

SBLC Takes Action

The SBLC was established in 1988 to help the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) respond to indoor air quality questions associated with carpeting. In cooperation with the EPA and the CPSC, the SB latex manufacturers undertook a program to investigate allegations of adverse health effects from exposure to extremely low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emitted from new carpet. The SBLC-sponsored research programs demonstrated no link between 4-PCH and adverse health effects.

When the CRI established its Green Label testing program, SB latex manufacturers reduced the VOC content of their products to help carpet manufacturers meet the CRI emissions limits.

A Future in Recycling

The SBLC conducted a research and development program which demonstrated the technical feasibility of recycling used SB latex carpet backing into new carpets.

Product Awareness Program

In 1997, SBLC initiated a Product Awareness Program to enhance members' communication with their customers about the performance and capabilities of SB latex carpet backing. The program is designed to enhance already established relationships with other industry sectors and demonstrates the ongoing commitment by the SB latex industry to the obligations and goals of product stewardship.

Members of the SB Latex Council

Reichhold
BASF Corporation
The Dow Chemical Company
OMNOVA Solutions Inc.
Ameripol Synpol/Mallard Creek
Polymers Division

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*Behind Every
Great Carpet
Is SB Latex.*



Carpeting America for 40 Years

SB latex:

- * Is the backing of choice in roughly 90% of all carpets produced in the U.S. today.
- * May be formulated to meet individual manufacturer's specifications, including:

*High Tuftbind
Durability
Proper Hand
Low Flammability
Dimensional Stability
Resistance to Fraying, Pilling and Fuzzing
Delamination Strength
Resistance to Heat, Light and Moisture*

- * Is compatible with antistain and antibacterial treatments.
- * Does not produce allergic reactions associated with natural latex.
- * Is non-toxic – in carpet mills, the workplace and our homes.



SB Latex Meets Air Quality Goals

Over the course of a five year review, both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Consumer Product Safety Commission reported no link between SB latex-backed carpet emissions (including 4-PCH, an unintended by-product formed during the manufacture of SB latex) and adverse health consequences. Carpets have been confirmed by the EPA and the American Institute of Architects to be among the lowest emitters of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the indoor environment.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) 1993

"The [CPSC] staff did not find sufficient evidence from its investigation that specific chemicals emitted from carpet are responsible for the complaints of adverse health effects associated with new carpet installation."

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 1993

"EPA simply does not have a sound scientific basis...to conclude that emissions of 4-PC or other carpet constituents can be causally associated with the reported...health effects."

American Institute of Architects (AIA) 1997

"Research studies by many groups, including EPA, have concluded carpet is one of the lowest emitting products used in the indoor environment."

A Tradition of Collaboration

The SB Latex Council (SBLC) is an association of SB latex manufacturers which continues the industry's forty-year history of working in concert with all aspects of the carpet industry to improve carpet quality and performance.

Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI)

The SBLC works cooperatively with the Carpet & Rug Institute to monitor and respond to environmental and health issues regarding carpet.

Carpet Industry Issues Council (CIIC)

The SBLC actively participates in the Carpet Industry Issues Council, a broad-based organization comprised of associations representing all segments of the carpet industry. Under the CIIC umbrella, the SBLC has established ties with such groups as:

ASCR Association of Specialists in Cleaning and Restoration

CCC Carpet Cushion Council

CRI Carpet and Rug Institute

FCAMC Floor Coverings Adhesives Manufacturers Committee

FCICA Floor Covering Installation Contractors Association

IICRC Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification

NAFCD National Association of Floor Covering Distributors

WFCA World Floor Covering Association