



A responsible approach

Taking care of people, quality and the environment

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At Maxwood, we want to create the perfect washroom. But we don't want it to cost the earth.

Our approach to manufacturing, and business generally, is both careful and responsible.

We fully consider the impact of every decision on the environment, the health and safety of our team and the quality of our products.

That means you can choose Maxwood with a clear conscience, safe in the knowledge that our materials, products and processes are as considerate and compliant as possible.

We produced this brochure to illustrate our commitments in every area: quality, health and safety, and all aspects of the environment.



Quality

We are committed to the highest quality standards in our manufacturing, and operate an in-house quality control system based on ISO 9001.

We carry out quality checks before, during and after the manufacturing process, as follows.

- We check materials for quality before manufacture.
- We have a rigorous machine maintenance programme, managed by a full-time chargehand, to ensure that all our production equipment is operating at optimum efficiency.
- We carry out interim production checks as each manufacturing process is completed.
- We carry out a detailed product check on completion of the production process.

We carry out manufacturing in a clean, organised and well-maintained environment, in which temperature is controlled and humidity monitored to ensure optimum conditions.

We carefully monitor delivery companies' performance to ensure our quality standards are upheld right up to delivery, while installation is carried out only by carefully selected, trustworthy teams.



Health and safety

As an organisation, we are fully committed to the highest standards of health and safety in all our activities.

We thoroughly assess plant and equipment from an H&S perspective before purchase and make sure it is maintained in good working order, with systems in place to ensure the safety of employees and others when in operation.

We ensure that articles and substances can be handled, stored, transported and used safely.

Maxwood employees are expected to take reasonable care of their own health and safety – and that of others who may be affected by what they do, or don't do, at work. We provide information, instruction and third-party training to help them stay fully competent and up-to-date on tasks and equipment. Supervision is appropriate to employees' experience, competence, and familiarity with the workplace, equipment and tasks.

Safe means of access and egress are available within all areas, and the workplace and welfare facilities are maintained to provide a risk-free working environment.

We operate under a comprehensive set of health and safety procedures. These set out working methods used to ensure legal compliance and define staff responsibilities.

Working practices and documentation are reviewed periodically to ensure they remain effective and compliant with the latest legislation.

This policy is fully supported by the partners at Maxwood, and all employees co-operate enthusiastically and fully in helping to implement and maintain it. We are a company where safety always comes first.



Environment

We recognise and respect the importance of the environment and the need to conserve the finite resources of our planet, and we operate to a self-imposed set of policies that reflect this concern.

We meet and, where possible, exceed the environmental standards set down by law, and consider all issues raised in further legislation.

Recognising the need for continual improvement in the face of changing environmental issues, we are committed to the ongoing development of systems and procedures that deliver environmental protection by conserving resources and minimising pollution.

The following pages set out our specific policies in these four key areas:

- Materials
- Eliminating formaldehyde
- Manufacturing
- Waste recycling

Materials

When sourcing materials, we pay careful attention to suppliers' environmental credentials, particularly in the following areas.

- We source particle board, MDF, plywood and other such boards from suppliers with FSC accreditation within the BM Trada Certification scheme.
- We source paper-based laminate products from suppliers who obtain their paper from sustainable sources.
- We closely monitor the use of real wood veneers and insist that sources of raw material are FSC accredited.
- We buy aluminium products from suppliers who use approximately 60% recycled aluminium.
- We are careful to buy environmentally sound complementary products (such as adhesives) see page 14.

Eliminating formaldehyde

We are leading the way in eliminating formaldehyde from the process of washroom manufacture.

The background to this can be summarised as follows.

