



## Ultrafabrics, LLC Sustainability Statement

Ultrafabrics offers environmentally conscious products concerned with the long-term impact on our present and future lifestyle. As harmony with human and environmental interaction is important to Ultrafabrics, PVC free, and low VOC (volatile organic compound) attributes ensure a sustainable presence within your inner and outer environment.

Ultrafabrics utilizes efficient manufacturing processes that are based on conservation of raw materials, toxic-free solutions, and minimal dependency on natural resources.

With influence from the numerous global markets we serve, our standards have been regimented to meet emissions and environmental criteria mandated by the U.S. EPA, USGBC, EU, and Canadian sustainable standards.

Check out our Eco-Scorecard (at right) for a quick reference to your sustainable specification, and our website for LEED™ credits and BIFMA level® credits.

**Durability is Sustainability.** The less to replace, the less to waste.

At Ultrafabrics, we provide a product solution that is a reliable investment guaranteeing product longevity, decreased waste, and costs for replacement. Our quality ensures a life span that will exceed the expectations for the function and performance of most applications.

- GREENGUARD Certified
- Meets stringent VOC emission standards
- Promotes healthier indoor air quality
- Contributes to LEED™ and BIFMA level® credits
- Compliant with Prop 65
- EPA Registered Agents (antimicrobial and anti-mildew)
- Meets automotive OEM VOC specifications
- No AZO pigments
- No Conflict Minerals
- No HFRs (Halogenated Flame Retardants)
- No PBDEs (Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers)
- No Plasticizers, Heavy Metals, Stabilizers, Phthalates or Bisphenol A (BPA)
- No POPs (Persistent Organic Pollutants)
- No PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)
- No toxic by-products
- Over 99% of processing solvents recaptured and recycled in manufacturing
- Skin friendly/Allergen free



See all the innovative ways Ultrafabrics is working to protect the world around us at [www.ultrafabricsllc.com](http://www.ultrafabricsllc.com)  
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**Ultrafabrics.**



## Ultrafabrics vs. Leather & Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

### Ultraleather Performance Advantages

	Ultraleather™ Polyurethane	Leather	PVC
Animal Friendly	✓	---	✓
No Formaldehyde / Chromium	✓	---	---
No Off Gassing / Low VOCs	✓	✓	---
No Plasticizers / Stabilizers (Phthalate Free)	✓	---	---
No Waste Factor / Optimal Yield	✓	---	✓
No Scars / Flaws	✓	---	✓
Crack Resistant	✓	---	---
Odorless	✓	---	---
Enduring Aesthetic	✓	---	---
Soft Hand	✓	✓	---

### Ultraleather™/Brisa®: Less Than Half the Weight of Genuine Leather

	Ultraleather™	Genuine Leather
Weight (oz / square yard)	9.3	25.0
Weight (oz / linear yard)	13.95	37.54

Transportation Industry estimates of 2-4% less gas mileage for every extra 100 lbs. of weight.

### Leather and the Environment

- Traditionally, leather production and the tanning process utilize several toxic chemicals which produce pollution in our external and indoor air environments.
- Tanneries release polluting chemicals such as ammonia and chromium in the form of liquid and solid waste that causes widespread drinking water pollution in developing countries.
- Although more “socially responsible” practices are being adopted such as plant-based dyes and toxic free treatments, massive farming, animal cruelty, energy and resource depletion are fundamental principles of the meat byproduct industry.
- With no reliance on these consuming industries and efficient manufacturing, Ultrafabrics brand products supercede leather in quality and environmental integrity.

### Superior to PVC

- Polyurethane (PU) and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) are completely different polymers with different chemically properties and characteristics.
- Polyvinyl chloride is environmentally indestructible and can release hydrochloric acid and other toxic compounds such as dioxins, a persistent organic pollutant when burned. In addition, PVC also contains a high level of VOC's (volatile organic compounds) that negatively impact indoor air quality (IAQ), as these contaminants cause environmental and health risks. PVC products are listed on the EPA's warning list of materials that contribute towards indoor air pollution.
- Polyvinyl chloride products contains Phthalates, harmful plasticizers used to soften the texture and appearance of PVC. Phthalates have been known to cause human health risks such as disrupting hormone activity, and have been listed on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) list of at-risk chemicals.



