

News from MPI HQ

To increase reliability, and to bring the level 1 course in line with the 2-4 training courses, we will be introducing proctored exams as the way to achieve your level 1 certification.

We are excited to announce the [MPI Level 1 Training Modules](#) are available for purchase as individual modules. These modules can be completed online at your own pace, and if you complete all eight modules within two years, you are eligible to take the Level 1 Essentials of Paint and Painting Technology Exam. Upon successful exam completion, you will be awarded the Architectural Coatings Technologist (ACT) certification.

Whether you choose certification or not, these 8 modules form a solid foundation for paint and painting technology knowledge. [Sign up today!](#)

How Well Do You Know MPI Green Standards?

MPI has long advocated for a performance focus for environmental sustainability standards, which is why MPI's Green Performance® and Extreme Green™ (X-Green) Standards were established. These standards simplify the process of specifying and selecting environmentally friendly coatings.

When evaluating a product's environmental impact, a lot of attention is given to the volatile organic compound (VOC) levels, but that is only one part of the equation. The **MPI Green Performance® Standard** (GPS) takes a holistic look at the entire product lifecycle, including:

- **Performance** – Green Performance products meet or exceed the performance requirements of the applicable MPI product standard.
- **Chemical component restrictions** – Green Performance products demonstrate that chemical compounds that are confirmed or suspected human carcinogens are not used as ingredients in the manufacture of the product. ([View the list of chemical compound restrictions.](#))
- **VOC levels** – Green Performance products must demonstrate VOC concentrations do not exceed those listed in the GPS-2 with VOC Level tested to EPA Test Method 24.

For the most stringent performance-based commercial architectural coatings, look to the **MPI Extreme Green™ (X-Green™)** paint standard. X-Green editions of existing paint categories are certified to demonstrate:

- VOCs of less than 50g/l per GPS-2 guidelines.
- Reduced or zero quantities of undesirable chemical components, which includes GPS-1 prohibited chemical components and IARC-Group 1 carcinogens.
- Third-party verification that the product meets Collaborative for High-Performance Schools (CHPS) emissions requirements.

The end result of this selective and thorough process is a list of approved products that don't just provide an immediate reduction in VOC emissions and other pollutants, but also looks at the expected service life of products, ensuring that those good short term choices are also solid long term investments.

To use MPI's Approved Products List (APL) to locate high-quality environmentally friendly paints, select a preferred paint category (such as MPI #54 Latex, Interior, Semi-Gloss [MPI Gloss Level 5]) then drill down and choose the appropriate "green" suffix, such as "#54 X-Green."

Selecting GPS or X-Green products ensures you meet the three requirements for a truly green paint: improved indoor air quality, environmental safety, and the performance necessary to promote sustainable building practices.

To learn more about environmental paint requirements, consider taking the Level 1 Module: **Paint and the Environment**. It provides an overview of “green” terms, related agencies, regulations, and the environmental issues related to paint and environmentally friendly coatings.

Professional Tip

When planning an environmentally friendly job, look at more than VOC levels. Choose application methods with high transfer efficiency to reduce wasted paint, choose products with a longer lifespan to reduce the frequency of recoating, and work to reduce waste on the jobsite and use sustainable methods of waste disposal.
