

# American Olean

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## Healthy Planet

Being a leader in the tile industry requires a continuing contribution to the improvement and protection of the planet. American Olean's contribution includes a focused dedication to incorporate environmentally-friendly materials, processes and products throughout the organization and to mandate safe factories, warehouses and offices for employees, customers, vendors and visitors.

***Reduce, reuse and recycle*** (in that order) are vitally important objectives incorporated into each stage of the American Olean manufacturing process. American Olean has invested significantly to modernize manufacturing facilities and is proud of the visible achievements that have contributed to a healthier planet for all of us. The following is a brief list of some of these important achievements:

1. American Olean has achieved success in voluntary participation programs such as the US EPA's 33/50 Waste Minimization Program and the Clean Texas 2000 Program.
2. American Olean products comply with the EPA's Toxicity Characteristic Leachate Procedure (TCLP) limitation of 5 parts per million for all listed hazardous constituents.
3. The naturally occurring inorganic, inert raw materials that American Olean utilizes are very plentiful (e.g., clay and talc), which contributes to the environmental compatibility of our products.
4. Use of virgin raw materials, even though they are plentiful, is minimized to the greatest extent possible. For example, the a major component (up to 45%) of the body in our Duraflor products (floor tile) is a by-product from a 3M process that produces raw material for roofing manufacturers that was formerly disposed of as a waste.
5. Scrap tile generated during American Olean's manufacturing processes is recycled to the maximum extent possible into new tile products.
6. The small amount of scrap tile that cannot be recycled is accepted in state approved beneficial reuse projects. Any tile waste that must be disposed is classified as "inert", non-hazardous waste. In fact, some landfills use the material to stabilize roadbeds within their sites.
7. American Olean modifies its operating schedules to maximize the use of energy during off-peak hours. These reductions in industrial requirements during peak consumption periods provide necessary relief to utility companies, allowing them to better service the energy needs of the entire community.

8. American Olean uses natural gas as an energy source in its manufacturing processes. This clean-burning natural resource minimizes air emissions, unlike fuel oils or coals.
9. American Olean does not add lead (Pb) to any of its products. The majority of our glazes are water based with limited use of solvents, thus minimizing the potential for emissions of volatile organic compounds during the manufacturing process.
10. Once fired, the tile and glaze is fully inert and there is no possibility of the coating peeling, as is the case with paint.
11. American Olean products do not contain any asbestos or mercury and have been approved for use in confined spaces over long periods of time where radiation exposure is a concern (e.g., nuclear submarines).
12. American Olean ceramic tile is not flammable and meets all applicable ANSI standards for strength and relative absorption characteristics. Also, it is chemically stable and resistant to bacteria and most chemicals.
13. Historically, ceramic tile has been utilized with great success and is the preferred (often required) material for use at institutions, hospitals, restaurants, hotels, and other locations where sterile conditions must be easily maintained.
14. The majority of American Olean products meet FDA requirements for food contact surfaces.
15. Two of American Olean's plants (Gettysburg and El Paso) have 100% water recycling. All manufacturing facilities recycle water to a great extent and we are continually working toward more reducing, reusing and recycling of byproducts (in that order).
16. American Olean ceramic tile is more cost effective to the purchaser because of its lower life cycle cost stemming from its potentially indefinite useful life. Ceramic tile is conservatively estimated to last 100 years under normal household use. There are still 16<sup>th</sup> century installed mosaic tiles in Europe that are as beautiful today as when they were originally produced.

American Olean believes that its commitment to a Healthy Planet includes safe processes as well as safe environments. American Olean has reduced its employee injuries to record low levels worldwide and employs sophisticated dust collection and other air monitoring systems assuring internal and external air quality. American Olean products, as referred to in this disclosure, refers to American Olean U.S. manufactured products only. Customers are advised to check with their local American Olean representative to determine the extent that products purchased can help provide credits toward certification of a building project under the LEED<sup>TM</sup> Green Building Rating System (or any other "green" material requirement) or any customer-required parameter.