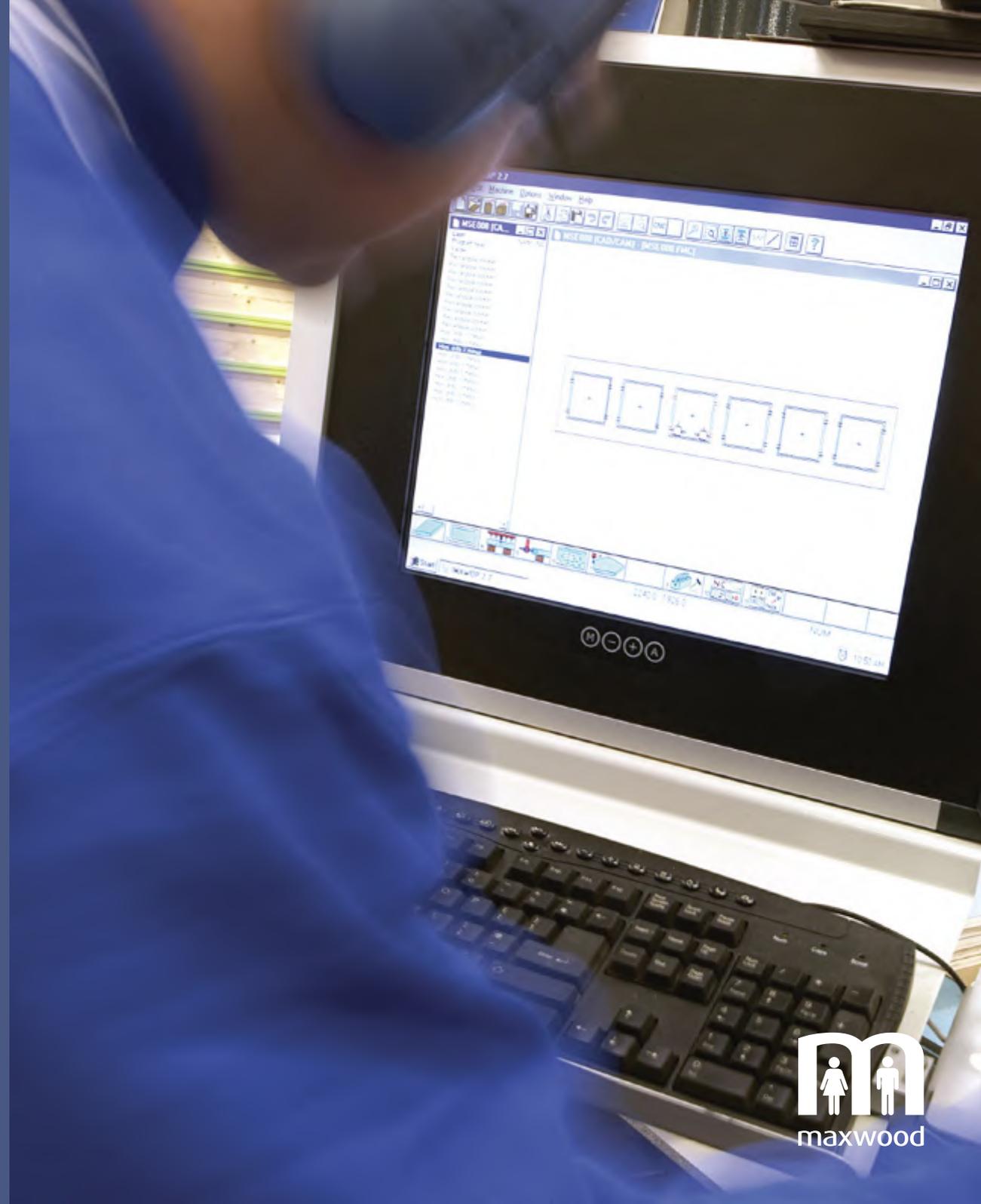
- Formaldehyde is traditionally added to particleboard and the glues used to bond laminate to it, both of which are common in washroom manufacture.
- Formaldehyde is a recognised carcinogen and a potent sensitiser (i.e. trigger of skin allergies). It causes headaches, chest pains and other symptoms, and is a contributory factor to acid rain.
- Most manufactured articles containing formaldehyde will continue to emit harmful vapours over time. One study showed that vinyl-laminated particleboard emitted 16mg/m³/hour of formaldehyde. Even a comparatively low level of formaldehyde in the atmosphere can be harmful.
- We use a polyurethane alternative to traditional formaldehyde-based glues. This prevents toxic emissions, both from the glue itself and from the particleboard to which it is applied.
- In addition to its health and environmental benefits, Polyurethane adhesives also deliver much better bonding performance than those using Formaldehyde. This increases the lifespan of the product.



Manufacturing

We constantly monitor our manufacturing operations and the materials we use with the aim of minimising or eliminating environmental impacts.

- We continually optimise material use to minimise waste.
- We use optimisation software to keep waste from laminated boards and Solid Grade laminate material to the absolute minimum.
- We use polyurethane gluing for all laminating and bonding, to eliminate the risks of environmental contamination and harm to health associated with traditional adhesives, such as the release of VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) emissions and formaldehydes.
- Our capital investment programme ensures that we obtain equipment that operates at optimum efficiency to control and reduce the environmental impact of our activities.
- We have installed silencers on our dust extraction equipment to maintain the ambient noise levels in the surrounding area.



Waste recycling

We aim to recycle waste materials as much as possible, particularly in the following areas.

- We send all waste aluminium to be recycled, and maintain ongoing staff training to ensure that all staff co-operate with the scheme.
- Our new automated warehouse facility ensures that even offcuts are taken into account when planning a project, allowing them to be re-used wherever possible and reducing waste.
- We incinerate all wood-based waste in a computer-controlled biomass boiler, burning waste at a temperature that prevents harmful emissions. This boiler is also used for heating and hot water, thus reducing energy consumption and conserving the finite resources of fossil fuels.
- We break down all scrap chipboard and offcuts that cannot be re-used in an industrial wood chipper. This allows larger pieces of wood-based waste to be incinerated, and prevents them being sent to landfill sites.
- We shred all waste paper and bag it ready for recycling.
- We aim to remove cardboard packaging used to cover products for transportation at the point of delivery, and return it to our plant for reuse.
- We return pallets on which goods are supplied to the supplier for reuse, wherever possible.



Certified



If you'd like to know more about our responsible approach to business, please get in touch.

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call 024 7662 1122

fax 024 7662 2922

email sales@maxwoodwashrooms.com

Bodmin Road Wyken Coventry CV2 5DB



www.maxwoodwashrooms.com