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## Ultrafabrics: GREENGUARD Certified

Ultrafabrics is proud to be the first polyurethane manufacturer to tout GREENGUARD certification for all open-line fabrics engineered in Japan.

### GREENGUARD certification insures:

- Products specified for use indoors must meet stringent standards for chemical emissions, aka volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOC's are carbon-based chemicals that either evaporate or seep into the air at room temperature. If present, they can range from irritants to toxic.
- Credence to manufacturers' sustainability claims, supported by scientific data from an unbiased, third-party organization.
- Reduction in indoor air pollution and the risk of chemical exposure for the creation of healthier indoor air quality.

### GREENGUARD certification benefits:

Specifying Ultrafabrics, LLC products for building projects contributes to LEED™ and BIFMA level® credits. Below we have provided the credit level breakdown for each certification program.

**LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design)**, is a green building certification program. USGBC building projects satisfy prerequisites and earn points to achieve different levels of certification.

- EQ Credit 2: Low-Emitting Materials
- MR Credit 2: Purchasing - Facility Maintenance and Renovation - Option 2 Furniture
- MR Prerequisite: Facility Maintenance and Renovation Policy
- RETAIL - MR Prerequisite: Ongoing Purchasing and Waste Policy - Option 3 Supply Chain Environmental Criteria List

For more information please visit the LEED homepage at [www.usgbc.org/leed](http://www.usgbc.org/leed)

**BIFMA level®** is a sustainability standard and third-party certification program for the furniture industry. It was created to better evaluate the environmental and social impacts of furniture products in the building environments.

### Category 7.0 Human and Ecosystem Health

Credit 7.6.1, 7.6.2, 7.6.3 Low Emitting Furniture

For more information please visit the BIFMA level homepage at [www.levelcertified.org](http://www.levelcertified.org)



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## Prop 65 Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What is Proposition 65?

**A:** Proposition 65 (officially known as California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986) is a law that requires the State of California to publish a list of chemicals that have been identified to cause cancer or reproductive harm and places an obligation on companies to notify consumers.

### Q: What types of chemicals are involved?

**A:** According to the Office of Environmental Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), any naturally occurring and synthetic chemicals are subject to Proposition 65 such as ingredients found in pesticides, common household products, food, etc. The list of the 800+ plus chemicals can be found at:

[http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65\\_list/files/P65single052413.pdf](http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65_list/files/P65single052413.pdf)

Note: The list is updated at least once a year.

### Q: Why are we informing you of Proposition 65?

**A:** Ultrafabrics, LLC is taking a proactive measure to inform our customer base and end users that our products are compliant with this state law and to provide information regarding the rules and regulations of Proposition 65. To ensure compliance we do recommend consulting legal experts versed on Proposition 65.

### Q: Do any of Ultrafabrics Products contain chemicals that the state of California considers to be under Prop 65?

**A:** Our products do NOT contain the chemicals and/or are below the allowable threshold and, therefore, do not require a warning notice/label. Ultrafabrics, LLC will continue to monitor Proposition 65 to ensure compliance on an ongoing basis.

### Q: What does the law require?

**A:** If products contain the chemicals listed or are above the safe harbor/exposure levels, Proposition 65 requires the business to provide a "clear and reasonable" warning notice/label if the product is being sold, distributed, and delivered in the state of California.

### Q: Who enforces Proposition 65?

**A:** The California Attorney General's Office or any district attorney/city attorney. Also, any individual acting in the public interest may enforce by filing suit against a business they feel is in violation.

### Q: Who is subject to the Proposition 65?

**A:** The law applies to any company, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, individual, trust, firm, joint stock and association, with ten or more employees doing business (sold or distributed) in the state of California.

### For more information please visit:

#### Prop 65 Homepage

<http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65.html>

#### Frequently Asked Questions

<http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/p65faq.html>

#### Prop 65 Regulations

<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/law/index.html>



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: What is the difference between Ultrafabrics products and PVC?**

**A:** Ultrafabrics brand fabrics are composed of polyurethane that is non-toxic, low VOCs and compliant with industry standards for indoor air quality. Ultrafabrics products do not contain any volatile plasticizers and potentially toxic stabilizers found in PVC.

