

Environment

At Terreal, we are well aware of environmental concerns, and we opted for a pro-active approach on this issue. Our commitment to an environmentally-friendly production encompasses the following elements.

The Choice of our Raw Materials

Our tiles, exclusively made of terracotta, present very interesting and "age-resistant" properties. Terracotta is a natural and rot-proof material, with well known acoustic and thermal qualities. Regulations on refuse products classify Terracotta as an inert material :

- On April 18th, 2002 French Government Decree regarding the classification of refuse materials in France;
- 1999/31/EC European Directive, defining "inert products" as "products that do not incur any major physical, chemical or biological modification" throughout their life.

The Manufacturing Process

1/ Natural gas is the only fossil energy employed in our factories because of its lower level of Greenhouse effect gas emissions (exclusively CO2 and H2O).

2/ Major investments to reduce kiln smoke and gas emissions have been made during the last several years (in accordance with February 2nd, 1998 French Government Decree).

3/ All waste is treated or recycled; liquids are reused in the production line and other waste is sorted for either recycling or revalorisation (non-recyclable refuse is transferred to a proper disposal centre).

4/ Our policy is to rehabilitate open quarry sites as often as possible.

5/ From 2005, at least 25% of our electrical supply comes from renewable energies (i.e.: hydraulic, photovoltaic, windwills...), that is above the 2010 target of 21% for renewable sources of electricity in France (and 15% in 2004).

The Protection of Landscapes

Because the respect of the environment also means a harmonious integration of your home in the local architectural style, Terreal assists you in your choice by finding the best tile aspects in use in your region among the range of 56 models available in more than 300 colours.

The Thorough Knowledge of our Activities' Environmental Impact

Today, our Terracotta tiles have been studied to determine their environmental impact during their entire life cycle. This study, realised by the French Federation of Tile and Brick Manufacturers, answers to the 14 environmental objectives - including environmentally friendly constructions and economic choices - described in the HQE® approach (see below).

HQE®, the French label for an ecologically-friendly architecture, is a global approach to accompany development projects, renovations or new constructions, of any size, with a view to sustainable growth. It aims at taking into account the impact of these constructions on the Environment. Our life cycle survey follows the protocol of XP-P01-010 international norm.

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