



# WHEN THINKING GREEN COMES NATURALLY

SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS, SAFE TO USE AND EQUALLY SAFE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



All of Rubio®'s employees live and breathe wood. The goal of Rubio® Monocoat's products is to protect the natural beauty of wood in all its amazing shades while also increasing its lifespan. Our focus is on maintaining the natural look and feel of the wood.

Two aspects are very important in this respect: **sustainability** and **quality**. Rubio Monocoat oil offers superior protection and focuses on the safety and health of both the user and his environment.

# If you do it right, it will last forecer -Massimo Vignelli

Sustainability	6
Rubio is EcoConscious	6
Sustainable products	8
Certificates	10
Overview	10
From LCA to EPD	11
Food Contact Compliance	12
FR-Certificate Bfl-S1	14
Toy standard EN 71-3	15
Indoor air quality	16
Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold	16
International standards	18
Quality	20
Customer reviews	22

# **SUSTAINABILITY**

## **RUBIO IS ECOCONSCIOUS**

Worldwide, more and more attention is being paid to all factors that influence our environment. The demand for sustainable materials is increasing, but also has the consequence that countless new products with a self-declared environmentally friendly claim are put on the market. Consumers are becoming increasingly aware of this claim and are looking for products they can really trust.

#### But what are sustainable materials?

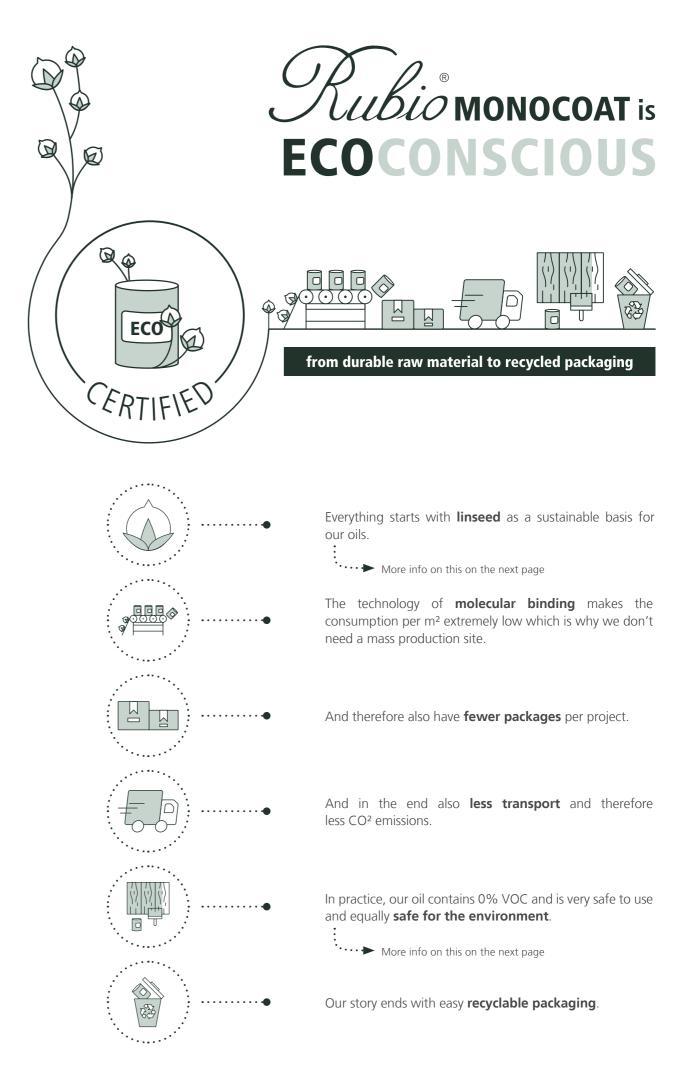
Sustainable materials are not limited to the impact they have on the environment. The sustainability of products includes the use of renewable raw materials, the right production process, the safety for both the user and his environment, a long lifespan...

