

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Government Buying Standards for paints and varnishes

Date	Version	Notes
4.0	November 2015	Minor amendments to criteria where market availability of better performing products and/or standards and labelling have changed.
3.0	July 2014	Minor amendments at transition of SD in Government web pages to GOV.UK
2.0	September 2010	Revision of Specifications
1.0	May 2008	Introduction of Buy Sustainable – Quick Wins format

Mandatory level

Wall Paints	Wall paints must have a 'Low' VOC content of 7.99% or less
All other paints and coatings (such as varnishes)	Other paints and all other products must have a 'Medium' VOC content of 24.99% or less.

Best Practice Level

Wall Paints	<p>Interior matt walls and ceilings (Gloss < 25@60°) 10g/l including water.</p> <p>Interior glossy walls and ceilings (Gloss > 25@60° 40g/l including water.</p> <p>Measured according to EN 11890-2.</p>
All other paints and coatings (such as varnishes)	<p>The following products shall not be used:</p> <p>Indoor paints and varnishes with a VOC content higher than:</p> <p>a) Interior trim and cladding paints for wood and metal 80g/l including water</p> <p>b) Interior trim varnishes and woodstains, including opaque woodstains 60g/l including water</p> <p>c) Interior minimal build woodstains 50g/l including water</p> <p>d) Primers 15g/l including water</p> <p>e) Binding primers 15g/l including water</p> <p>f) One-pack performance coatings 80g/l including water</p> <p>g) Decorative effect coatings 80g/l including water</p> <p>Measured according to EN 11890-2.</p>

Additional information

- [BRITISH COATINGS FEDERATION VOC:](#) For more detailed specifications on a greater range of paints and varnishes see the British Coatings Federation VOC labelling scale.
- [ANNEX II](#) See Annex II of the Directive 2004/42/CE of the European Parliament and of the Council (note page 8)
- [SCHEDULE 2 of the Volatile Organic Compounds in Paints, Varnishes and Vehicle Refinishing Products Regulations 2012](#)