

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.

2007 Specific Environmental Goals:

- To reduce Westbond's energy consumption in the year 2006/2007 per m² by 10% or from 4.03Kwh/m² to 3.62Kwh/m²
- By the end of 2007 ensure that a replacement for Glass Tissue is sourced and integrated fully into production.
- By the end of 2007 source an alternative disposal route for PVC free carpet tiles..
- Reduce off gassing of Westbond's PVC backed carpet tile in order to pass the strict requirements of the American CRI (Carpet and Rug Institute) Green Label Testing programme.
- Reduce Westbond's non post production waste by a minimum of 10% of waste per m² by the end of 2007 by waste minimisation techniques and increased recycling.
- Improve the communication and understanding of our objectives, targets and achievements. Specifically we will deliver 4 Environmental Newsletters, all internally and at least 1 externally within the year 2007.

2. Our Achievements

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

- Recycling of all post production carpet waste
- 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 80% since 2003, and a further reduction in 2007 by 10% is being targeted.
- Westbond offset our unavoidable emissions in 2006
- Developed an energy monitoring system which gave us bench line data, in order for us to be able to look at reducing the following year (2006)
- Reduced packaging by being able to supply unboxed deliveries.

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 mainly use Invista Antron. Invista Antron nylon carpet fibre offer third-party certification as an EPP (Environmentally Preferable Product).

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

Most of the carpet used for samples at Westbond is overproduction or waste from primary production, making sure little is wasted.

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.

Also as the first contract manufacturer, Westbond have been certified to British Wool standards. This came in conjunction with the launch 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 2007.