Kerno Sustainability Policy 2025

At Kerno, we have always been deeply committed to health and environmental stewardship, particularly in recent years, where the impact of our actions has become increasingly evident in daily life. Our ongoing efforts focus on minimizing the environmental impact of our production technologies and methods, ensuring compliance with environmental standards.

In line with this commitment, Kerno LLC and its affiliated companies adhere to European REACH and RoHS regulations in the production of our PVC laminates.

REACH: A European initiative designed to ensure that the safest materials available are used in production.
RoHS Standard: A regulation that restricts the use of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment.

As part of these standards, Kerno certifies that our **aeCore® laminates** are free from the following harmful additives:

- Lead (Pb)
- Mercury (Hg)
- Cadmium (Cd)
- Hexavalent Chromium (Cr(VI))
- Polybrominated Biphenyls (PBB)
- Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDE)
- Bis(2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)
- Benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP)
- Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)
- Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP)
- Formaldehyde (CH2O)

When **aeCore® PVC laminates** are applied over wood-based substrates such as particle board and MDF, they significantly reduce VOC emissions, potentially enhancing indoor air quality.

Sustainability of PVC

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) is produced from two primary components: chlorine,

derived from common salt, and ethylene, sourced from natural gas. Through further chemical processing, PVC can be made flexible, rigid, clear, colorful, and in various thicknesses, making it one of the most versatile synthetic materials available.

The vinyl industry has made substantial advancements in improving the environmental health and safety performance of PVC. Notable achievements include:

- PVC requires less energy to produce, transport, and apply.
- PVC generates no emissions during production.
- PVC uses fewer natural resources.
- PVC contributes to reduced CO2 emissions.
- PVC helps conserve fossil fuels.
- Raw PVC is composed of nearly 60% chlorine, sourced from common salt.
- PVC is 100% recyclable.
- PVC is resistant to weathering, rotting, and chemical corrosion, making it the most widely used polymer in medical applications.
- PVC minimizes environmental contamination.

Benefits of Using PVC

The versatility of PVC plays a crucial role in modern architecture. It is widely used in new construction projects as well as in renovations, replacing traditional materials such as metal and wood. Key advantages of PVC include:

- **Scratch resistance**: PVC's durability is essential for building and construction applications.
- **Lightweight and strong**: Its combination of strength and lightness enhances its value in construction.
- **Ease of installation**: PVC is easy to cut, shape, weld, and join in various styles.
- **Low cost**: PVC is competitively priced for both initial investment and long-term maintenance.

In addition to its durability, longevity, and low maintenance requirements, PVC is also a cost-effective choice for a variety of applications.

Fort Lauderdale, January 2025