



Wellness Within Your Walls®

February 11, 2019

Mr. Bruce Uhler
Kährs
Malmö, Sweden
Bruce.Uhler@kahrs.com

Re: WWYW Product Certification

Dear Bruce,

Congratulations Kährs!

We are very happy to announce that Kährs wood flooring joins WWYW as our first certified flooring product. We will be following up with a link on our website, which is currently under reconstruction, where you will find how to use our licensed, certified logo on your packaging and in public relations and marketing materials.

We also wanted to know if you will be attending or have a booth at NAHB's International Builder's Show in Las Vegas later this month. We would be happy to create something for your booth that promotes the WWYW Certification of your healthy wood flooring product. We will be listing Kährs on the Preferred Resources page of our updated website, and, at IBS, we will be promoting our certified products in connection with our appearances and participation in educational breakouts.

Below, please find some notes of interest from our green chemist's review of the certification application materials that you provided to WWYW, including some suggestions:

General Notes: "This company is looking comprehensively at their impacts, from sourcing through transportation and waste product, which is turned into wood pellets for fuel. Their scope and dedication to improvement is impressive, particularly on forestry management and tracking energy use. In addition, the company has considered cleaning and maintenance of their product during its useful life. The depth and breadth of what this company has considered in its environmental impacts and their efforts to reduce these impacts is exemplary."

Suggestions: “Note that the company’s environmental report describes the use of a water-based adhesive for assembling the multi-layered flooring. There is also a reference to some remaining formaldehyde-based adhesive. Alternatives to urea-formaldehyde exist in other wood applications (see [Purebond](#) used by Columbia Forest Products for plywood). The academic research partnership might usefully investigate bio-based and less toxic alternatives in an engineered flooring application. There may also be additional safer, greener alternatives for wood finishing and solvents and used in cleaning and maintenance of the manufacturing facility. Looking in to options such as these may address some of Kähr’s chemical and hazardous waste management challenges. The Swedish NGO [ChemSec](#) may be of assistance here, along with an analysis of the relative hazard of chemicals under management with a prioritized strategy for replacement with safer alternatives as appropriate.”

Again, welcome to the WWYW family of certified people, places, products and programs.

Sincerely,

Nonnie Preuss
Executive Director, Wellness Within Your Walls