

BIOPREFERRED

Program Web Site: <http://www.biopreferred.gov/>

GSA Advantage!® icon:



Environmental Attribute: Biobased*

Program Summary: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) manages the BioPreferred Program. BioPreferred includes both a preferential procurement program for Federal agencies and their contractors and a voluntary labeling program for the broad scale consumer. Under the Federal procurement preference program, USDA designates biobased products (e.g., glass cleaners). Federal agencies and their contractors are then required to give preferential consideration to biobased products in the designated BioPreferred product categories when making purchases. As a part of the designation process, USDA establishes the minimum biobased content for the category. The technical, health, and environmental characteristics of these products are also considered.

*Note that *biobased* products are frequently confused with *biodegradable* products. Biobased products are those that are composed in whole, or in significant part, of biological products. Biodegradable products are items that will completely break down and return to nature (i.e., decompose into elements found in nature) within a reasonably short period of time after customary disposal.

Covered Products: BioPreferred covers biobased products in over 77 categories, including:

- Bedding, Bed Linens, Towels
- Composite Panels (e.g., acoustical, interior panels, plastic lumber, structural wall panels)
- Oils and lubricants, including greases (e.g., food grade, multipurpose, rail track, truck)
- Laundry Products (e.g., general purpose, pretreatment/spot removers)
- Cleaners (e.g., food, multipurpose, industrial)
- Hair Care Products (e.g., conditioners, shampoos)
- Inks (e.g., specialty, news, sheetfed, printer toner)



For Schedule and SIN information, please refer to the [Green Product Crosswalk](#). On the master sheet, you can find information about specific products, icons, schedules, and SINs. By clicking on the drop down arrow at the top of each column, you can filter the entries based on your requirements.

Certification: In order to be eligible for the federal preference program, the vendor self-declares that the product meets minimum biobased content level. Products can be tested by the manufacturer or a third party, using a specified ASTM test method. Biobased content testing is required for the USDA Certified Biobased Label, which is a separate program.

Summary of Federal Purchasing Requirements: When acquiring products covered by the BioPreferred Program, agencies must give preferential consideration to USDA-designated biobased products. There are statutory exceptions for performance, price, and availability. USDA also provides categorical exemptions for products or systems designed or procured for combat or combat-related missions and spacecraft systems and launch support equipment.