

The Environment

Health

Quality

Set a sign ...

... for sustainable building products

**Build and renovate
for the future**

*The European quality label for the protection
of the climate and resources in building, energy
efficiency and healthy accommodation.*



natureplus
for better living



The label you can trust

The building sector is responsible for around 40 percent of the world-wide consumption of resources and over 30 percent of our energy requirements. Sustainable building and housing products from innovative manufacturers make a significant contribution towards sustainable development.

Europeans spend over 90 percent of their lives indoors. Even a low concentration of toxins present in your accommodation can lead to health problems. Innovative manufacturers subject their products to the strictest toxic substance controls

The natureplus quality label serves as an orientation aid for innovative manufacturers, future-oriented professional users and quality-conscious consumers. natureplus promotes climate protection, the conservation of resources and healthy construction and accommodation. natureplus is the European quality label for sustainable building products as per ISO 14024, tested for their aspects related to health, the environment and functionality. natureplus certified products are compatible with the European Construction Products Regulations (CPR) and by far exceed the requirements relating to health, hygiene, the environment and resource conservation

10 reasons that speak for the natureplus quality label:

- ✓ It scientifically defines the highest levels of quality relating to health and the environment for building products.
- ✓ It is only awarded to the best products in a segment (excellence principle) and is therefore an important unique selling point.
- ✓ It thereby serves as an orientation for all building professionals and consumers and promotes direct levels of trust in the products amongst customers due to its high level of credibility.
- ✓ It reduces your exposure to claims for liability through regular quality controls, which far exceed the normal legal requirements.
- ✓ It is embedded within the internationally recognised systems for ecobalance (life-cycle assessment) and emissions testing and thereby simplifies the application of systems for the assessment of the ecobalance of buildings and quality assurance during the construction phase.
- ✓ It enables you to position your company and products in the growing and ever more important field of sustainability and enhances the image of those involved.
- ✓ It promotes effective alliances through activities with common goals in the areas of merchandising, trades and the building industry.
- ✓ It is a reliable statement of quality based upon the expertise of testing institutes. The awardance criteria are independent and developed in conjunction with all the stakeholders.
- ✓ It enables concerted product innovations and the continued development of your company's own quality standards.
- ✓ It effectively supports the marketing activities of innovative companies and thereby leads to an enhancement of the competitiveness of sustainable product lines.

Make choices based upon quality. Trust in natureplus

What are the criteria?

- ✓ Natural materials: The maximisation of the proportion of renewable resources and/or mineral resources extracted in an environmentally-friendly manner—usually more than 85 %.
- ✓ Resource protection: The use of raw materials which are plentiful or secondary raw materials.
- ✓ Petro-chemical materials must not constitute the principal product component and may only be used where this is technically unavoidable.
- ✓ A ban on the use of substances which pose a risk to health or the environment, in accordance with the European REACH- and CLP-regulations.
- ✓ A low level of energy consumption in the manufacture of the product.
- ✓ Compliance with social standards.
- ✓ Very low emissions which minimise the health-risks for the user.
- ✓ Qualified application/usage instructions.
- ✓ Proof of the functional applicability.
- ✓ A full declaration of the constituent materials.
- ✓ The promotion of recycling, recovery und re-use.

Additional specific product group criteria apply.

Detailed information can be found under www.natureplus.org

Which products are eligible for the awardance of the quality label?

Currently, building products from the following sectors are eligible for certification:

- ✓ Building boards
- ✓ Floor coverings
- ✓ Roof coverings
- ✓ Insulation materials
- ✓ Insulation systems
- ✓ Sealants
- ✓ Tiles
- ✓ Timber and wood-based products
- ✓ Paints and varnishes
- ✓ Bricks and blocks
- ✓ Oils and waxes
- ✓ Plasters, renders and adhesives
- ✓ Wallpapers
- ✓ Doors
- ✓ Wall paints

The product palette is continually being expanded with the goal that a whole house/building can be constructed using natureplus-certified products. You can check the current status on our homepage under www.natureplus.org.

There you will also be able to see which products have been awarded certification.

Stay one step ahead.

Subscribe to **our free newsletter under www.natureplus.org.**

How can my products get the natureplus label?