#### How does Rubio Monocoat invest in sustainability?

At Rubio Monocoat, we go for sustainability in all its facets. Our focus on sustainable entrepreneurship is based on the selection of our raw materials, constantly optimizing our production processes, paying attention to the impact of our products on both the user and the environment, the compliance with regulations on waste management, pollution and energy supply, ...

Rubio Monocoat is the reference when it comes to high quality and environmentally friendly wood protection. That's why we want to show our customers how ecological our products really are through an honest and trustworthy declaration: from durable raw material to recycled packaging. Would you like to go through our **EcoConscious story** step by step?

In order to prove that our sustainable entrepreneurship is not based on empty promises, you can read more about the many labels and certificates awarded to our products by various independent, international institutions. More about this in the section Certificates on p 10 and section Indoor air quality p 16.



## SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS

As you have read on the previous pages, we take our sustainable entrepreneurship seriously. Rubio's EcoConscious story broadly describes how we move from sustainable raw materials to easily recycled packaging. By following these steps, we end up developing a sustainable product. The basis of our oil is therefore key, along with the many benefits that result from it.



#### **SUSTAINABLE BASIS**

The sustainable basis of our Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C and Rubio Monocoat Hybrid Wood Protector is linseed, the seed of flax. Flax is a sustainable raw material because the plant can be regenerated in a relatively short time and in considerable quantities. Just like our products, the raw materials we use also evolve and innovate. For one of our latest products, Rubio Invisible Protector, we opted for a high-quality plant-based emulsion (resin) as a sustainable basis.



#### **LOW CONSUMPTION**

A sustainable basis in combination with our revolutionary molecular bonding technology results in an extremely low consumption when applying our products. \*

Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C – 30-50 m²/L Rubio Monocoat Hybrid Wood Protector – 30 m<sup>2</sup>/L Rubio Invisible Protector – 12-14,5 m²/L per layer





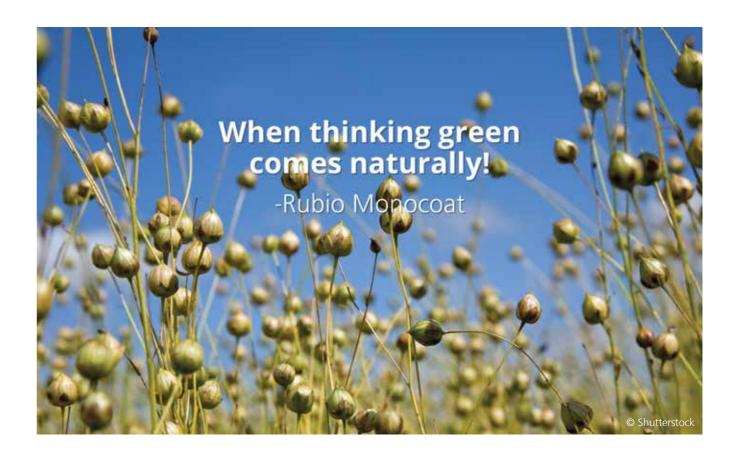
#### 0% VOC

An important other benefit is revealed in practice. Our oil contains 0% VOC, which makes it very safe to use and equally safe for the environment. Volatile Organic Compounds is a generic term for the chemical substances that evaporate into the air after applying oil. Organic refers to the chemical composition of the components and volatile refers to the fact that they evaporate while drying.

#### Why are they hazardous?

Using products that contain VOCs releases vapours that are hazardous to both man and the environment. Excessive contact with VOCs can cause allergic reactions, breathing problems and eye problems. Furthermore, they affect the ozone layer and increase the greenhouse effect. No wonder that legislative bodies have found it necessary to intervene.

In spite of the hazardous characteristics demonstrated in VOCs, a lot of manufacturers unfortunately refuse to stop using them altogether. They reduce their content to the lowest possible quantity, but they often do not abandon VOCs completely. This is because VOCs contribute to a large extent to the optimal workability of the traditional wood finishing products.



