



Are AZEK Products Sustainable

Green building is creating an insatiable need across the country for eco-friendly building materials. But how do you define green? It's a little problematic because so many product characteristics determine the relative green qualities of one building material over another, and they range from low-toxicity, life-cycle analysis, and durability, to maintenance and even the energy consumed during the manufacturing process.

As a leading provider of green building products, AZEK Building Products actively contributes to the green building movement through education and, more importantly, by offering durable, sustainable building products. Moreover, we are diligently working to develop our own corporate cradle-to-cradle building systems that reduce landfill costs, reduce fossil fuel use, and reduce carbon footprint of all our operations and products.

We also have our ear to the ground in the industry, and we consistently hear common concerns about our products and their environmental attributes. Here's a sampling of this questions... along with some answers directly from AZEK Building Products.

- *AZEK Building Products are made of cellular PVC. But what is cellular PVC?* The PVC resin used to manufacture AZEK cellular PVC trim is derived from natural gas and common, abundant, natural salt (57%). The product is called poly vinyl chloride because chlorine is 57% of the base component. Most other plastics are 100% hydro-carbon based.
- *Are AZEK Building Products sustainable?* When looked at over their entire installed life cycles (and especially when compared to wood products) all AZEK products are highly sustainable and durable and that saves hours of annual maintenance and conserves energy. AZEK products resist weathering, chemical rotting, corrosion, shock, and abrasion. They the preferred choice for any customer who wants a long-life product for any application.
- *Are AZEK Building Products durable?* None of the AZEK products chip, cup or warp. Ever. They do not require paint, and they don't need to be cleaned with harsh chemicals, which ultimately limits VOC emission.



- *Are AZEK Building Products versatile?* AZEK Building Products are a versatile and adaptable material with suitable specifications to meet modern and future design needs. Where PVC can act as a replacement or refurbishment material, AZEK products allow designers a high degree of freedom when designing new products and developing solutions.
- *Do AZEK products have a long life cycle?* Any environmental effects associated with the manufacture of AZEK building products can be counterbalanced over time by a long, beneficial, low-impact life. Since AZEK trim & deck will last well over 25 years, they are excellent examples of a products that hold up well in any life cycle analysis.
- *Are AZEK products energy efficient?* Cellular PVC is the most energy efficient major plastic. Its principle raw material is chlorine-derived from common salt, an abundant and inexpensive resource. AZEK Trim & Deck are lighter to transport than most other building products, which reduced the amount of fuel and other resources used for such transportation. This inevitably lowers their contribution to greenhouse gases. Also, AZEK Trim & Deck is comparatively low in their energy and resource use during production, as well as in conversion to finished products.
- *What is the fire performance of AZEK products?* AZEK products have excellent fire performance. Cellular PVC is inherently difficult to ignite and stops burning once the source of heat is removed. Compared to its common plastic alternatives, PVC performs better in terms of lower combustibility, flammability, flame propagation, and heat release. Additionally, PVC has an oxygen index value greater than 28, which classifies it as self-extinguishing. Removing an active flame will stop any further charring of the product. Comparatively, wood products like oak and birch have well under 28. Therefore, they will burn regardless if a flame source exists.
- *Are AZEK products recyclable?* Recycling is a part of our everyday lives and is crucial in maintaining a sustainable development. All the PCV trim scrap generated during the manufacturing process is recycled back into the finished product. Additionally, all AZEK products can play a part in mixed plastics recycling at the end of their life cycle. Facilities exist to recycle PVC at the end of its useful life. Recycling facilities for waste PVC construction materials are continually being developed across the world.



- *How are AZEK products priced compared to other green materials?* Cellular PVC has been a popular material for construction applications for the past decade due to its physical and technical properties, which provide excellent cost-performance advantages. It is therefore very competitive in terms of price; this value is also enhanced by the properties such as its durability, lifespan, and low maintenance.
- *Is there a PVC recycling directory?* Yes, a directory of all the PVC recycling companies is located on the vinyl institute website. <http://www.vinylinfo.org/Recycling/VinylRecyclingDirectory.aspx>
- *What is LEED?* LEED is a third-party certification program and one of the benchmarks for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. LEED recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.
- *What is the LEED® Green Building Rating System?* The LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ does not certify, endorse or promote any products, services or companies, nor do they track, list or report data related to products and their environmental qualities. LEED is a certification system that deals with the environmental performance of buildings based on the overall characteristics of the project. They do not award credits based the use of particular products, but rather upon meeting the standards in their Rating Systems. There are four tiers of LEED certification. Basic LEED; LEED Silver; LEED Gold; and LEED Platinum. The new LEED for Homes (LEED-H) program is now rolling out nationwide. All of the Rating Systems and supporting documentation templates are available for free download at www.usgbc.org/leed. The US-GBC website (www.usgbc.org) contains may more details.



- *What is Green Globes?* Green Globes is the only interactive, on-line green building assessment and design protocol. It's quick, accurate, affordable and easy to perform and understand. If you wish to receive Green Globes certification, an independent third-party verifier will confirm the assessment. Or, if you prefer, the verifier can perform the online assessment for you and certify the building at the same time. Buildings that receive a certified assessment score above 55% are given a rating of three to five globes.
- *What is Certified Green Professional?* NAHB has just rolled out a Certified Green Professional Program, which requires that building professionals (builders, remodelers, and developers) take a two-day NAHB course, and 12 hours of continuing education every three years. Builders, remodelers, and developers must have at least two years of building industry experience and be involved in the construction of at least one home in the past 24 months to apply. More info: NAHB.com