information contact: The TSCA-Hotline, ABVI-Goodwill, 422 South Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14620 / (202) 554-1404 / TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov / or www.EPA.gov.

Formaldehyde Emissions Information

Should I be concerned about formaldehyde?

While formaldehyde is very common throughout the world in things like fruits & vegetables as well as our own bodies, Real Wood Floors proactively takes steps to ensure it's floors do not emit unsafe levels of formaldehyde. To that end Real Wood Floors tests its products with a reputable third party laboratory to ensure that our products meet the strictest requirements.

Real Wood Floors has always understood this health concern and we've made certain our manufacturing facilities use the best practices possible to ensure the safety of everyone involved with our product, most importantly the end users, businesses and homeowners. After all, we and our families also live and work on Real Wood Floors.



What is Formaldehyde?

Formaldehyde is a naturally occurring substance made of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen (CH₂O). For most people, their only interaction with formaldehyde was when they dissected a pig in biology class. If you had that same experience you may remember formaldehyde is a colorless, flammable gas at room temperature. It has a pungent, distinct odor and can cause burning sensation in the eyes, nose and lungs at high concentrations.

Our bodies generate and dispose of formaldehyde through natural metabolic processes every day. In fact the average human has between 2-3 micrograms of formaldehyde per gram of blood. Our bodies even turn certain foods into formaldehyde in order to metabolize them.

Are we exposed to formaldehyde on a daily basis?

Formaldehyde and its derivative products are found in many things we come into contact with every day through natural and processed materials. Not only do our bodies produce levels of it, it can also be found in food, wood, adhesives, cosmetics, pill capsules, wrinkle-resistant fabrics, carpet, tissues, paper towels, napkins, paints, foams, insulation, topical creams, medicines, plastics, heart valves, and artificial limbs.

How much is too much?

According to the US Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry formaldehyde concentration in the outdoor air we breathe everyday is as high as 0.006ppm in rural and suburban areas and as high as 0.02ppm in urban areas. Additionally, the ATSDR notes that the average home has 0.02-0.04ppm in normal indoor air. The ATSDR has set the Minimal Risk Level (MRL) at 0.04ppm.



It should be noted that OSHA has set the daily allowable exposure level for people working in industries that require exposure to formaldehyde on a daily basis at 0.75ppm per 8 hours, 18 times higher than the Minimal Risk Level.

Where do RWF's products rate in emission ratings?

We've put our practices to the test by undergoing self initiated testing by an independent lab in Eugene, Oregon, as well as regular internal testing, for formaldehyde levels in our flooring. We are happy to report we are well under the California and US national emissions standards.

Our emission ratings range from 4 to 12 times less than the strictest US standard. In fact, the product in our lineup with the highest emission rating actually has an emission rating 2-3 times less than what most average homes exhibit on a daily basis.

More formaldehyde information from the Environmental Protection Agency can be found [here](#).

Allude Resilient Floors



Real Wood Floors' Allude floors are resilient flooring products made of stone polymer composite core (SPC), commonly referred to as vinyl floors.

Allude floors do not fall under the guidelines of TSCA Title VI but they are FloorScore® certified and ANSI accredited. FloorScore® is the most recognized indoor air quality (IAQ) certification standard for hard surface flooring materials, adhesives, and underlayments. Developed by SCS with the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI), a leading industry trade association of flooring manufacturers and suppliers, it qualifies for many green building schemes including LEED v4, WELL, BREEAM, and CHPS.



ANSI Accredited Program
Product Certification
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