

How WELL is pushing markets towards using healthier building materials

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Abstract:

"The WELL Building Standard (WELL), one of the world's premier systems to put people first in buildings and organizations, provides a roadmap for buildings to advance health and well-being. Paramount to its mission is reducing the risk of human exposure to chemicals of known or suspected toxicity from building materials, finishes and furnishings as well as from products used in building operations such as in cleaning and pest management. This goal is put in to action through the Materials Concept, one of the ten pillars of WELL. This concept includes actionable strategies for renovating existing buildings and sites, selecting healthier building products, and for improving cleaning practices, pest management and hazardous waste management.

This presentation will describe each of the strategies within the Materials Concept, emphasizing their development process, challenges for their adoption at scale, and how they can maximize their impact to people and markets. In particular, the discussion will center around the process of selecting healthier building materials, which adds another layer of considerations to an already complex practice for specifiers. The presentation will describe gaps and roadblocks that can hinder this process, how the market is responding to these needs, and how WELL helps catalyze market transformation and shape the healthier materials movement at large."

Presenter Biography:

Rodolfo Perez is part of the Standard Development team at the International WELL Building Institute (IWBI), where he leads the Materials and Water concepts. Before joining IWBI, he conducted Legionella, drinking water and lead in water surveillance at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, after career in startups bringing nanoparticle-based technologies from the lab to prototypes

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