



Health & Safety

Does the design encourage the use of low-toxic materials and products, for both installation and maintenance? Are materials chosen to reduce the risk of slips and other accidents?

Durability

Will the products stand up to use over time? Are they right for the job at hand? Are they covered by sufficient warranties?

Reduced Maintenance

Will the materials or products result in less work over time? Are they easy to clean and maintain without chemicals or toxic finishes? Do they resist decay and moss without chemicals?

Functionality

Are the materials well suited to their intended purpose? Do they have the necessary qualities for the job? Can they be reused for another task? Do the materials serve multiple functions? For example, can those pavers serve as a walking surface and allow rainwater to safely infiltrate into the subsoil?

Beauty

Do the materials appeal to you? Will they stand up to the test of time, aesthetically? Do they enhance nearby elements, including your home?

Accessibility

Do the materials reduce or remove barriers to people with varied abilities, ages and sizes? Do they help orient the user, mark transitions and boundaries, and facilitate the safe, easy passage of wheelchairs or other mobility-assisting devices?

Ecological Benefit

Do the materials enhance and protect the natural environment? Do they help absorb or retain storm water and protect water quality? Do they help conserve water? Are they free of toxins that can leach into the soil, water, or air? Are they manufactured locally? Do they contain recycled content? Are they readily reusable or recyclable?