1. You will find the relevant awardance guidelines for your product in the internet under www.natureplus.org.

2. Send us the completed "Product declaration data capture form".

3. Within the framework of the pre-testing procedure, we will compare the information you have provided us with our requirements in order to assess whether your product is suitable for certification. If it is, a testing plan will be produced and you will receive a detailed and binding quotation for the main testing procedure. Naturally, all the information you provide will remain confidential.

4. You must then commission natureplus to conduct the main testing procedure. natureplus will then contract an independent testing institute to carry out this work on their behalf. A visit to your production facilities will be arranged and test samples will be taken. Subsequently, various laboratory tests will be performed and a product life-cycle analysis based upon ecological reference values conducted. All tests and results are documented in a detailed test report.

5. If your product fulfils the criteria, it will be awarded the natureplus quality label. If your product did not fulfil the criteria, it is possible for you to apply again for the main testing procedure once those deficient areas/aspects have been optimised. You will receive ready-to-use files, a certification number and a certificate.

natureplus
Internationaler Verein für zukunftsfähiges
Bauen und Wohnen e.V.

ZERTIFIKAT
über die Vergabe des Qualitätszeichens
CERTIFICATE
for the award of the quality label
CERTIFICATE
pour l'attribution du label de qualité

terprodukt



These are the benefits

- ✓ Simple and credible communication of your products – highlighting their environmental-friendliness and the fact that they do not pose any health risks.
- ✓ A standardised European quality label which encompasses important environmental and hazardous substances labels applicable to the building sector. Gain access to international markets on completion of the certification process.
- ✓ You receive
 - detailed test reports,
 - optimisation suggestions for your production processes,
 - a recognised quality label.
- ✓ We advertise your products
 - in our publications,
 - on the Internet,
 - in our exhibition rooms,
 - at trade fairs, exhibitions, congresses and shows.
- ✓ Many merchants offer preferential treatment and readily accept labelled products into their product range.
- ✓ Our numerous co-operative partners across Europe promote the image of your products as a contribution to sustainable building.

And

- ✓ You are one step ahead of the competition.

The certification costs

A product is normally awarded the natureplus quality label for a period of three years. During this period a one-off payment for the pre-testing and the main testing procedures is due as well as annual licensing fees and costs for the annual conformity tests. The costs of the testing procedures are dependent upon the scope of the work involved for the contracted institute. The licensing fees are dependent upon the revenues from the certified products. The costs and fees conform to standard conditions. A current price list can be found under www.natureplus.org.

In order to minimise costs, it is recommended that groups of similar products are tested together. On-site tests are normally performed by an institute from the individual country of origin/production. Our contact offices are able to help you in your communications in the local language.

Parallel to and in combination with the natureplus testing procedure it is possible, via one of our accredited testers and in accordance with ISO 14025, ISO 21930, prEN 15804, to have an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) prepared for your product(s). It is also possible to perform emissions testing in accordance with EN ISO 16000 for building approvals (e.g. as per the German AgBB-Scheme) and thereby realise enormous synergy effects.

Quality Assurance

Renowned European testing institutes work together with recognised specialists on the formulation and revision of the testing criteria. These criteria are agreed on a broad basis with all participating interest groups. The tests are performed by accredited and experienced testing institutes according to recognised and accepted technical standards. In addition, independent, internal quality assurance controls are performed.

Every year the certified products are tested for compliance with the natureplus conformity requirements.

In this way, it is possible to ensure that the certified products meet the high levels of quality demanded.



The label for

The Environment

Health

Quality

Become a natureplus member

As a member of the International Association for Sustainable Building and Living – natureplus, you are actively supporting our work towards a worthwhile future for coming generations. In addition you profit from numerous benefits:

- ✓ Active co-determination and participation.
- ✓ Participation in the development of the awardance criteria which affect your products.
- ✓ An image improvement for your own company.
- ✓ New marketing and PR opportunities.
- ✓ Regular information service.
- ✓ Interesting conferences and congresses.
- ✓ Europe-wide and national networking between member companies and organisations.

The active membership in the Association costs between 200 and 2,000 Euros per year dependent upon the number of company/organisation employees. You can join our Association immediately if you are a manufacturer of a product eligible for certification, a builder's merchant, a building and housing industry company or a representative of a building sector federation or organisation.

You also have the option of becoming a sponsoring member instead. In this way you can support the work of the Association by making a financial donation. The amount you contribute is up to you. This is an option for persons, companies and institutions who can not or do not wish to become full members.

