

Customers frequently ask, "Is Nature Stone® harmful to the health of people and the health of their pets?" Good question, and we have an even better answer – "*Absolutely not!*" To document our position and clarify our dedication to your health, the community, and the environment, we would like to express the Nature Stone® environmental policy.

Nature Stone® is dedicated to protecting the health of your family and your community by manufacturing safe, environmentally friendly flooring products. Over the last 15 years, we have taken great pride and care in formulating and providing products that are safe for our employees to handle and install, safe for you to own and care for, and *safe for the environment.*

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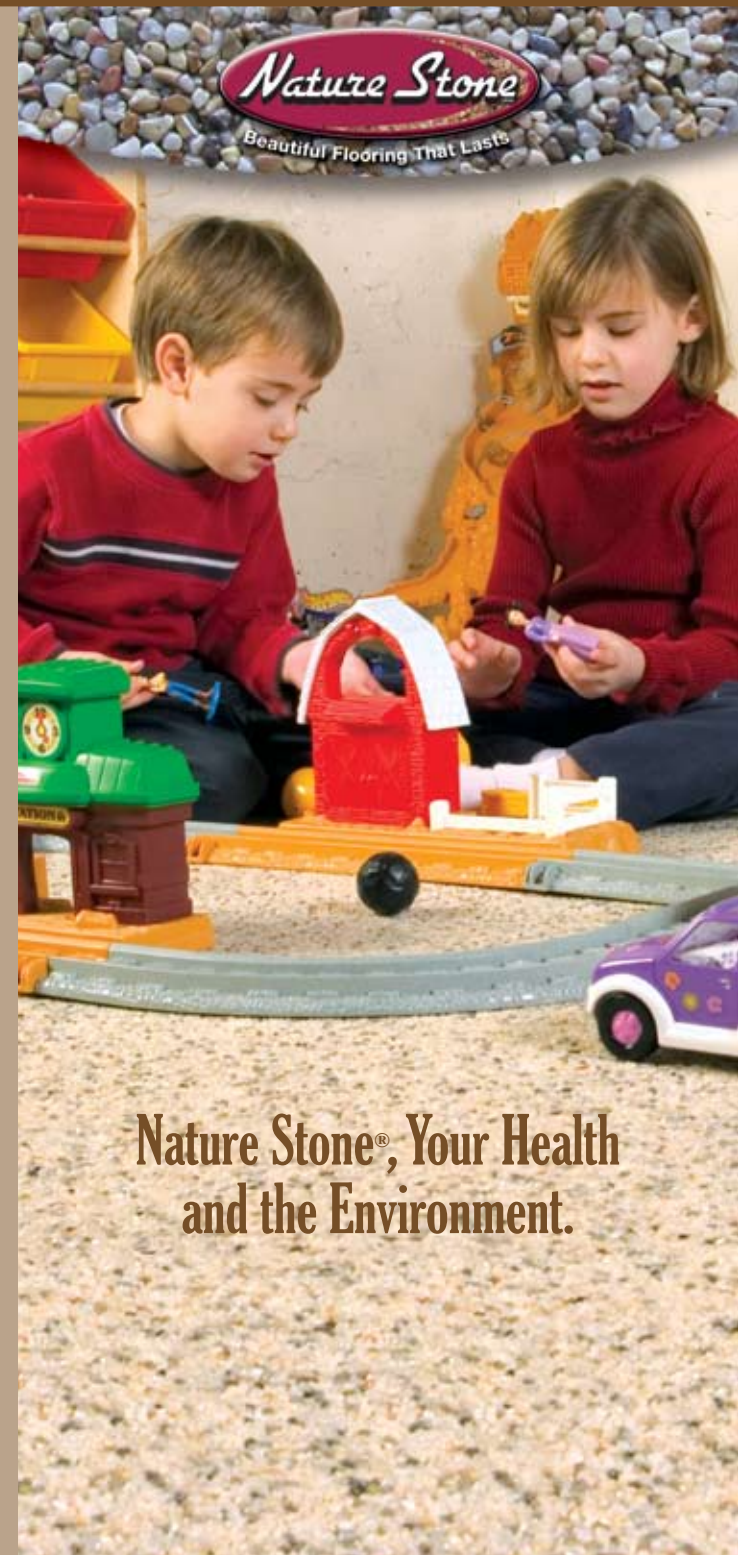


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Nature Stone®, Your Health
and the Environment.

