

MSC Certified Mulch Ingredient Label Guidelines

Adopted July 2022

All certified mulch products are required to have an ingredient statement **if the product name does not identify all the product inputs**. The labeling and nomenclature guidelines are in Parts III and IV of the Uniform Voluntary Product Guidelines that are available on our website at:

https://www.mulchandsoilcouncil.org/pdf/Standards/2020_Revised_UVPG.pdf

For example, products whose name is a **full description of the product species and all inputs into the bag**, do not need an ingredient statement, such as products that are labeled and contain only hardwood mulch, cedar mulch, pine mulch, pine nuggets, etc.

Any **added inputs** would require an ingredient statement such as a colored hardwood mulch should say: "Contains Hardwood Mulch and Colorant".

Ingredient/Content statements should list package contents in descending order by volume.

A generic product, such as "Gold Mulch" or "Shredded Mulch", needs an ingredient statement to inform the buyer what is in the package, like: "Contains Natural Forest Products and Colorant" . **If either virgin or reprocessed wood may be used** based on market conditions, the ingredient statement shall say: "Natural Forest Products and/or Reprocessed Wood and Colorant." (SUIP #3 – 2018)

It is perfectly fine to use recycled wood in products; however, **ANY product containing reprocessed/ recycled post consumer or industrial wood products must have an ingredient statement indicating the product is made from, or contains, reprocessed wood** such as a brown mulch made from recycled pallets would say: "Contains Reprocessed Wood and Colorant".

Blended products are mixed species wood products and should contain the first-named species as the majority of the product contents and identify what other contents are added (in descending order by volume), including colorants, for example: a colored Cedar Mulch Blend would have a statement: "Contains Cedar, Natural Forest Products and Colorant" or "Contains Cedar, Reprocessed Wood and Colorant". **The word "Blend"** must be the same type size as the product name it modifies

If the product is a blend of named wood products like *Hardwood & Cypress Mulch Blend* (with no additional inputs), it would not need an ingredient statement because the name identifies all the inputs. In this case, hardwood should be the majority and cypress the minority of the product in the bag. Adding colorant would then require an ingredient statement with all 3 inputs identified in the descending order of their volume in the product.

The objective of certification labeling is to inform the consumer on what is in the package as specifically as possible on all inputs (i.e., pine, cedar, cypress) but at least generically (natural forest products, reprocessed wood) when specifics don't or can't apply.

The ingredient statement should appear on the primary display panel, but may appear anywhere on the package, and it must be easily read and conspicuous in size, color and contrast with the rest of the label.

There can be a lot of variations of mulch products that might impact an ingredient label; so, if producers have any questions, please feel free to give the Council a call at any time.

Since many members ask, MSC can assist with new or other product label reviews at any time. We recommend that members send a pdf of the design before it is finalized.

NOTICE:

MSC Certification Program approval of products and labels are for certification program requirements only and do not represent, convey or attest to compliance with any Federal, state or local laws, regulations or other requirements.