

Transparency: The Essential Ingredient to a Healthy Workplace

We are working towards a net positive future, through initiatives that go beyond sustainability to give back to the world.

Since 1990, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has required all food manufacturers to include clear, comprehensive Nutrition Facts on packaging. Research has since shown that food labels help consumers make more informed buying decisions and ultimately, healthier choices.

Why should the products we use every day be any different?

More and more companies are insisting on ingredients labels for everything that goes into their office. For example, Google is at the forefront of creating healthy work environments through transparency — for both people and the environment.

In Google's Plan to Make Our Buildings Less Poisonous, Robin Bass, a member of Google's real estate and work services team, explains, "We approach our spaces the same way we develop our products, and our office is a product."

"Focus on the user and all else will follow' is a mantra, and that's where our focus on people and the focus on health in the environment stems from," Bass continued. "There are a lot of smart people [at Google], and if they smell something in a new space they'll ask about it. That's where the healthy materials program began."

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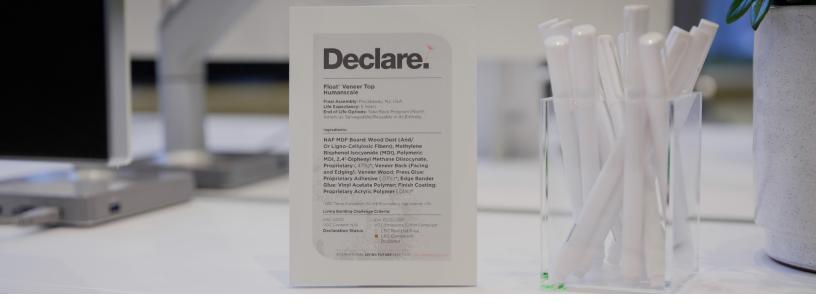
While some companies disclose the partial chemical makeup of a product, full material transparency means disclosing *exactly* what ingredients a product contains.

"We can't have one or two healthy materials. We need every manufacturer of every product in every home improvement store to be working on this," Bass continued.

Harvard University also prioritizes sustainability and the use of healthy materials in its buildings.

As stated in Harvard University's "Chemicals of Concern," "With people spending 90% of their time indoors, it is vital that we create and maintain buildings that enhance well-being. There are more than 80,000 chemicals in use today, many of which are unregulated, and are associated with long-term problems on our health and the environment."





HUMANSCALE: THE CLEAR LEADER IN MATERIAL TRANSPARENCY

With more Health Product Declarations (HPD) and Declare ingredients labels than any other company, Humanscale is a driving force in the march for transparency.

60% of all Declare labels and 54% of all HPDs in **our entire industry** are published by Humanscale. We don't hide behind certifications – we disclose *every* ingredient.

With over 90% of our first-tier suppliers working with us to improve material transparency, we choose vendors who also share this belief. Without transparency, companies can hide behind sustainability slogans and marketing rhetoric without affecting real change. While most companies refuse to provide material transparency of their products – whether due to cost or supplier's privacy interests – at Humanscale, we prioritize our customer's health over these excuses. We will continue to hold manufacturers accountable and demand more stringent requirements for material transparency until it is the industry norm.

