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*NSF International Standard /  
American National Standard*

## NSF/ANSI 342 - 2019

**Sustainability Assessment  
for Wallcovering Products**



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**NSF/ANSI 342 – 2019**

NSF International Standard /  
American National Standard  
for Sustainability –

# **Sustainability Assessment for Wallcovering Products**

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**NSF International**

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Unless otherwise referenced, the annexes are not considered an integral part of NSF Standards. The annexes are provided as general guidelines to the manufacturer, regulatory agency, user, or certifying organization.

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## Foreword<sup>2</sup>

This American National Standard, NSF/ANSI 342 *Sustainability Assessment for Wallcovering Products*, has been developed as part of the ongoing efforts of interested parties to document and improve the sustainability profile of wallcoverings using established and/or advanced scientific principles, practices, materials, and standards. Stakeholders involved in developing this Standard included wallcovering manufacturers, wallcovering distributors, end users such as consultants and certifiers, state agencies responsible for environmentally preferable product procurement practices, academics, and nongovernmental organizations.

The purpose of this Standard is a thorough communication of information that is verifiable, accurate, and not misleading about environmental and social aspects associated with the production and use of wallcoverings.

This Standard has been designed, in part, to satisfy the following criteria:

- product design through encouraging manufacturers to integrate environmental and life cycle thinking into the product(s) design process;
- product manufacturing encouraging manufacturers to quantify the environmental impacts from their manufacturing, and then act to reduce or remove those impacts;
- long-term value encouraging manufacturers to maximize product(s) longevity;
- end-of-life management ensuring that existing and new wallcovering products can be collected, processed, recycled, and/or composted within the existing materials recycling infrastructure;
- corporate governance encouraging corporate social responsibility in the forms of providing a desirable workplace, being involved in the local community, and demonstrating financial health; and
- innovation to give manufacturers the opportunity to be awarded points for exceptional performance above the requirements set forth in this Standard.

This edition of the Standard contains the following revisions:

### Issue 10

This revision updated clarifying language for HPD and EPD credits in Sections 5.2, 5.3, and Annex N-1 (formerly Annex A).

### Issue 11

This revision updated language in Section 7.2.1.

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<sup>2</sup> The information contained in this Foreword is not part of this American National Standard (ANS) and has not been processed in accordance with ANSI's requirements for an ANS. Therefore, this Foreword may contain material that has not been subjected to public review or a consensus process. In addition, it does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the Standard.

This revision also includes an editorial update to the names of the Annexes within. The Annexes are being changed from alpha characters to numeric, preceded by a 'Normative' or 'Informative'. The table below shows the previous name of the Annex with the corresponding new name of the Annex:

<b>Annexes</b>	
<b>Previously known as:</b>	<b>Now known as:</b>
Annex A	Normative Annex 1 (N-1)
Annex B	Informative Annex 1 (I-1)

The Interpretations Annex contains responses to interpretation requests. The responses will be published in each version of the Standard until such time that the interpretation response is no longer applicable.

This Standard was developed by the NSF Joint Committee on Sustainable Wallcovering Products using the consensus process described by the American National Standards Institute.

Suggestions for improvement of this Standard are welcome. This Standard is maintained on a Continuous Maintenance schedule and can be opened for comment at any time. Comments should be sent to: Chair, Joint Committee on Sustainable Wallcovering Products at [standards@nsf.org](mailto:standards@nsf.org), or c/o NSF International, Standards Department, PO Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA.

## NSF/ANSI Standard for Sustainability –

# Sustainability Assessment for Wallcovering Products

## 1 General

### 1.1 Purpose

The overall purpose of this Standard is to facilitate the thorough communication of information that is verifiable, accurate, and credible, associated with the production, distribution, and use of wallcovering products. Such communication is expected to encourage the demand for and supply of products that cause less impact on the environment and society, thereby stimulating the potential for market-driven continuous improvement. This Standard is voluntary and encourages inclusive participation in the production and distribution of sustainable wallcovering products within the supply chain.

This Standard is intended to be science based, provide transparency and offer creditability for manufacturers and distributors in making claims of environmental preferability and sustainability, and to harmonize the principles and procedures used to support such claims.

This Standard provides a practice for assessing the sustainability of wallcovering manufacturing and distribution processes. Sustainability-related information can inform a manufacturer's and distributor's decisions about supply chain modifications, product content changes, manufacturing adjustments, performance improvements, end-of-life options, and corporate governance, with the goal of producing more sustainable products.

This Standard addresses environmental performance and sustainability attributes of wallcovering products and distribution, and provides a means to track incremental changes to the products' sustainability profile. This Standard is intended to provide a consistent framework in which to compare and assess the sustainable nature of different products within the context of performing similar functions.

This Standard is intended to be used by product manufacturers interested in understanding the sustainability performance of their products. Distributors also have an opportunity to improve sustainability of products in the marketplace and this standard addresses them as a separate category to support the sustainability direction of the industry.

Independent auditors, certification bodies, and environmental labeling organizations are also potential users of this Standard for its use in supporting market based environmental and sustainability claims. This Standard may also be used by purchasers and consumers who wish to ensure that manufacturers are accurately declaring the sustainable nature of their products.

### 1.2 Scope

This Standard establishes a consistent approach to the evaluation and determination of environmentally preferable and sustainable wallcovering manufacturing and distribution processes. This Standard includes relevant criteria across the product life cycle from raw material extraction through manufacturing, distribution, and end-of-life management.