



Knauf Sustainability

Continuous innovation in sustainable products, services, systems and processes

How do Knauf make manufacturing more sustainable?

All Knauf sites are targeted to reduce their environmental impact through continual innovation and improvement.

Recent projects include:

State-of-the art, gypsum milling equipment, making the whole process of calcining gypsum more energy efficient.

The installation of a massive heat exchanger, reducing energy usage by approximately 10%.

A 12.5% reduction in the water used in plasterboard manufacture, saving up to 100 tonnes of water per day, with proportional gas savings from the drying process.

Further initiatives being investigated include renewable energy sources, a combined heat and power plant and increased use of recycled material.

Recycled materials

Our UK factories manufacture plasterboard using Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) Gypsum, a recycled material created as a by-product of controlling emissions from coal-fired power stations.

Our R3 recycling scheme collects post-consumer plasterboard waste for reprocessing, in accordance with the Environment Agency and WRAP's Quality Protocol, by partners local to our factories for use as a raw material.

All paper liners used in plasterboard production are 100% recycled and supplied from an FSC certified mill, less than one mile from our Sittingbourne plant.

The paper liners used in our production are 100% recycled and are supplied from an FSC certified mill which is local to one of our factories.

Lower impact transportation

With factories strategically positioned in close proximity to shipping and rail routes, we are able to move material and product to and from our sites in ways that lower the impact to the environment.

Where these methods of transport are not practical a fleet of modern, energy-efficient lorries are utilised running full loads to maximise efficiency whilst careful planning and monitoring reduces the miles that every square metre of board travels.

Investing in people and communities

We understand that sustainability also stretches to the health, safety and wellbeing of our employees, customers and end users as well as the communities that we operate in. This is demonstrated through the sourcing of packaging from the Royal British Legion, the provision of staff to work on charity projects and the development of our employees through apprenticeships and on-going training.

We are certified to OHSAS 18001 demonstrating our commitment to occupational health and safety, and have been awarded 5 stars by the British Safety Council.



Sustainable initiatives

We aid our customers in achieving credits on projects constructed to BREEAM, Code for Sustainable Homes, LEED and SKA as well as helping companies to satisfy their own policies on reducing waste and energy.

Responsible sourcing:

Our production sites are certified to ISO 14001 and ISO 9001. Our FGD gypsum raw material is responsibly sourced from power stations which are required to have Environmental Management Systems compliant to, or surpassing, ISO 14001.

Recycled content:

Our plasterboard average recycled content is 87%, as calculated and published in the WRAP 'Rule of Thumb' Guide which is based on ISO 14021.

Green guide to specification:

Our plasterboard can contribute to systems listed as A and A+. Care should be taken when specifying, as these ratings are based on the system and not the individual products.

We provide a number of services to aid our customers in meeting and achieving their sustainability goals, these include:

Waste reduction:

Our dedicated Technical Department can be engaged early in the project to help design out waste through ensuring the correct systems and products are specified. Ceiling height can be designed around standard plasterboard lengths and, subject to volume restrictions, we can manufacture bespoke board sizes to reduce waste before it is even created.

Waste management:

Our R3 recycling service provides waste solutions to all sites through a flexible network of partners who provide national coverage. Waste can be collected in standard bags, skips and ro-ros or more specialised containers such as wheelie bins or crane certified skips. The collected waste is returned through a network of reprocessors back into a raw material for plasterboard manufacture whenever practical.



Sustainable products

In addition to our sustainable plasterboard product range, we have developed a number of innovative products to provide additional benefits to users. Some products the forward-thinking specifier should consider are:

Knauf Brio

Range of dry screed boards

Exceptional acoustic performance without the need for additional acoustic battens

Knauf Brio WF has been specified on BREEAM Outstanding Schemes due to improved acoustic performance

Reduces future energy use in a building thanks to excellent thermal conductivity, which enables lower underfloor heating temperatures to be used

Promotes the use of ground and air source heat pumps

Faster completion times as a Knauf Brio floor can be finished within 24 hours

Knauf Readymix Plasters

Spray applied pre-mixed plaster

Wastage rate of only 1%.

Require minimal water on site, further reducing site impacts

Reduce the need to work at height as it can be applied up to 3m without leaving the floor, improving on-site health and safety

Marble based, leaving a smooth white surface allowing for fewer coats of paint

Improved impact resistance over gypsum-based plaster can reduce future maintenance

Speed up completion times

Knauf Safeboard

X-ray shielding plasterboard

Reduces the need to use lead when protecting against x-ray radiation

Utilises a barium sulphate core to provide safe protection

Simplified installation

Knauf Safeboard Joint Filler continues the protection without the need for additional lead strips

Lighter weight makes handling safer for the installer

Fully tested and approved by the Health Protection Agency

Knauf Insulating Laminates

Insulation-backed plasterboard

Reduced CO₂ emissions and energy expenditure

Simple solution to meet Part L of the Building Regulations

CFC and HCFC free

Environmental Policy

Knauf Drywall recognises that its operations and activities impact on the local and global environment in a number of ways and as such are committed to continually reducing these environmental impacts. Our overall objective is to develop the business having full regard to the environment and taking into account the views of all affected interests. To this end we will:

Comply with and where possible exceed all relevant statutory legislation and local agreements

Assess in advance where possible, the environmental effects of any new development and adjust the company's plans accordingly.

Identify, set, monitor and review environmental objectives relevant to the operations conducted on site.

Minimise any disturbance to the local and global environment and to the quality of life of the local communities in which the company operates

Maintain the appearance of all its premises to the highest practical standards.

Take positive steps to conserve resources, particularly those which are scarce or non-renewable.

Provide the information necessary to enable employees to operate the process properly and with minimal effects on man or the environment.

Provide the information necessary to enable the company's products to be properly used, stored and disposed of so as to avoid unacceptable effects on man or the environment.

Be committed to continuous improvement and the prevention of pollution.





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