natureplus e.V.

Guideline 0801

Plastering mortar for interior use

Version: Oct. 23, 2026
for the awardance of the eco-label

Introduction

The International Association for Sustainable Building and Living - natureplus association - pursues the goal of promoting sustainable building products and increasing their popularity and use. To this end, sustainability criteria for building products are defined and verified as part of regular conformity assessments at the applicant's premises.

Three comprehensive sustainability definitions are created to achieve a holistic understanding of quality.

CLIMATE PROTECTION

The climate crisis is worsening, and the consequences are becoming increasingly visible. The construction sector is one of the largest emitters, accounting for around 40% [1] of global greenhouse gas emissions. Energy-intensive manufacturing processes, long transport routes and short renovation cycles are often still characteristic of the status quo.

The natureplus certification requires manufacturers to meet limit values on CO2 emissions and primary energy consumption.

[1] UNEP, 2020, 2020 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction, p. 4.

HEALTHY LIVING

In Western societies, we spend about 90% [2] of our lives in buildings. Pollutants emitted by building materials can accumulate in the indoor air we breathe daily, posing unnecessary health risks to occupants. The accumulation of chemical pollutants from building materials in household dust is also a cause for concern.

The natureplus certification ensures that hazardous input materials are avoided or used in quantities that are harmless to health. Emissions from building products are strictly regulated and regularly monitored.

[2] Umweltbundesamt, o. D., Ausschuss für Innenraumrichtwerte (AIR)

CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES

All construction activities have an impact on nature and the environment, with the consumption of finite resources remaining unacceptably high. The production of building materials in Germany consumes about 60% of our resources, and as much as 90% if only mineral raw materials are considered. At the same time, the construction sector is responsible for 50% of the waste generated. [3]

The natureplus certification sets out requirements for increased transparency in the supply chain, respect for human rights and the environment, and the responsible use of resources throughout the life cycle of a building product.
Sustainable materials should also be durable, reusable, or recyclable.

[3] VDI ZRE, 2019, Ressourceneffizienz im Bauwesen – Von der Planung bis zum Bauwerk, p. 5.

Notes on this product guideline:

The eco-label, the certification programme including all associated documents is the property of the non-profit natureplus® environmental organisation. The Association and its specially appointed Criteria Commission are therefore responsible for the further development of the requirements.

The label is awarded by the European cooperative natureplus Institute SCE mbH.

In the event of textual discrepancies between different language versions of a guideline, the Criteria Commission's Task Force will determine the valid wording. The affected language versions will be amended to reflect the valid wording.

In the event of conflict between the basic guidelines (50XX) and this product guideline, the product award guideline shall prevail.

For questions, criticism and suggestions, please contact:

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1 Application Areas

The following criteria contain the requirements for the awardance of the natureplus eco-label for factory produced building plaster/mortar with inorganic binding agents according to EN 998-1 for interior applications. This awardance guideline is to be applied exclusively to the named products. Plaster/mortar whose main binding agent component is gypsum or loam/clay or render for external thermal insulation composite systems, synthetic resins and synthetic resin dispersion plaster according to DIN 18558 are not covered in this guideline.

2 Award Criteria

The prerequisite for a product to be awarded the natureplus® quality label in accordance with these guidelines is compliance with the following award guidelines:

- GL5001 Chemicals Directive
- GL-5003 Nature Conservation when Exploiting Mineral Resources
- GL5004 Transparency and Social Responsibility
- GL5010 Low-emission building products
- GL5020 Climate compatibility and energy efficiency

2.1 Functional Suitability

The product must fulfil the requirements of EN 998-1. The manufacturer must provide documentation of suitable test analyses proving the compliance.

Plasters/mortars for internal applications have to comply with the requirements of DIN EN 13914-2 and DIN 18550-2 or comparable standards (except for loam/clay based mortar, whose requirements are found in the loam construction regulations by the German Association Lehm e.V.). Evidence of compliance with the requirements must be provided.

Those products whose primary use is as an interior finishing coat must display a capillary water absorption capacity of > 0.40 kg/m² x min0.5 (according to EN 1015-18 or EN 998-1 Cat. W1) and a vapour diffusion resistance number μ < 15 according to EN 1015-19, as long as this does not conflict with the characteristics of the application

area i.e. damp locations and moisture prone areas/rooms (with the exception of residential kitchens and bathrooms).