Nature Stone® Is Composed Of:

- Natural washed and graded stone.
- One hundred percent solids epoxy binders, elastomeric sealants, and polymer topcoats that are FDA-compliant. “One hundred percent solids” means that no volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are emitted into the atmosphere during the installation. “FDA compliant” means that, when properly handled and cured, the polymers are safe for food contact under the regulations of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This means that they are safe to use in your home and business.
- An anti-microbial agent to prohibit the growth of mold and safeguard indoor air quality.

Nature Stone® formulates and manufactures its products in-house and locally under the strict supervision of its certified chemist and professional designer. Nature Stone® uses FDA-approved raw materials from suppliers who implement cradle-to-grave tracking to ensure their proper handling and use, according to Responsible Care®, a global voluntary initiative established by the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA). This high level of due diligence is part of the Nature Stone® commitment to your safety and health.

Environmental Responsibility

In addition to protecting your health, the Nature Stone® Company is dedicated to protecting the environment. Nature Stone® practices environmental responsibility according to sustainability concepts developed by the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) program.

Nature Stone® contributes to environmental sustainability under the following LEED® attributes:

- Local manufacturing: Local manufacturing reduces the embedded energy and pollution generated by transporting products over long distances.

- Low-Emitting: As described above, the chemicals used in Nature Stone® products emit no volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and they are FDA-compliant under CFR 175.300 and CFR 175.105.
- Chain of responsibility: The chemicals used in manufacturing and installing Nature Stone® are monitored under the ICCA's Responsible Care® program described above. In addition, the products are stored, handled, installed, and disposed in compliance with current environmental laws.
- Waste stream reduction: Construction generates more solid waste than any other human activity. The Nature Stone® construction waste management program reduces the solid waste stream through recycling and proper disposal.

Other Environmentally Friendly Attributes Include:

- Long lifecycle: The long-term durability of Nature Stone® means it is replaced less often than most other types of polymer-based flooring products. Long lifecycle attributes contribute to environmental sustainability.
- Low maintenance: Unlike many other polymer-based flooring products, Nature Stone® does not require chemicals or waxes to maintain it. Annual steam cleaning and extraction are all that are necessary to keep Nature Stone® a clean, healthy, flooring surface.

In addition, Nature Stone® complies with Criteria 1 through 5 of ASTM E2129 Standard Practice for Data Collection for Sustainability Assessment of Building Products.



We believe no other stone epoxy flooring product is safer to use, lasts longer, and is easier to maintain than Nature Stone®. This notwithstanding, we've learned that some competitors have made allegations that Nature Stone® products may be “harmful.” Such accusations are erroneous and unsubstantiated. In fact, we believe that these same competitors do not understand the environmental performance of their own products. False environmental marketing claims undermine the dedicated efforts of many individuals and companies like Nature Stone® in protecting public health and safeguarding the environment. As such, these claims are a punishable federal offense.

What You Can Do

To be the most informed consumer you can be, the Nature Stone® Company urges you to read 16 CFR Part 260, *Guide for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims* published by the Federal Trade Commission, available as a free download from the Federal Trade Commission website (www.ftc.gov) to more fully understand the importance of truth in environmental marketing.

To learn more about the Responsible Care® organization, visit www.responsiblecare.org.

To learn more about the Food and Drug Administration and the citations in this statement, visit www.fda.gov.

To learn more about ASTM E2129 *Standard Practice for Data Collection for Sustainability Assessment of Building Products*, contact www.astm.org.

We encourage you to research the facts. If you have any further questions or would like additional information about the Nature Stone® corporate health and environmental policies, please contact us at 1-800-358-0583.