0% VOC				MAINTENANCE OIL	HYBRID WOOD PROTECTOR
	<b>✓</b>	~	~	~	<b>~</b>
EPD CERTIFIED	~				
COMPLIANCE	<b>~</b>				
GATIFICATE	N.A.	N.A.	~	N.A.	N.A.
TOY B C SAFETY	~				<b>✓</b>
M1 PE	~				
EC 1ºus	✓				
Geprüft vom Von Institut für In	•				
GOLD A+	•				
OKOZEMI	•	~	~	<b>~</b>	<b>✓</b>
150ZERT	•	<b>~</b>	~	<b>~</b>	<b>✓</b>
NEAR TEST	<b>~</b>	~	~	~	~
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## **CERTIFICATES**

In addition to our EcoConscious story, our focus on sustainable and environmentally conscious entrepreneurship is also proven by the many certificates and labels that our products have obtained from numerous independent, international institutions. On the following pages you can find out for which special requirements Rubio Monocoat has a solution.



## FROM LCA TO EPD

### **Life Cycle Assessment**

A Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is used to identify, quantify and evaluate the **environmental impact** (greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption, water consumption, acidification and ozone depletion) of a **product** from cradle to grave. The environmental impact of the **product life cycle stages** is assessed, from the choice of raw material to manufacturing, transportation, storage, use, reuse, and disposal.

Our material Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C has received an LCA from VITO.

#### **Environmental Product Declaration**

After receiving a positive LCA evaluation, you can obtain an EPD. An Environmental Product Declaration is a third party verified document with quantified information on the environmental impact of a product, based on an LCA.

Our EPD has been officially approved by the FOD (FPS Health). This means that we have obtained a **B-EPD** (Belgian EPD) and are admitted to the B-EPD database, which is consulted by Belgian architects, contractors and government agencies. Since the B-EPD only needs recalculation for the environmental impact on **transport** to be applicable in other countries, our B-EPD document will be **sufficient** to prove our Rubio EcoConscious story **in many countries**.

Rubio Monocoat has obtained a B-EPD for the product Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C. This B-EPD is valid until 20.04.2026.

#### Totem

An approved B-EPD can be put in TOTEM (Tool to Optimize the Total Environmental impact of Material). This **digital platform** of the Belgian construction sector objectifies the environmental impact of buildings and is managed by the FOD. **Totem allows to benchmark products**. This enables architects, contractors and government agencies to make informed choices that meet the sustainability guidelines for the future.

Currently, TOTEM is still being worked on. The intention is to start with TOTEM in the autumn of 2021.

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#### FOOD CONTACT COMPLIANCE

Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C shows food contact compliance

Our Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C has been one of the most versatile wood oils for many years now. You can apply it to floors, furniture, stairs... and it also lives up to the European toy standard. Moreover, our oil is ideal for worktops and other surfaces where food is involved. Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C has indeed been declared to be used in contact with food. But what does that mean exactly?

Well, in practice this means that **cutting boards**, **kitchen worktops**, **tabletops**, **etc.** that have been treated with Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C are also **safe for household** use, something that increasingly becomes a recommendation for lots of projects. In fact, our oil was tested by the independent testing institute Eurofins, according to the underlying specification of **European Framework Regulation 1935/2004** for Food Contact Materials. The test results show that Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C is in full compliance, when applied to a wooden surface. Therefore, if Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C (A+B) is used on a wooden surface that is in itself food safe, then the combination of the wood and our Oil Plus 2C is also safe!







#### FR-CERTIFICATE BFL-S1

The Rubio Monocoat FR Oil System was the first flame-retardant oil system in the market that could present a Bfl-s1 certification on oak (top layer of 5 mm). Rubio Monocoat FR Oil System received a Cfl-s1 certificate on floors with oak (top layer of 2.5 mm). Our flame-retardant oil system has been tested in accordance with the following standards: EN 13501-1, EN ISO 11925-2 and EN ISO 9239-1. Achieving a Bfl-s1 rating is a first. The B-certificate is the highest classification ever achieved by an oil system. The s1 refers to the extent that smoke development is limited. This is something we consistently strived to achieve during the development phase.