Plaster binding agents must fulfil the physical and mechanical requirements of EN 413-1.

2.2 Composition, Forbidden Substances, Substance Restrictions

The product must be made to at least 99 M-% from mineral raw materials.

The proportion of the organic components within the product is restricted to 1% of the dry mortar.

Building lime, sodium silicate and lime-cement mixtures come into consideration as binding agents. Gypsum may be used as an additional binding agent when used in combination with air-hardening lime and the proportion of gypsum is less than that of the lime.

The use and addition of biozides is not permitted.

The use of halogen-organic compounds is prohibited.

The following substances must not be added to the product:

- glycol ether and esters
- APEOs (alkylphenol ethoxylates)
- halogenated isothiazolinones
- formaldehyde releasing substances

Products containing cement must comply with the limit value defined in “Annex XVII of the REACH Regulation (as of October 2, 2025), Section 47: Chromium VI Compounds, Point 1.”

The proportion of volatile organic compounds (VOC) within the product (in-can) is restricted to 100 ppm.

Only pigments prepared from iron oxides or anorganic substances with comparable or less toxicity may be added to the product.

The product is subject to assessments as detailed in section 3 and must comply with the limits specified therein.

2.3 Raw Material Sourcing, Production of Preliminary Products, Production

A certificate of origin must be provided for all raw materials.

When using mineral raw materials, the requirements of RL-5003 " Nature conservation in the mining of mineral raw materials" must be complied with.

2.4 Usage

The product must not exhibit any unpleasant or foreign smells or odours. The emissions during use have to be in compliance with the limit values according to section 3.

Emissions must not exceed the natureplus limits according to section 3 during the use phase. (see section 3 and RL5010)

2.5 Reuse, recycling and disposal

The products must be disposable in inert landfills in accordance with the "Decision of the EU Council of 19 December 2002 establishing criteria and procedures for the acceptance of waste at landfills pursuant to Article 16 of and Annex II to Directive 1999/31/EC".

2.6 Ecological Parameters

All products in this product group must be manufactured in such a way that the environmental parameters listed in RL5020 are complied with.

2.7 Public Declaration

A public declaration of ingredients[1] must be provided in the official language of the country in which the product is intended for sale. It must be freely accessible. Ingredients must be listed in descending order of weight. The following publicly accessible documentation paths are permitted:

- Product packaging
- Technical data sheet

- Sales brochures
- Website

Ingredients from preliminary products or preparations that remain in the final product with a content of >1 M% must also be included in the full declaration.

The following applies to the public declaration of ingredients:

- above 1 M% the name of the ingredient
- below 1 M% at least the functional name of the ingredient, the mass order is cancelled.

[1] Ingredients are substances and mixtures that remain in the final product. Reactants and ancillary input materials are included in the non-public full declaration submitted to the assessment body

Furthermore, there is an obligation to include the following information with the product or to make it available to the consumer or user in an appropriate manner (e.g. online):

- Instructions for use and safety instructions
- Storage and disposal instructions
- Batch numbers
- Country of production
- Country of origin of input materials > 20 M-% where there is a deviation from the country of production

When using ingredients with an environmentally hazardous potential, the applicant must indicate at an appropriate place which measures are to be taken within the framework of dismantling and demolition work to protect the environment (e.g. controlled dismantling).

In addition, the consumer or user must be provided with the following product-specific information:

- Indication of the main binder (this designation and the product name must not mislead the consumer)
- Information on capillary water absorption capacity and vapour diffusion resistance according to EN 1015
- Information on compressive strength according to EN 988-1
- Information on warranty and warranty periods
- Consumption data

- Shelf life, storage conditions
- Minimum durability

2.8 Processing and Installation

Products containing cement must comply with the requirements of EU-RL 2003/53/EG.

2.9 Packaging

The packaging used must be recyclable.

The manufacturer must belong to a recycling system, if one exists for the corresponding material.

Paper and cardboard packaging must be made from recycled paper. Alternatively, paper from sources as per GL5002 is also permitted.

Plastic packaging must be made from polyolefins. PET, polystyrene or polycarbonates are allowed exceptionally in reasonablecases.

PVC packaging is generally not permitted.