Fax reply

+49 6223 863646 **for Germany** | +43 1 319200550 **for Austria**

+41 52 7611713 **for Switzerland** | +32 3 21810696 **for Belgium**

+33 1 34590321 **for France** | +44 8701 217210 **for United Kingdom**

- Yes, I would like to become a member.
- Yes, I would like to become a sponsoring member.
- Yes, I would like to certify the following product(s) _____
_____.
- Yes, I would like to participate in product group hearings _____
_____.

Miscellaneous

Please complete all sections:

Company name _____

Contact person _____

Address, Country _____

Telephone/Fax _____

Email _____

Homepage _____

Only for membership applicants:

Number of employees _____

Please tick the relevant sector:

- A Merchandising
- B Manufacture
- C Environment
- D Consumer, health, advisory services
- E Construction- and housing industry / planner
- F Testing institute
- G Trade Union

The current membership fee for companies and organisations:

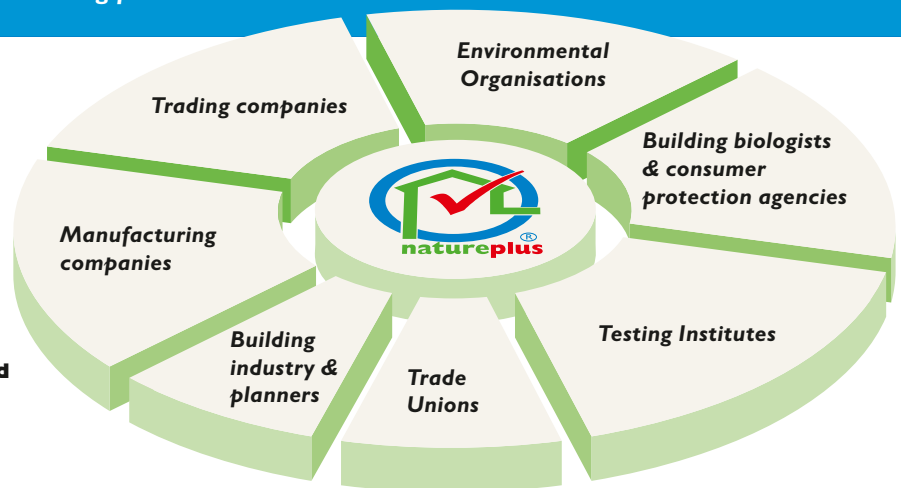
< 10 Employees	200 € per year
< 50 Employees	500 € per year
< 100 Employees	1,000 € per year
> 100 Employees	2,000 € per year

Date

Company Stamp/Signature

A widespread alliance

natureplus is supported by around 100 companies and organisations throughout Europe and is committed to the success of sustainable building products.



In cooperation with numerous environmental organisations



Supported by numerous associations and organisations



VIBE Vlaams Instituut voor BIO-ecologisch Bouwen en Wonen



ANAB – Associazione Nazionale Architettura Bioecologica

Supported by



Respected test-symbol institutions joined together to form natureplus



The current membership list can be found under www.natureplus.org

Active in Europe:



1 natureplus Germany: natureplus Head Office, Hauptstr. 41, 69151 Neckargemünd, Telephone: +49 6223 861147, Email: office@natureplus.org

2 natureplus Belgium: VIBE, Grote Steenweg 91, 2600 Antwerpen-Berchem, Telephone: +32 3 2181060, Email: be.info@natureplus.org

3 natureplus France: Agence Praevisio, 9 route des Flambertins, 78121 Crespières, Telephone: +33 609 189852, Email: natureplus@praevisio.eu

4 natureplus Austria: IBO, Alserbachstr. 5/8, 1090 Wien, Telephone: +43 1 31920050, Email: info@natureplus.at

5 natureplus Switzerland: SIB, Riethaldenstrasse 23, 8266 Steckborn, Telephone: +41 52 7702976, Email: info@natureplus.ch

6 natureplus Italy: c/o ICEA, via Nazario Sauro 2, 40121 Bologna, Telephone: +39 051 272986 ext. 4, Email: info@natureplus.it

7 natureplus United Kingdom: ASBP, 1 Baldwin Terrace (Ground Floor), London N1 7RU, Telephone: +44 207 7043501, Email: uk.info@natureplus.org

natureplus international

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