



Environmental Statement- Verto Chemical Range

The products in our Verto range are all non-toxic, non-flammable, non-carcinogenic and non-harmful to marine and aquatic life. They are made from environmentally-friendly ingredients to be fully user-friendly and biodegradable; they comply with all the current and forthcoming legislation including the EC Detergent Regulation 648/2004, the REACH Agreement, and the CHIP 4 regulations. All bottles and lids are made from recyclable plastic and all labels are bio-degradable.

1. Distinguished Certification

The manufacturing plant is registered to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and has been awarded an IPPC permit by the Environmental Agency - the new Europe-wide gold standard for environmental manufacturing excellence.

- ISO 9001 is the defining standard for the quality management of businesses. It applies to processes and prescribes systematic control of all activities to ensure that the needs and expectations of customers are met.
- ISO 14001 is the internationally recognised standard for Environmental Management Systems. It applies to all environmental aspects which the organisation has control or influence over. It obliges organisations to rate and continually improve their own environmental impact and performance. It is the precursor to achieving the even higher standard of an IPPC permit.
- The Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (IPPC) to minimise air, land and water emissions is enforced by the Environment Agency. An IPPC permit is the single highest environmental accreditation for manufacturers and stipulates a strict minimum level of environmental protection across all aspects of manufacturing. Manufacturers without an IPPC permit are unable to convert pre-cursors into raw materials on-site and incur significant wastage and cost through the transportation of pre-reacted raw materials.

The plant is aiming to go beyond ISO 9001 and 14001 by gaining AISE Charter status. This is a voluntary initiative by the detergents industry to promote sustainability. Participating companies must undergo independent verification of environmental best practice to be accepted into the Charter.

2. Minimal wastage, packaging and transport

The bulk storage tank farm, including dilution equipment and an IPPC licence to buy key ingredients in bulk, enables raw materials to be purchased in a highly concentrated form to significantly reduce packaging and transport.

The facts

The Environment Agency's guidance on the chemical industry states that the priority in waste management is to reduce the generation of waste before recycling what is possible from the remainder. Conventional manufacturing plants take many deliveries of raw materials packaged in drums or bags, leading to pollution from delivery vehicles and packaging waste.

We believe it makes more sense for key raw materials to be pumped in a high concentrate form straight into bulk storage containers by road tanker. Certain high volume ingredients can only be purchased in concentrate solution by operators who have access to specialised dilution equipment or have the ability to convert precursors into raw materials with an IPPC licence.

The proof

We focus on reducing wastage. To help achieve this, the plant has invested over £1m in a bulk storage tank farm enabling us to receive over 6 million litres of 30 key raw materials annually by road tanker without any associated packaging. This means that the major components of each cleaning product arrive at the site using minimal resources. The dilution equipment, together with an IPPC license, means that each material is delivered in its most concentrated form, thereby reducing transport to a minimum.

3. Recycling

We recycle waste packaging and chemicals through segregation, and conduct either off-site recycling or on-site re-use.

The facts

When producers have ensured that they have reduced their wastage to a minimum, they must recycle the remainder. Waste can be solid – most commonly packaging, or liquid – typically from washing out production lines between runs. Some waste can be re-used on-site. Other waste can be segregated and sent for 3rd party reprocessing.

The proof

Any packaging we do receive is segregated into dedicated skips and sent for off-site recycling. The majority of the washings from filling lines are segregated, analysed and re-used in subsequent batches of products.

4. Effluent treatment

Effluent is treated on-site to release only pre-cleaned water to the sewer system.

The facts

Washing out tanks and filling lines between production runs creates unavoidable effluent. Much of this can be recycled, though some must be disposed of. Many companies dispose of this effluent using the public sewer system. However, sewage treatment works are designed to cope with a wide variety of waste materials and will not operate to optimum efficiency on any one particular effluent stream. On-site biological treatment utilising a 'septic' tank type bioreactor system enables a far more efficient effluent treatment process. For successful treatment, all the chemicals in the waste stream must be biodegradable.

The proof

The plant is the only plant of its type to dispose of effluent waste through onsite biological waste treatment. The technique has been pioneered in partnership with two bio-technology companies and with DTI funding assistance.

The long-standing policy of using only biodegradable materials allows the unique bioreactor to digest effluent into carbon dioxide and water. 90% biodegradation within 24 hours demonstrates the exceptional biodegradability of the chemicals we use.

5. Energy Conservation

Consumption of key consumables, such as water and energy (including the associated release of carbon dioxide) is reduced through efficient manufacturing.

The facts

Some products require heating or cooling during the manufacturing process. Water is commonly used for transporting energy to and from these products. Water is also used for cleaning pipework and the filling lines between production runs. Energy is required for general heating and lighting and to generate compressed air – a safer power source for pumps and filling lines.

The proof

Hot and cold water is recirculated from one batch to another so neither the energy nor water is lost. Water expenditure on tank and filling line washings is minimised through on-site recycling. The factory is purpose designed to minimise heat loss and is thermostat controlled and insulated throughout. The warehouse has dock levellers with electric roller doors so that no heat is lost when delivery trucks are loaded and rising heat is recirculated by ceiling-mounted fans. Shutter doors have timers to automatically close and reduce heat loss. The boiler and compressor are the most energy efficient in their class. The variable speed drive compressor is 35% more efficient than conventional designs. The boiler achieves a class leading 89% efficiency. The lighting utilises low energy bulbs connected to a light sensitive device which automatically switches off during bright daylight.

6. Efficiency through Quality

By improving cleaning performance at lower dosages we further reduce the burden of packaging and transport.

The facts

The greatest environmental cost of any cleaning product is its associated packaging and transportation. Increasing the number of product doses per unit of packaging and transport is a key component of improving sustainability. Products that clean effectively first time eliminate the need for a second pass.

The proof

Heavy investment has gone in to R&D facilities, providing a state of the art laboratory and also dedicated flooring areas for field trials. Skilled scientists continually develop and refine our product range to offer class leading performance at lower dosages.