Packaging must not contain biocides.

Once awarded, the natureplus label together with the license number must be printed on the packaging or made visible to the consumer in another suitable place.

3 LaboratoryTests

The products are subject to laboratory analyses to test for harmful substances and undesirable ancillary ingredients. A representative sample is collected during the production audit. If the sample collection cannot be conducted by a natureplus examiner, an independent person designated by natureplus can collect the sample. For products with different sizes but the same composition, a single sample is sufficient.

3.1 Volatile Organic Compounds VOC / TVOC

To check the emission of VOC and to determine the TVOC and TSVOC, an emission chamber test is carried out with the product. Measurements are usually performed after 3 and 28 days. The test-chamber examination is performed according to the current version of natureplus guideline 5010. The product must comply with the limit values specified in guideline 5010.

3.2 Element Analyses

The product is subject to an element analysis to determine the content of harmful elements and to check for undesirable contaminations. The measurements have to be in compliance with the limit values. The analysis is performed according to the current version of the test method TM-02 metals.

An eluate analysis is mandatory if the required values of the content analysis are not met.

Element	Limit value [mg/kg]
Arsenic (As)	≤ 5
Cadmium (Cd)	≤ 1
Cobalt (Co)	≤ 20
Mercury (Hg)	≤ 0,5
Nickel (Ni)	≤ 20
Lead (Pb)	≤ 15
Antimon (Sb)	≤ 5
Tin (Sn)	≤ 5

3.3 Other Analyses

Chromium VI

Test parameters	Limit values	Unit	Method
Chromium VI (Cr VI)	≤ 2	mg/kg	TRGS 613

Halogenic organic compounds

Test parameters	Limit values	Unit	Method
Halogenic organic compounds: AOX/EOX	≤ 1	mg/kg	TM-03 Halo

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

If the product contains secondary materials:

Test parameters	Limit values	Unit	Method
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	≤ 0,003	mg/l	DIN 38407 part 18

Phenol

If the product contains secondary materials:

Test parameters	Limit values	Unit	Method
Phenol	≤ 0,02	mg/l	DIN 38409 part16

pH value

Test parameters	Limit values	Unit	Method
pH value	≤ 12,75		ISO 10390

Asbestos fibres

If the product contains secondary materials:

Test parameters	Limit values	Unit	Method
Asbestos fibres	asbestos free per DAB[1]		SEM

1: DAB: German Register of Medicines

Odour

Test parameters	Limit values	Unit	Method
Odour	≤ 3	Odour intensity	TM-04 Odour

Pesticides

Analysis if necessary, if the product contains input materials based on renewable raw materials from agriculture or forestry:

Test parameters	Limit values	Unit	Method
Total pesticides	≤ 1	mg/kg	TM-05 Pesticides
Individual pesticides Organochlorine pesticides: Aldrin, Chlordane, DDD, DDE, DDT, Dichlofluanid, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Hexachlorobenzene, Lindane, Pentachlorophenol Organophosphate pesticides: Dimethoat, Fenthion, Parathion-methyl, Parathion-ethyl, Phosalon Pyrethroids: Cypermethrin, Lambda-Cyhalothrin, Permethrin Other: Benomyl, Carbendazim, Prochloraz	≤ 0,1	mg/kg	TM-05 Pesticides

4 Appendix

Test methods

TM-01 VOC : Volatile Organic Compounds VOC/TVOC, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and TSVOC: DIN EN ISO 16000 series expanded by the natureplus implementation rules in guideline 5010.

TM-02 Metals: ICP-MS measurements according to DIN EN ISO 17294-2, supplemented with the natureplus implementation rules and a sample preparation adjusted to the issue analysed.

TM-03 Halo: Halogenic organic compounds after combustion, determined by microcoulometry according to the natureplus implementation rules "AOX/EOX".

TM-04 Odour: natureplus implementation rules "odour intensity", 6-degree grading scale 3 days after loading the test chamber following VDA 270:2018.

TM-05 Pesticides: DFG S 19 extended by natureplus implementing regulations

TM-08 Foreign fibres and foreign substances: scanning electron microscopy SEM

TM-09 Monomeric isocyanates: 24h after test chamber loading

TM-10 PAH: HPLC / GC-MS, sum according to EPA