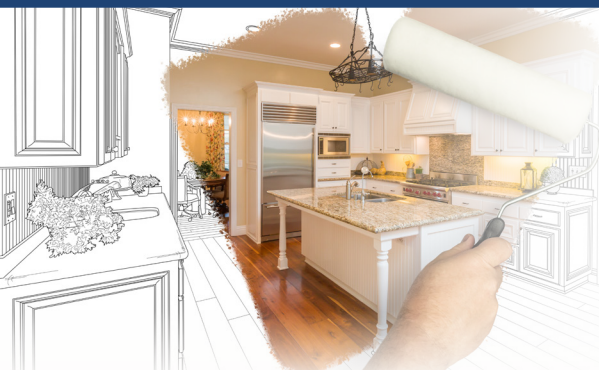


BioPreferred

# BioBuzz



## Happy National Homeownership Month

Care for your home using more than 19 Do It Yourself (DIY) categories from our Catalog!

June is National Homeownership Month! And we're celebrating the value of owning a home, along with the value of building and caring for that home using biobased products.

We have more than 19 Do It Yourself (DIY) categories from Wood and Concrete Stains to Wall and Ceiling Patches in our BioPreferred® Program Catalog. Here are several ideas to get you started when you feel the need for change:

- With 116 biobased interior paint products, you have lots of options. Look for Sherwin Williams ProMar, ProClassic or Emerald brands, Valspar Miaoxiang primer and paints, or Jeger Baby Paint by Global Point.
- Need to lay or repair a roof? Look for certified biobased sealants and coatings like AlphaGuard, Liquid TPO and Kempertec products.
- Care for your lawn and flowers with biobased fertilizers like Bio-Green, Holly-Tone, PJC ProHealthy Turf and others.
- We also have Wood and Concrete Sealers for treating decks, patios and outdoor spaces. These liquids are formulated to protect wood or concrete from damage caused by insects, moisture, and decaying fungi. Examples include PoreShield™, Pro Tech Series by Black Diamond Coatings, Royal Wood or SoySeal Wood Sealer & Waterproofer.



### What are Biobased Composite Panels?

A biobased composite panel is a type of building material used in place of traditional wood or steel. These panels are much more lightweight than solid wood or steel but offer similar levels of strength and structural support. While biobased composite panels are composed mainly of wood and corn, some are made of unique raw materials like wheat, soy, hemp, rice, algae and municipal solid waste.

In our Catalog, there are composite panels for countertops, acoustics, plastic lumber, structural interiors, walls, and interiors. Structural Wall Panels have the highest biobased content requirement at 94%.



## Biobased Certification Gets to the Root of Company's Commitment to Create Healthier Wood Coatings

For 20+ years, Vermont Natural Coatings has developed wood coatings using whey protein powder rather than harsh, toxic chemicals. Read the [case study](#) and consider these certified biobased products for your home.

## Tired From All that DIY Work?



Look for biobased Topical Pain Relief Products such as balms, creams and other treatments that can be used to relieve muscle, joint, headache, and nerve pain, as well as treat sprains, bruises, swelling and other aches. We feature eight different products, including Divine Healing Miracle Cream, which is the only USDA Certified Biobased Product within the category.

## A Path to Home Ownership



The BioPreferred Program is just one of many programs administered by USDA Rural Development. Some of its most important programs include those which help people finance, refinance or repair their single-family homes. These lending and grant programs include:

- [Single Family Housing Direct Home Loans](#) – This program assists low- and very-low-income applicants obtain decent, safe and sanitary housing in eligible rural areas by providing payment assistance to increase an applicant’s repayment ability.
- [Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program](#) – The Section 502 Guaranteed Loan Program assists approved lenders in providing low- and moderate-income households the opportunity to own adequate, modest, decent, safe and sanitary dwellings as their primary residence in eligible rural areas.
- [Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants](#) – This program provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.
- [Single Family Housing Rural Disaster Home Repair Grants](#) – What does this program do? It provides grants to very-low and low-income homeowners to repair homes damaged in a Calendar Year (CY) 2022 Presidentially Declared Disaster Area.
- [Native Community Development Financial Institution Relending Demonstration Program](#) – What does this program do? The Native Community Development Financial Institution (Native CDFI) Relending Demonstration Program is designed to improve homeownership opportunities for Native American Tribes, Alaska Native Communities, and Native Hawaiian Communities in rural areas.

For more information, read the [Single Family Housing Borrower Support Programs FAQs](#), which you can find [here](#).



## You have the power to make the world a better place!

Every time you Commit to Switch from a petroleum-based product to a biobased product, you make a difference. In addition to strengthening the economy and supporting rural America, biobased products:

- Help address climate change by offering renewable alternatives to petroleum-based products.
- Sequester carbon dioxide, lowering the concentration of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere that contribute to climate change.
- Create and expand markets for manufacturers and sellers of biobased products.
- Are generally safer for people and the environment than their petroleum-based counterparts.
- Perform as well as or better than many non-biobased alternatives.
- Represent incredible technological advances and innovations.



Identify one biobased household or office product that you can purchase this week, because every switch matters!

## How Do I Find and Buy Biobased Products?



The BioPreferred Program Catalog features more than 6,900 USDA Certified Biobased Products across 270 different categories. While you can't purchase products directly from the Catalog, you can find biobased alternatives to the common petroleum-based products you buy.

Here's how. Visit our [Catalog](#), then search by category, like Baby and Kids, Household Supplies, Office Supplies, Personal Items and Toiletries, or Grounds Maintenance. Each category has a list of subcategories to help narrow your search. Once your search results appear, you'll know which products to look for on store shelves.

Forgot to browse the catalog before you headed to the store? Simply look for the USDA Certified Biobased Product label to quickly and easily identify biobased products.

## Our Numbers Are Rising!

Since 2019, we've seen a 129% increase in applications for certification, with a 193% increase in the number of companies participating. By 2026, we predict there could be roughly 13,000 USDA Certified Biobased Products in our Catalog!

## Prepping for a Father's Day BBQ?

Whether you're firing up the grill or icing down your favorite beverages, there are many biobased products to choose from. Find oven and grill cleaners made of materials like corn, soy, sugarcane, orange oil and aloe. Pitch or compost trash in biobased bags. Serve guests with biobased drink cups, lids, straws, plates and bowls made from agave, algae, barley, cypress grass, flax, hemp, bamboo and more. Get more ideas [here](#).



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