



## *Stick with GECA certified adhesives*

Adhesives, fillers and sealants contain a variety of chemicals which hold things together, cover up surface imperfections, and keep moisture out. Unfortunately, some of those chemicals can pose a threat to human health and indoor air quality as they emit damaging fumes and odours. Industry progress means that there are now products available that can get the job done with a lower environmental and human health impact.

When a product is certified against Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA)'s Adhesives, Fillers and Sealants standard, consumers can be sure that the product has been assessed to meet environmental, human health and ethical impact criteria. GECA certification removes doubt and confusion and makes identifying environmentally and socially preferable products easier.

Products covered by the standard include general purpose adhesives, fillers and joint sealants for building work and commercial manufacturing.

Products certified under GECA's Adhesives, Fillers and Sealants standard also contribute towards achieving credit points for projects being certified under the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star rating system.

Find GECA certified adhesives, fillers and sealants on our **website**. If your favourite product is not listed, why not ask them to get certified.

### **Why buy GECA certified products?**

#### **Better for the environment**

- Lower waste generation and resource consumption
- Known ozone-depleting substances are banned
- Chemical storage must be responsibly managed
- Responsible use of titanium dioxide, zinc oxide and lithopone reduces the environmental impact of sourcing these ingredients

#### **Better for human health**

- Measures in place to prevent inhalation of crystalline silica (quartz) and mica
- Minimised VOC (volatile organic compounds) content
- No known carcinogens, mutagens or reproductive toxins as ingredients
- Certain heavy metals and phthalates must not be intentionally added

#### **Better for ethical considerations**

- No unsubstantiated claims (greenwashing)
- Workers can expect fair pay, equal opportunity, and a safe working environment

[www.geca.org.au](http://www.geca.org.au)



# The GECA Adhesives, Fillers and Sealants standard

	Key criteria	Concerns	GECA Standard
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Titanium dioxide, zinc oxide and lithopone</li> </ul>	Production uses large amount of energy and generates large quantities of waste.	Limits on the amounts of these compounds in the final product.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ozone depleting substances</li> </ul>	Although ozone depleting substances have largely been phased out in most countries, some substances have not yet been banned.	CFCs, HCFCs and other known ozone-depleting substances are banned.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emissions to air and water, and waste and energy management</li> </ul>	Pollutants and toxins can threaten air quality. Discharge of waste water and damaging substances can threaten aquatic ecosystems. Waste and energy use should be minimised.	Effective waste and energy minimisation policies and procedures must be in place. Air and water emissions must be controlled and reported.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chemical storage</li> </ul>	Improper storage of chemicals can lead to environmental harm via leaks, spills and emissions to water and air.	Requirements for proper storage of chemicals to minimise risks of leaks, spills and emissions to air or water.
Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crystalline silica (quartz) and mica</li> </ul>	Inhalation of crystalline silica dust particles can result in Silicosis, a form of lung disease, and is classified as a lung carcinogen.	Products which may lead to the release of respirable powders must not contain any added crystalline silica or mica.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residual monomers</li> </ul>	Residual monomers in polymers can cause negative health effects. Some are allergenic or carcinogenic.	Strict limits on concentrations of 'very toxic', 'toxic' or 'harmful' residual/ unreacted monomers in final product.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plasticisers</li> </ul>	Many phthalates harm health (some are endocrine disruptors) and the environment.	Certain phthalates must not be intentionally added as plasticisers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volatile organic compounds</li> </ul>	VOCs may contribute to poor indoor air quality and trigger allergies, asthma and headaches.	VOC content is limited. Formaldehyde or formaldehyde-shedding substances must not be intentionally added to products.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hazardous materials</li> </ul>	Short, medium and long term risks to human health and the environment.	Products must not be classified as harmful, toxic, or sensitising. Substances known to cause cancer, genetic mutations and reproductive damage are banned.
Ethical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heavy metals</li> </ul>	Can have detrimental effects to the health of manufacturing staff and users of the finished product.	Toxic heavy metals, such as lead, cadmium, mercury, chromium, arsenic and others, must not be deliberately added or used.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Human rights</li> </ul>	Safe working conditions, fair and equal opportunities should be available to workers.	Requirements for workplace safety, fair pay and equal opportunity.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal compliance</li> </ul>	Organisations must comply with required local and international laws and regulations.	Requirements for lawful conduct and environmental compliance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental claims</li> </ul>	Claims must be true and substantiated – greenwashing is not acceptable.	All claims must be true and substantiated.

For full list of criteria, refer to the **GECA Adhesives, Fillers and Sealants standard (AFSv4.0-2014)**.

GECA runs Australia's only independent, not-for-profit, multi-sector ecolabelling program and is the only Australian member of the Global Ecolabelling Network. It develops standards against which products can be independently audited by GECA's JAS-ANZ accredited conformity assessment bodies. Its standards are developed following ISO14024 principles for global best practice in ecolabelling. More information is available at [www.geca.org.au](http://www.geca.org.au).

