

1. About Us

At Westbond, our environmental policy is constructed around how we can reduce our impact. Since Westbond was founded in 1982 we have applied sensible commercial and environmental procedures, to make sure we follow a goal that's achievable, without endangering either environment or company.

Our new factory was built in 2000 to exacting standards for the production of carpet tiles, giving efficiency and resource management top priority.



Westbond has always been an environmentally conscientious company. Having successfully achieved our ISO 9001 Quality Control certification in 2002, we set ourselves the target of formalising our environmental system to the standards of ISO 14001. During November 2002 to November 2003 we worked closely together with local authorities, suppliers and the certification body of Danish Standard to ensure compliance.

In November 2003 Westbond's environmental system was approved to the ISO 14001 standard.

What is ISO 14001?

- An international environmental standard used across all industries to ensure compliance with current and future legislation.
- A system where the certificate holder is obliged - through policies and targets - to show a continuous reduction of the environmental impact 'from cradle to grave' of the products or services it produces
- A system where the certificate holder is audited externally once a year and actual progress is ascertained.

What is CRI Green Label+?

Following our line of continuously improving environmental credentials, Westbond have become one of the few European carpet suppliers to achieve the Carpet & Rug Institutes (CRI) '**Green Label +**' indoor air quality standard on our N9000 Carpet Tile.

Green Label Plus is an industry testing programme for carpet products and establishes the highest standards for indoor air quality (IAQ). Choosing the right materials is important to make the interior environment as healthy as possible.

To this end, CRI's Green Label + Certification ensure the following:

- Green Label+ ensures customers they are purchasing one of the lowest emitting carpet products on the market.
- Green Label + is designed for architects, builders, specifiers and facility managers who want assurances that carpet products meet the most stringent criteria for low chemical emissions.

- Green Label + represents the fourth time the carpet industry has voluntarily enhanced the IAQ standard for its products.

This certification is continuously evolving, and Westbond will ensure that our products will keep meeting these stringent standards.

2008 Specific Environmental Goals:

- Develop a new Softback which incorporates at least 60% recycled material by the end of 2008.
- Reduce Westbond's electricity consumption in the year 2007/2008 per m2 by 10% or from 3.62kwh/m2 to 3.26kwh/m2.
- Reduce Westbond's Gas consumption in the year 2007/2008 by 10% by installing de-stratification fans.
- Westbond to host an Environmental open day at either EC1 or Cortonwood promoting the environmental credentials of the company to suppliers and customers (architects etc).
- Increase the % of sustainable fibre in nylon we use over depletable resource fibre

2. Our Achievements

Since Certification in 2003 the following major achievements have been realised:

- Recycling of all post production carpet waste
- Energy consumption has been reduced by 36% in 2007
- Launched a product (Natural), which has been specifically engineered for lowest environmental product by using no dye, and wool yarn from a renewable source
- Waste to landfill has been reduced by over 86% since 2003
- Westbond offset our unavoidable emissions in 2006
- Reduced packaging by being able to supply unboxed deliveries.
- CRI's Green Label + Certification
- PVC free backing

3. Our Products

Wherever available, Westbond source materials from local suppliers who also acknowledge their environmental obligations. Our new factory has been strategically placed to be within easy reach of all our main suppliers, which minimises the impact of transporting goods



Westbond's yarn spinners and dyers are based within a radius of 25 miles of our production plant. This proximity also increases our flexibility. This reduces emissions to atmosphere from delivery journeys by suppliers.

Two methods of yarn dyeing are used in Westbond production processes: solution dyed and hank dyed yarns. Solution dyed yarns provide no effluent, and its direct impact on the environment is lower than all other dye methods. However, because of its excellent dye fastness properties, it cannot be re-dyed to another colour, and reduced

flexibility increases yarn waste.

Hank dyed yarn produces colour vibrancy unequalled in any other type of yarn, and has the advantage that it can be re-dyed, thereby reducing waste. However, hank dyeing does produce slightly higher effluent.

Our Wool range of Carpet ensures that we are using yarns that are a natural renewable source and are biodegradable (undyed wool? – “created for lowest environmental impact” story).

Our Nylon Ranges use Invista Antron and Aquafil yarn. Invista Antron nylon carpet fibre offer third-party certification as an EPP (Environmentally Preferable Product), whilst Aquafil is a zero waste ISO14001 certified company.

Carpet tiles backed by PVC give excellent dimensional stability, and because of its constant properties, it is easily recyclable and can continually be re-processed. Further development in backing at Westbond has seen the introduction of a 100% recycled Softback and a PVC Free backing

Westbond carpet reduces 'floor fatigue'. Tiles have a cushioning effect and feel better to walk on than a hard, unyielding surface. Acoustic tests show that cut pile carpet absorbs ten times as much atmospheric noise as hard flooring. It can virtually eliminate the impact of footsteps, echoes and resonance, and provides an altogether calmer, quieter environment.

Westbond have also launched of our Natural range, the industry's first undyed wool carpet tile. The eco-benefits of using a product made from renewable sources are unsurpassed, further enhanced by no dye effluence.

Recycling

In co-operation with other specialist manufacturers we have developed a procedure for compression molding that enables us to take production, and post consumer waste tiles, to re-use as the base material for new, finished products.

For both wool and nylon products, there is no need for separation. The tiles can be entirely recycled. The tiles are shredded, and combined with other PVC material from the electrical and automotive industries. The combined material is then extruded using heat and pressure; to produce the molten 'dough' that is used to produce compression molded products.

Therefore at the end of the carpets useful life, as new carpet is installed, the old can be returned for compression molding. This will sustain the useful life of the raw materials, and eliminate the cost, both financially and environmentally, of sending it to landfill.



All waste yarn both wool and nylon, and plastic yarn cones are recycled, these are ground up and turned into nylon pellets, which in turn are made in to buckets and other low-grade plastic items.

4. Technical Innovations

Sampling of our products uses raw materials, energy, transportation, and labour. Together with Tricycle, Westbond have developed the FlexCreator to minimize sample material. We are also now offering room settings, to give clients an idea of what the design will look like before samples are ordered.

Our website offers our full product range, and is continually updated to minimize the need for brochures. This carries the added benefit of interactivity, and doesn't need to be replaced every year.

All newsletters, both internally and externally, are now only distributed by email, again cutting down on the use of resources.

All our corporate information is managed electronically.

5. The Future

Westbond has developed an alternative bonding and laminating product other than PVC, so that alternative recycling opportunities can be realized.

We have developed a new procedure for packing and delivering to eliminate cardboard box waste. Cardboard corner protection and shrink-wrapping will be used instead of boxes.

BRE green guide certification by end of 2008.