



## **B&Q Paint Buying Standard**

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**socialresponsibility**  
Community | Diversity | Ethical | Environment

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**This policy encompasses the following types of product:**

- paints and varnishes;
- primers, undercoats, sealers and stabilisers;
- timber treatments, woodstains and dyes;
- damp sealers, water sealers, roof sealers and stain blockers;
- patio sealers, paving block sealers and drive sealers (but not patio and path cleaners);
- algae and bacteria killers for garden furniture, timber and greenhouses;
- waxes and polishes;
- wood oils;
- wood fillers;
- thinners, brush cleaners and paint strippers; and
- any of the above products delivered by aerosol.

Any reference to ‘paint product’, in this policy refers to any of the product types given above, all of which must conform to the following requirements.

**General Labelling**

**Standard 1:** No paint product will be listed which carries the following or similar phrases:

- ‘Environmentally friendly’;
- ‘Environmentally safe’; and
- ‘Ozone friendly’.

on product labels, point-of-sale information or other promotional literature.

**VOC labelling**

**Standard 2:** All paint products supplied to B&Q must carry the ‘Globe’ symbol incorporating one of the following standard phrases and symbols:



‘MINIMAL’ VOC CONTENT 0 – 0.29%  
VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) contribute to atmospheric pollution



‘LOW’ VOC CONTENT 0.30 – 7.99%  
VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) contribute to atmospheric pollution



‘MEDIUM’ VOC CONTENT 8 – 24.99%  
VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) contribute to atmospheric pollution



‘HIGH’ VOC CONTENT 25 – 50%  
VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) contribute to atmospheric pollution



'VERY HIGH' VOC CONTENT more than 50%  
VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) contribute to atmospheric pollution

Note (i) Tester pots and trial size pots are included within the labelling scheme and the location of the label must be agreed by B&Q.

Note (ii) The term 'VOC' in the labelling phrases used must express the total VOC content of the product. Percentages will be calculated as weight of VOC in grammes per millilitre of product in a ready to use condition, multiplied by 100.

Note (iii) 'Organic compound' means any compound containing at least the element carbon and one or more of hydrogen, oxygen, sulphur, phosphorus, silicon, nitrogen or a halogen, with the exception of carbon oxides and inorganic carbonates and bicarbonates.

Note (iv) 'Volatile organic compound (VOC)' means any organic compound having an initial boiling point less than or equal to 250°C measured at a standard pressure of 101.3 kPa.

**Standard 3:** In addition to the 'Globe' symbol (see Standard 2), all paint products supplied to B&Q must conform with the labelling requirement contained in the: *VOCs in Paints, Varnishes and Vehicle Refinishing Products Regulations, 2005*.

This means that every product must carry a "Statutory Box" somewhere on the packaging containing the minimum information required by the Regulations, ie:

(a) the sub-category of the product and the relevant VOC limit values measured in grams per litre (g/l), as set out in Schedule 2 of the Regulations; and

(b) the maximum content of VOC in g/l of the product in a ready to use condition.

Note (i) The definition of 'organic compound' and 'VOC' will be as given in Standard 2 above.

**Standard 4:** The VOC content of every paint product supplied to B&Q will be provided by the vendor, as a condition of trading. In declaring the VOC content of a given product, the vendor must take account of the following materials, *inter alia*, where they are present in the formulation:

- solvents;
- coalescing agents and co-solvents;
- the VOC content of resins, resin solutions and emulsions;

- VOCs known by the manufacturer to be present in any additives (dispersants, stabilisers, pigments, etc);
- aerosol propellants; and
- solvents added during in-store tinting.

Note (i) The definition of 'organic compound' and 'VOC' will be as given in Standard 2 above.

Note (ii) Vendors may use published data to establish which constituents of their formulations fall within the definition of VOC. The information provided to B&Q on the total VOC content of individual products may then be calculated from the formulation characteristics. In other words, B&Q is not insisting that declared VOC contents are verified by chemical analysis.

### **Waste Paint**

**Standard 5:** All paint products supplied to B&Q will include the following guidance (or similar) on the safe disposal of waste paint on the container:

- 'Remove as much paint as possible from brushes and rollers before washing';
- 'Some local authorities have special facilities for the disposal of waste paint'; and
- 'Do not empty into drains or watercourses'.

### **Packaging**

**Standard 6:** Packaging for all paint products supplied to B&Q must meet the following requirements:

- where possible plastic packaging should contain at least 10% recycled material;
- steel containers must contain a minimum 25% recycled material; and
- all handles must be made from a material compatible with the container, and/or be designed to be easily detached from the container to facilitate recycling.

### **Old lead paint**

**Standard 7:** All vendors of paint products must provide best-practice information to customers for surface preparation and the safe removal of old lead paint, using appropriate point-of-sale literature