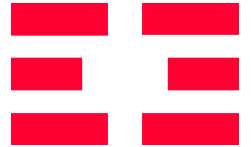




# W.W. Grainger

Locations: Illinois (HQ)  
Industries: Capital Goods

RISK LEVEL:



High Risk

## DESCRIPTION:

W.W. Grainger (Grainger) is High Risk. The company yields to political activism in shaping corporate governance, potentially alienating consumers, dividing employees, and harming shareholders. The company implements race and identity-based policies that replace merit, excellence, and integrity with preferential treatment and outcomes. Grainger embraces corporate initiatives that redirect its central focus from business goals to partisan policies and divisive issues. This approach fails to safeguard free exercise, free speech, and free enterprise.

## Corporate Weaponization

**Has canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors due to their political views or religious beliefs OR corporately boycotts, divests, or sanctions regions, people groups, or industries. Medium Risk**

*Grainger received a score of 100 on the 2025 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group. The company recruits employees based on sexual identity issues. The company discriminates against vendors that do not promote divisive sex and gender policies, indicating it prioritizes sexual issues over merit (1)(2). The company promotes divisive sex and gender policies. Its Supplier Code of Ethics requires international vendors to include sexual orientation and gender identity in their nondiscrimination policy (3). However, the company has not publicly canceled customers, suppliers, or vendors based on political views or religious beliefs (4).*

**Charitable giving (including employee matching programs) policies or practices discriminate against charitable organizations based on views or religious beliefs. High Risk**

*Grainger's HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company will not donate to non-religious charities unless they embrace controversial sexual identity policies (1)(2). The company will not match employee donations to "organizations with a primary purpose to promote a particular religious belief or evangelistic effort and gifts to houses of worship, including theological seminaries, are not eligible" (3). The company's employee matching guidelines require that organizations abide by its nondiscrimination policy, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, thereby excluding some religious charities (4).*

**Employment policies fail to protect against viewpoint or other discrimination and/or are ideological in nature. High Risk**

*Grainger's HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company forces employees to attend multiple, controversial trainings on gender identity, sexual orientation, transgender issues, and divisive racial ideology. The company provides gender transition guidelines for its employees and a specific benefits guide with a comprehensive explanation of transgender services funded by the company (1)(2). The company offers DEI training to its employees (3). The company appears to prioritize diversity over merit in its recruitment and hiring. From its 2024 ESG Report: "Our inclusive behaviors also show up in our recruitment professionals, who work to create diverse*

pipelines of qualified candidates and mitigate bias throughout our hiring process" (4). The company appears to prioritize diversity over merit in its recruitment and hiring. From its Supplier Diversity: Requirements page: "Participants in the Supplier Diversity Program must... must be a U.S. citizen who satisfies the ownership requirements as small, woman, minority, veteran, hub zone, LGBTQ, disabled, or a disadvantaged individual and/or group" (5). However, Grainger does not provide viewpoint protections for its employees (6).

## Corporate Governance and Public Policy

**Uses corporate reputation to support causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression.**

**High Risk**

Grainger's HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company agrees to allow a controversial stakeholder group focused on sexual identity issues to dictate marketing or advertising strategy. By doing so, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders (1)(2). Grainger has introduced "all-gender restrooms to many facilities across the U.S." (3). The company signed an open letter endorsing the Equality Act, a contentious proposal to amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act by adding sexual orientation and so-called gender identity as protected categories. The legislation would, among other implications, grant biological men access to women-only spaces such as sports teams and public restrooms, and compel healthcare providers to deliver sex-denying healthcare (4). The company supports DEI within its business practices. From its 2024 ESG Report: "From hiring and onboarding to training and development, Grainger builds DEI principles into our daily operations" (5). The company supports ESG within its business practices. From its 2024 ESG Report: "Grainger's Board of Directors, executive leadership team and senior leaders take an active role in our overall ESG strategy, from oversight and strategic direction to implementation" (6). The company scored a 100 out of 100 on the 2023-2024 Corporate Equality Index (CEI) from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a political stakeholder group (7)(8).

**Uses corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies hostile to freedom of expression.**

**High Risk**

Grainger's HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company covers transgender related costs for its employees and their children, including paid short-term leave, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, chest surgeries, genital surgeries, medical visits and lab monitoring, travel and lodging. Additionally, the company has pledged philanthropic support of at least one organization or event that promotes sex and gender ideology. By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company increases health care costs and risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders (1)(2). Grainger participated in the Chicago Pride parade. It also funded the Pride Center in San Antonio, which promotes gender transitions and pro-LGBTQ advocacy (3)(4). The company is a brass sponsor of Out & Equal (5). Otherwise, there are no publicly known cases of the company using corporate funds to advance ideological causes, organizations, or policies (6).

**Uses corporate political actions and/or financial contributions for ideological, non-business purposes.**

**High Risk**

Grainger's HRC 2025 CEI rating indicates the company publicly advocated for controversial sex and gender ideology through local, state or federal legislation or initiatives. By allowing a political stakeholder group to dictate operations, the company risks dividing employees, alienating customers and harming shareholders (1)(2). The company does not operate a PAC at this time and has not used its lobbying for ideological purposes (3)(4)(5).

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