Wood is a natural product made from flammable materials. For large projects and public buildings (stairwells, schools, restaurants, concert halls, etc.), specific flame-retardant solutions are often required. With the FR Oil System, Rubio Monocoat has a sustainable solution for the project

The following Rubio Monocoat products have received this certificate for floors:



If you have any questions regarding the described certificates or the tests that our products have undergone, please send us an email: info@rubiomonocoat.com



#### **TOY STANDARD EN 71-3**

This European guideline regulates the migration of certain hazardous elements like barium, cadmium, and mercury etc. in different types of toys. The decision reflects that wood treated with Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C or Rubio Monocoat Hybrid Wood Protector meets the EN 71-3 standard after drying and is therefore safe for children.

The impact of our Rubio Monocoat oils on the well-being and health of the end user is of paramount importance. And since wood is increasingly used as a material to manufacture different types of toys, the toy standard also guarantees the safety of toys treated with Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C or Rubio Monocoat Hybrid Wood Protector.

The following Rubio Monocoat products have received this certificate:







# Rubio Monocoat is the first in

the wood treatment sector to get

the Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold label.



Rubio Monocoat has attached great importance to emission standards from the very beginning. The fact that our oil contains 0% VOC has been rewarded with various international certificates over the years. From 2018 on, we have been taking this engagement to the next level by adding the Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold label to our certificates. This label guarantees you, our customer, that our products will continue to meet the high standard you expect of them regarding emissions for years to come.

#### **EUROFINS INDOOR AIR COMFORT GOLD**

Rubio Monocoat is the first in the wood treatment sector to get the Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold label.

Other well-known brands from the construction industry that have obtained this label are, for example, BASF, Knauf Insulation and Isover glass wool insulation.

With this label we want to continue to guarantee our consumers that our products are a safe choice in terms of emissions, both now and in the future. Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold is a sign of Rubio Monocoat's focus on quality and contribution to a healthy indoor environment. The label combines the most relevant emission specifications and requirements in one certification. The Indoor Air Comfort Gold label shows compliance with specifications on VOC emissions set out globally. Eurofins is a

worldwide organization with over 48,000 highly qualified staff members across a network of more than 900 independent companies in over 50 countries. As a result, we are always aware of new rules and requirements regarding emissions, so that our products always comply with strict rules.

#### A guarantee that exceeds the product.

Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold certification includes more than testing and screening for thousands of chemicals. It includes an internal quality program for processes to ensure that low-emitting products are continuously manufactured. This includes on-site audits, re-testing and certification – together ensuring an extremely high level of reliability in the statement of very low VOC emissions.

🗱 eurofins

The Indoor Air Comfort Gold label complies with the CDPH Section 01350 and M1 odour and ammonia testing. Moreover, the label shows global compliance with the VOC norms of the following certificates:

**AUSTRALIA** GreenTag Australia

**BELGIUM** Belgian VOC Regulation

**DENMARK** Danish Indoor Climate label

(except odour testing)

**EU** FEMB standard for sustainable office furniture

FINLAND M1

**FRANCE** French A+

ANSES FloorScore 'friendly' certification for

flooring products (positive contribution)

**GERMANY** AgBB/ABG

**EMICODE EC1 PLUS** 

GUT (except odour testing)

Several Blue Angel criteria

GLOBAL LEED v4 Worldwide

BREEAM Worldwide (Norway, UK)

WELL (for the VOC part)

WELL Building

**ITALY** Italian regulation on GPP+

**SINGAPORE** Singapore Green label

Byggvarubedömningen (BvB) section 6.

Emissions to indoor environment

**UK** SKA Rating

**USA** CDPH Section 01350

Greenguard compliance based on CDPH

Section 01350 test results

LEED outside North America











#### **INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS**

Our Rubio Monocoat oil has been a pioneer when it comes to environmentally friendly products containing 0% VOC. Before we got the Eurofins Indoor Air Comfort Gold label, we first received several other certificates. These previously obtained certificates are now united under the known Gold label.



