

Designer Contracts

Environmental Policy

Designer Contracts is the UK's largest flooring contractor and is committed to leading the industry in minimising the impact of its activities on the environment.

Key Objectives:-

- Minimise adverse effects on the environment
- Minimise waste and divert as much as possible from landfill by evaluating operations and ensuring they are as efficient as possible
- Minimise toxic emissions through the selection and use of fleet and the source of power requirement
- Actively promote recycling both internally and amongst its customers and suppliers
- Responsibly procure products to reduce environmental impact
- Engage with our supply chain on environmental issues to encourage better working practices
- Meet or exceed all the environmental legislation that relates to the Company
- Ensure that effective procedures are developed and maintained within the company
- Develop and maintain a safe and environmentally responsible culture
- Ensure each employee understands and recognises their responsibilities to achieve a safe and sustainable environment
- Dispose of all waste in a safe and responsible manner, ensuring that we always comply with the Duty of Care Regulations

About Us

As the UK's largest flooring contractor, we supply and install flooring across the UK via our unique network of 13 regional centres. We also offer curtains, blinds and furniture packages. Due to the nature of what we do, we have a very low risk factor for environmental incidents.

Legal Responsibilities

Each year we report the UK greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data as part of our financial accounts reporting. We are also compliant in annual reporting on ESOS (Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme).

Communication

We communicate environmental matters to employees and other workforce in various ways:-

- Robust environmental policy that forms part of our induction process and is published widely.
- Net zero policy that enforces best practice in terms of sustainability within the workplace including waste and energy management.
- Monthly company newsletters to update on changes or improvements to environmental processes.
- Sustainability champion initiative that sees a champion appointed across all of our sites to enforce and improve our sustainability in the workplace and ensure waste management is done correctly.
- Toolbox talks to subcontractors that include all aspects of environmental matters.
- Robust waste disposal policy that ensures waste and hazardous waste is disposed of correctly.
- Method statements and risk assessments that address correct environmental practices.

Products

Achieving and maintaining a sustainable supply chain is important to us so we actively seek and use suppliers that can provide evidence of their green credentials. Sustainability is something that we consider within all our sourcing and selection processes, for the suppliers that we use and for the services we provide.

Risk assessments are completed in all aspects of what we use and how we install and include which precautions are needed and how to adequately control the risks. Regular checks are carried out to ensure that the correct control measures are being used and maintained.

Waste & Recycling

We use a computerised planning system to minimise the waste we produce wherever possible. We use this information to forecast how much waste we can expect to produce. This system identifies areas where we can use smaller quantities of flooring which will in turn reduce product and packaging waste further.

We work closely with the manufacturers of the products to identify the waste code so that we are confident that we are disposing of it correctly. We have created a policy which clearly outlines the rules for waste disposal so that all staff are fully aware of the process. All waste is removed from site and returned to the Designer Contracts warehouse for safe disposal.

We work in partnership with others to improve environmental conditions and work to achieving more sustainable business practices. We recycle as much waste materials as practical and we are currently involved in a carpet recycling scheme where 90% of our carpet waste is diverted from landfill and recycled. This innovative scheme sees us recycle over 250 tonnes of post installation carpet waste each year. We have received numerous awards from Carpet Recycling UK for the efforts we put into this scheme, including Take Back Partner of the Year and Recycling Champion. We continue to work closely with Carpet Recycling UK and have further improved our efficiencies in this take back scheme by investing in a baler at our Central Distribution facility which means we are much more effective in recycling our carpet waste.

We remove all our waste from site and all cardboard, paper and polythene waste is recycled across the company. Any waste which can't be recycled is disposed of in Designer Contracts skips which are supplied by a certified and accredited waste management company.

Climate Change

We will ensure that the services we provide and policies we develop take account of predicted changes to our climate.

We will reduce and make more efficient use of electricity, gas and vehicle fuels.

We will promote energy efficiency and install renewable energy technology where practical in our buildings.

Vehicles

We purchase aerodynamic, low CO2 emission, fuel efficient and are in the process of replacing our standard fleet with electrical vehicles.

We closely monitor our central transport fleet to ensure that every vehicle is driven in a manner that minimises fuel consumption & emissions. We have a telematics system in our articulated vehicles that monitors the MPG, acceleration, harsh breaking & the amount of engine idling. We champion backload transport in all aspects of our business including collection of stock from manufacturers on return journeys following deliveries to our own regions & getting our recycling waste to the processing plant.

We monitor fuel usage with an online management system and all vehicles are fitted with AD-Blue to reduce emissions of oxides of nitrogen from the exhausts of UK diesel vehicles.

On-board computers on our HGVs manage the engine and transmission to ensure optimal running. This system called Telematics provides a detailed report of every aspect of the journey and provides our Logistics Director with a detailed report providing full analysis of the vehicle and driver. CO2 is closely managed by the on-board computers and can be reported back for each journey. Our investment in this technology means that we can monitor our CO2 emissions and excessive fuel consumption outside of routine maintenance requirements and be proactive in ensuring that Designer Contracts meets both its legal and moral obligations. By ensuring that we can monitor and modify driver behaviour we are able to make the most of this technology.

We will implement measures to help the business and employees to use green transport, e.g. providing facilities for cyclists by operating a Cycle to Work Scheme, encouraging car sharing and the use of public transport where possible.

Incidents, Emergencies and Complaints

We are proud to report that we have never had an environmental incident, emergency or complaint but we have an in-house Health and Safety Department keep a log of any issues that may arise.
We are also covered on our insurance for “clean-up” should a spillage occur e.g. diesel from a truck.

In working to achieve our objectives the Company will:

- Periodically undertake a review of the policy and update where necessary.
- Monitor and review the environmental impacts of the business.
- Work with all employees to improve the situation.

The Company is committed to ensuring that this policy remains legally compliant and consistent with current practices. It will be subject to regular review and updating where necessary.

Louise Walters
Commercial Director
Dated: July 2024