

NORSTONE SUSTANABILITY POLICY

While our natural stone materials are sourced from within Vietnam, manufactured, and then shipped worldwide, Norstone is aware and sympathetic to growing concerns for sustainability. In addition to the benefits of using natural stone as a building material, which has proven to be one of the most sustainable materials throughout the course of history, we've also recognised our responsibility to employ sustainable products, processes and ideas throughout our manufacturing facility.

Raw Stone Material:

Norstone only procures stone material from licensed and government approved stone suppliers. These stone suppliers and their quarries are monitored by local government agencies to ensure that only appropriate and assigned areas are quarried and that the environment is not affected in an adverse manner. Government regulations ensure that there is strict control over areas that are allocated to be quarried and areas such as national parks are protected from illegal mining. Companies with quarry operations must adhere to regulations such as method of quarrying, run off or disposal of waste residue, worker's rights and restoration of the area that has been quarried, including regeneration of flora and fauna. Norstone does not procure raw stone material such as pebbles from environmentally sensitive ecosystems such as rivers. Because we believe so strongly in the environmental protection of natural river systems we will never trade in or process pebbles from such sources.

Water:

Norstone uses 3 sources of water during the manufacturing process: municipal supply, rain or storm water and recycled water. Our factory utilises large underground water retention tanks to capture and retain storm water, particularly during the rainy season, which provides our primary water supply for manufacturing. One large water retention tank is designed to capture the waste water runoff from the machinery and cleaning area. This waste water is then treated, filtered and pumped back through the water supply system for these areas. The silt from the waste water is disposed of and used as base for road building and other construction projects. Retention of storm water and recycling of water has allowed us to effectively eliminate our consumption of municipal water in our manufacturing processes.

Production:

The manufacturing of our natural stone products does not produce any toxic by-products and virtually zero air pollution. Norstone only uses low-VOC epoxy adhesives, which help to significantly limit harmful emissions to our environment, on our natural stone products that require bonding with adhesive, such as our stacked stone veneer cladding.

Energy:

We have invested in machinery, equipment and fittings that are energy efficient to reduce our dependence on the municipal power supply. In addition, because our products are predominantly hand-assembled, the energy consumed in producing Norstone products is negligible compared to machine made products such as cultured stones, ceramic tiles and clay pavers.

Lighting:

Our modern manufacturing facility was designed for effective use of sunlight to illuminate the internal working areas. This natural light source helps to considerably reduce energy consumption without compromising thermal protection and comfort.

Packaging:

Our wooden crates are made from recycled timber, typically from crates and pallets that are imported into Vietnam. This recycling of timber helps to reduce the impact on the local forest industry, especially new growth timber plantations. Norstone is opposed to illegal logging or destruction of virgin rainforests and does not use or encourage the supply of timber from such locations

Waste:

The stone waste and off cuts generated in the manufacturing process are used by local construction companies for the building of roads and as foundations for local housing.

In conclusion, leading sustainability experts have warned that too much emphasis on saving water and carbon neutrality is coming at the expense of other green initiatives, including limiting the use of toxic materials. While the push to save water and energy is certainly commendable, it should come as part of a sustainability package that includes initiatives to cut the use of toxic building materials such as coatings, glazings, PVC and paints which are often fraught with problems, such as their long term effect on health. We at Norstone recognise and understand sustainability is not just conserving water and energy, but rather is a complex problem with a complex set of solutions. It is this holistic approach to sustainability that permeates our organisation and impacts every step of our business cycle from raw stone to finished product.