### **Q: What are the benefits of being PVC free?**

**A:** Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) is environmentally indestructible vinyl and can release hydrochloric acid and other toxic compounds when burned. In addition, PVC also contains a high level of VOC's (volatile organic compounds) that negatively impact indoor air quality (IAQ). These contaminants cause environmental and health risks. PVC phthalate plasticizers are listed on the EPA's warning list of materials that contribute towards indoor air pollution and contamination of the food chain. What differentiates PVC from the other vinyls is the addition of the chlorine molecule (chloride "C" in PVC). Organochlorine compounds are the source of many environmental health concerns with PVC. For example, dioxin is a highly carcinogenic chemical produced in both the manufacturing and disposal of PVC. Due to its persistent and bioaccumulative nature, organochlorine compounds derived from PVC increase in concentration as they move up the food chain to humans, thus being categorized as a persistent organic pollutants (POP's). The international treaty, The Stockholm Convention, was created to target POPs, and now prioritizes elimination of processes that produce dioxins.

### **Q: What are the environmental benefits of Ultraleather vs genuine leather?**

**A:** Leather production and the tanning process utilizes several toxic chemicals and cause water, air pollution and produces toxic waste during manufacture. It also leads to pollution of the indoor air environments, as well as significant natural resource depletion.

The tanning operation consumes a large amount of water and produces a large amount of highly contaminated solid waste. Only about 15% of the raw hide is converted into leather the remainder is toxic contaminated waste which needs to be disposed.<sup>i</sup> Tannery waste is a major problem in developing countries.<sup>ii</sup>

For a more comprehensive view of the benefits of Ultrafabrics products compared to leather, please visit the Ultrafabrics vs. Leather / Vinyl section of this document.

### **Q: What part of your materials is recycled in manufacturing?**

**A:** Approximately 99% of our solvents are recycled in the manufacturing process.



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## Green Glossary\*

**Azo Dyes** - any of a large class of synthetic organic dyes that contain nitrogen as the azo group  $-N=N-$  as part of their molecular structures; more than half the commercial dyes belong to this class. Depending on other chemical features, these dyes fall into several categories defined by the fibres for which they have affinity or by the methods by which they are applied (used in leather).

**Azo Pigments** - AZO colorants are a class of organic compounds which contain the azo group ( $-N=N-$ ) as the main chromophore (color bearing group). Most of the yellow, red and brown colors fall into this category (used in polyurethane).

**BIFMA level**<sup>®</sup> - a sustainability standard and third-party certification program for the furniture industry. It was created to better evaluate the environmental and social impacts of furniture products in the building environments.

**Bioaccumulation** - the process in which chemical compounds travel long distances through numerous ecosystems and food chain without breaking down. As a result, the concentration of the chemicals increases as it moves up the food chain to humans.

**Biodegradable** - capable of decomposing in nature within a reasonably short period of time.

**Carcinogen** - any of a number of agents that can cause cancer, including chemicals, radiation, and viruses. Exposure to such agents, singly or in combination, can initiate cancer under conditions not wholly understood.

**Conflict Minerals** - include gold, as well as cassiterite, wolframite, and columbite-tantalite and their respective derivatives, tin, tungsten, and tantalum. Together, these are commonly referred to as 3TG. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) requires manufacturers to report whether their products contain conflict minerals that are necessary to the functionality or production of those products.

**Dioxin** - a highly unstable, toxic, monocyclic organic compound comprised of carcinogenic hydrocarbons that occur as impurities. Dioxins are man-made materials.

**Ecological Footprint** - the resulting impacts on the environment based on the choices we make (i.e., raw materials selection, energy selection, transportation, etc).

**Environmentally Friendly** - a general statement often used to designate a product or process that has a reduced ecological footprint when compared to other products/processes.

**Environmentally Preferable** - products, services or systems that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products, services or systems that serve the same purpose.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** - an independent federal agency of the U.S. government founded in 1970 that sets and enforces rules and standards that protect the environment and control pollution.

