

Chemical Reduction & Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy

Purpose

Design Works (Cumbria) Ltd is committed to reducing the use of harmful chemicals and minimising environmental and health impacts associated with workplace products. This policy sets out how we prioritise environmentally preferred alternatives across our corporate facilities.

Scope

This policy applies to all purchasing decisions related to office operations, facilities management, printing and consumable supplies.

1. Non-Toxic Janitorial Products

Cleaning services at South Lakeland House are delivered by Orian Solutions.

Cleaning products used on site are professional formulations managed in accordance with COSHH regulations. A chemical-reduction approach is applied, including the use of microfibre cleaning systems to reduce overall chemical usage and water consumption. Concentrated products are diluted on site where applicable to reduce packaging and transport impacts.

The products currently in use do not hold formal third-party eco-certifications.

2. Unbleached / Chlorine-Free Paper Products

We commit to purchasing unbleached and chlorine-free paper products wherever feasible. This includes office paper, printed materials and paper-based consumables, helping to reduce chemical pollution associated with traditional bleaching processes.

3. Low-VOC and Environmentally Preferred Inks

For printed materials, Designworks prioritises the use of soy-based inks or other low-VOC alternatives, either directly or through selected print suppliers. This reduces volatile organic compound emissions and supports more environmentally responsible printing practices.

4. Recycled and Environmentally Preferred Office Supplies

Designworks prioritises recycled or environmentally preferred office supplies, including paper, pens, notebooks and stationery. Purchasing decisions consider recycled content, durability, reusability and environmental certifications where available.

5. Supplier Selection and Monitoring

Suppliers are selected based on quality, reliability, value and environmental performance. Purchasing practices are reviewed periodically to ensure continued alignment with this policy and evolving best practice.

6. Responsibility

The Managing Directors are responsible for implementing this policy, overseeing purchasing decisions and ensuring compliance across facilities.

7. Review Cycle

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure effectiveness, relevance and alignment with Designworks' wider environmental objectives.