#### A+ LABEL

In France, a label is mandatory for oils used indoors, based on the number of VOCs in products after a 28-day test period.

The tested products are assigned a grade from A + to C, where A + standsfor the lowest and C for the highest emission.



#### **EMICODE®-LABEL EC1 PLUS**

The EMICODE describes the emission properties of various construction materials. The highest category, EMICODE® EC1, has proven its value in practice as a standard for materials very low in emissions. The materials to which this label is assigned meet the strictest environmental and health requirements. Rubio Monocoat has achieved the highest category, namely the EMICODE® label EC1 PLUS, which was introduced in 2010 and sets even higher and stricter limit values than the best category EC1. The EMICODE is tested by random sampling by the German independent institute GEV.



#### Ü LABEL - DIBT

The Ü label is a German label that tests the emissions of industrial products used indoors. It is a legally required supplement to the European CE label, for all parguet coatings and floor adhesives used on the German market in public areas, doctor's offices, hospitals, offices, and shops.



#### M1

Finally, there is also a Finnish classification with the aim to enhance the development and use of low-emitting building materials. To improve indoor air quality and to contribute to a healthier indoor climate, limit values for chemical emissions are imposed for products designed for use in buildings and indoor areas. The M1 label stands for low emissions.

Although this is a standard that manufacturers can voluntarily sign up for, more and more architects and building developers are using this standard as a standard to further promote high-quality building constructions.



#### ISO 9001:2008

Quality management certificate for research and production. This proves that we invest in high-quality production and constantly optimize our workflow.



#### ISO EN 14001:2009

Eco-management certificate. This means that we implement sustainable and ecological logistics in our existing quality management system.



# **QUALITY**

# **TEST ENVIRONMENT**

To make sure that our products can meet the promises we make, they find their way to our customers only after a rigorous test phase in our lab. Initially, in the realistic test environment of the Rubio Academy, the different application methods are tested, consumption is measured, and application times are monitored.

In addition, various internal and external tests are frequently carried out to improve the quality of our products but also to keep guaranteeing that we are still the reference when it comes to high quality wood protection.

An overview:



#### **Liquid Drop test**

Drop tests on our products are performed on a very regular basis, as a standard quality control of their resistance to liquids. For this procedure, drops of liquids from different origins are posed on the treated wood: water, coffee, urine, wine, ... In this way the liquid resistance of surfaces treated with Rubio Monocoat oil are tested.



#### Wear test

In our lab, we use the TABER device for comparative wear testing of our Rubio Monocoat oils. By means of wear wheels, samples treated with Rubio Monocoat are subjected to accelerated wear tests. A wear-index is assigned according to the number of rotations. The lower the index, the higher the wear resistance of the product.



#### **QUV & ASTM weathering test**

The QUV accelerated weathering tester reproduces the damage caused by sunlight, rain, and dew on wood (or other materials). In a few days or weeks, the QUV tester can reproduce the damage that occurs over months or years outdoors. By means of this test we can offer our customers solid proof of the sustainability of our oils on wood.



#### Floor slip resistance tests

Two methods are used to determine the slip resistance of surfaces treated with a Rubio Monocoat oil:

#### BS 7976-2 (UK)

This British test method is intended to determine the slip potential of a flooring material. A pendulum is allowed to swing so the slider contacts a dry or wet test flooring over a set distance. The extent to which the pendulum fails to reach its release height on the overswing is determined as a measurement of the slip resistance.

#### **DIN 51131 (DE)**

This German test method works with a sliding test device that measures the friction between a test body with the prescribed standard footwear and the surface (which is wetted with a standard mixture of water and 0.5% wetting agent).



# **CUSTOMER REVIEWS**

Our vision on sustainable entrepreneurship and our entire range of certificates and attestations often play an important role in the decision-making process of a project. Of course, these are not the only reasons why people choose to work with our products. Below you can read some of our many customer reviews and discover why people are so fond of Rubio Monocoat.

