



Non-Toxic Certifications & Safety Guide

This guide explains some of the most trusted certifications and safety standards for baby toys, strollers, and other products. Use this when shopping to ensure your child's things are safe from toxic chemicals, harmful finishes, and unsafe materials. Below I have included brief explanations of certifications you may find/look for and what their standards are.

Certifications

GREENGUARD Gold Certification (The highest standards in my opinion!)

Meaning:

- Tests for over 360 VOCs and ensures very low chemical emissions; safe for indoor air quality.

What to Look For:

- Label or logo stating 'Greenguard Gold'; verify on official database.

EWG (Environmental Working Group)

Meaning:

- A nonprofit that rates products for health and environmental safety, focusing on avoiding chemicals linked to allergies, hormone disruption, or cancer.

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- The EWG Verified™ seal on baby lotions, wipes, and sunscreens for non-toxic, transparent ingredients.

GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)

Meaning:

- The strictest standard for organic textiles, ensuring fibers are organic and processed without harmful chemicals like formaldehyde or toxic dyes.

What to look for:

- The GOTS Certified label on baby clothes, bedding, and wraps to guarantee organic and safe materials.

OEKO-TEX® Standard 100

Meaning:

- Tests textiles at every production stage for over 100 harmful substances, even if they are not legally regulated.

What to look for:

- The OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 label on clothing, blankets, and carriers for chemical-free fabrics safe for babies or Baby Class 1 label for fabrics.

FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)

Meaning:

- Certifies that wood and paper products come from responsibly managed forests that protect wildlife and prevent deforestation.

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- The FSC Certified logo on wooden toys, cribs, or furniture for eco-friendly and safe sourcing.

JPMA (Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association)

Meaning:

- Ensures baby gear meets rigorous safety standards beyond federal requirements, including crash testing and material safety.

What to look for:

- The JPMA Certified seal on strollers, car seats, and nursery gear for proven safety.

Made Safe®

Meaning:

- Screens products against a database of thousands of toxic chemicals known to harm human health or ecosystems, making it one of the cleanest safety standards.

What to look for:

- The Made Safe® seal on baby skincare, bedding, and personal care items for toxin-free assurance.

ASTM F963

Meaning:

- US toy safety standard covering lead, heavy metals, flammability, and small parts hazards.

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- Mark on packaging saying 'Conforms to ASTM F963'.

CPSIA Compliant

Meaning:

- Ensures compliance with lead and phthalate limits for children's products in the US.

What to Look For:

- Manufacturer's statement or label showing CPSIA compliance.

EN71

Meaning:

- European toy safety standard testing for mechanical, flammability, and chemical safety.

What to Look For:

- Label stating 'Tested to EN71' or with CE mark for EU safety.

Food-Grade Safety Certification

Meaning:

- Indicates paints, sealants, or finishes are safe for mouthing and food contact.

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- Statements such as 'food-grade', 'baby-safe', or 'meets FDA food contact standards'.
- (I like milk paint if you're using it to paint yourself!)

Quick Shopping Tips

1. Choose solid hardwoods like maple, beech, oak, sycamore, birch, or even fruit/nut tree (aka apricot, walnut, etc.).
2. Avoid MDF, plywood, or particleboard due to formaldehyde risk.
3. Aim to find water-based, plant-based, or food-grade finishes. Look for natural oil & beeswax finishes instead of chemical sealants.
4. Verify certifications via official websites when possible.
5. 'Non-toxic' without details isn't enough, always check for specific standards.

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