**Formaldehyde** - a toxic chemical used widely in consumer products and building materials. A known carcinogen to negatively impact indoor air quality (IAQ), formaldehyde is on the EPA's list of pollutants that create indoor air pollution.

**Global Warming** - the progressive gradual rise of the Earth's surface temperature thought to be caused by greenhouse gas emissions, the greenhouse effect and responsible for changes in global climate patterns.



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## Green Glossary\* (cont.)

**GREENGUARD** - The GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI) was founded in 2001 with the mission of reducing chemical exposure and improving indoor air quality. The GEI oversees third-party certification programs that identify acceptable product emission standards and certify low-emitting products. GEI also establishes building standards and writes standards in conjunction with the LEED Rating System.

**Greenhouse Gases** - the atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change. The major GHGs are CFC's (chlorofluorocarbons), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>).

**HFRs (Halogenated Flame Retardants)** - toxic chemical compounds containing chlorine or bromine bonded to carbon that improve fire resistant properties.

**Healthy Building Network** - a leading environmental health organization founded in 2000 based on the beliefs of healthier indoor environments for improved public health. Healthy Building Network supports the opportunities to change the building materials market by educating on the negative impacts of PVC and recommending substitute cost-effective, healthier building and interior furnishing materials.

**Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)** - the air quality within and around buildings and structures, especially as it relates to the health and comfort of building occupants. IAQ can be affected by microbial contaminants (mold, bacteria), gases (including carbon monoxide, radon, volatile organic compounds-VOC's), particulates, toxic chemicals, or any mass or energy stressor that can induce adverse health conditions. Indoor air is becoming an increasingly more concerning health hazard than outdoor air.

**Leather Tannery Toxins** - toxic chemicals commonly used and released into the environment as a result of the tanning process. Tanneries produce thousands of tons of solid waste each day as well as air emissions containing ammonia or hydrogen sulphide. Other toxic substances used in tanneries include mercury, lead and chromium.

**LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)** - a series of building rating products developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to provide a standard for what constitutes a "green building" or "high performance" building. The various LEED products are used as design guidelines and third-party certification aiming to improve occupant well-being, environmental performance and economic returns of buildings used to establish and innovative practices, standards and technologies.

**Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP's)** - organic compounds that are resistant to environmental degradation through chemical, biological, and photolytic processes. As a result, they have been observed to persist in the environment, to be capable of long-range transport, bioaccumulate in human and animal tissue, biomagnify in food chains, and to have potential significant impacts on human health and the environment.

**Phthalates** - or Phthalate esters, are esters of phthalic acid and are mainly used as plasticizers (substances added to plastics to increase their flexibility, transparency, durability, and longevity). They are primarily used to soften polyvinyl chloride. Phthalates are being phased out of many products in the United States and European Union over health concerns. (wikipedia definition)

**PBDEs (Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers)** - organobromine compounds used as flame retardants in a number of applications, including textiles, plastics, wire insulation, and automobiles.

**Proposition 65** - (officially known as California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986) is a law that requires the State of California to publish a list of chemicals that have been identified to cause cancer or reproductive harm and places an obligation on companies to notify consumers.



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## Green Glossary\* (cont.)

**PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride)** - synthetic resin, an organic polymer made by treating vinyl chloride monomers with a peroxide. It may be blended with more rubbery polymers or copolymerized with other vinyls to obtain products with desired properties. PVC resin mixed with plasticizers, stabilizers, and pigments is made into flexible articles (e.g., raincoats, toys, containers).

**USGBC (US Green Building Council)** - non-profit organization that promotes sustainability in how buildings are designed, built, and operated. USGBC is best known for its development of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating systems.

**Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs)** - are toxic organic chemicals that have a high vapor pressure at ordinary, room temperature conditions. Their high vapor pressure results from a low boiling point, which causes large numbers of molecules to evaporate or sublime from the liquid or solid form of the compound and enter the surrounding air.

i <http://www.bioenergyconsult.com/waste-from-tanneries/>  
ii Human Rights Watch "Toxic Tanneries The Health Repercussions of Bangladesh's Hazaribagh Leather"  
[www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/bangladesh1012webwcover.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/bangladesh1012webwcover.pdf)



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