#### **CARANA BEACH RESORT**

Africa • Products Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C and Rubio Monocoat Hybrid Wood Protector **Colours** Royal and Natural

"The colour ranges Rubio Monocoat offers also complimented the resort's look & feel perfectly. Rubio Monocoat is also environmentally friendly with 0% VOC ratings, which makes it perfectly suited for our resort and sensitive environment of the island" • Forest Collection





#### **CAPPELLINO HOME**

USA • Product Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C Colour Walnut

"We first learned about Rubio Monocoat a few years ago at the NWFA Expo in Nashville. Since then, we've used it in numerous projects. We and our clients love the wide color selection and the ability to mix custom colors. The ease of touch-ups and repair work when using Monocoat is remarkable and the fact that it is a 0% VOC product makes our working environment safer and more enjoyable. Our favorite aspect of Rubio Monocoat, though, is the way wood floors look and feel after being finished. The wood's natural texture and grain come through, without an artificial or plastic coating. The wood always looks beautiful and natural as it should." • Southern Oaks Flooring

#### SHE

Russia • **Product** Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C **Colours** Charcoal, Walnut and Pure

"The choice to use Rubio was one of the greatest decisions we ever made. This has helped us to get many clients since the oil is perfect. I love how the oil smells, it smells like apple sauce. Anyway, all the great characteristics Rubio oil holds make our cutting boards look so great." • Vasily Pepelyaev

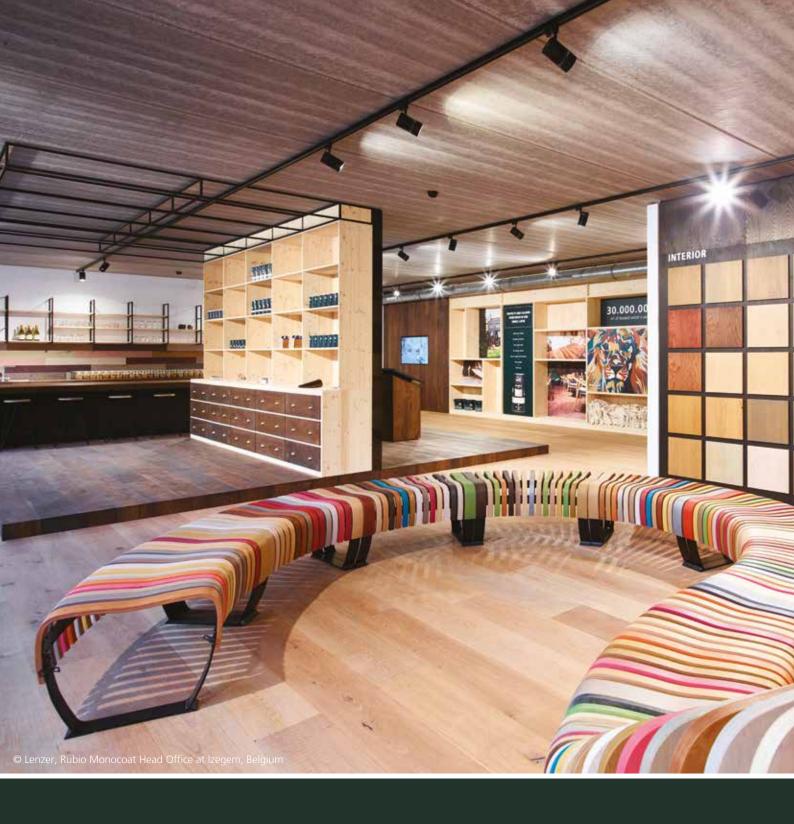




#### **3X3 CUSTOM TRAIN TABLE**

USA • **Product** Rubio Monocoat Oil Plus 2C **Colour** Pure

"The products of Rubio Monocoat have lots of advantages, for example: I love that it is in one coat, and done. That saves me a lot of time and I am able to start moving on to my next project. I also love that it's safe for me and my children. Oh and it smells really good." • Tamar Hannah



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For our complete assortment of products for the protection and colouring of both interior and exterior wood, please visit **www.rubiomonocoat.com** 

