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Sustainable Packaging Policy Position Statement

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Sustainable Packaging Position Statement

“As part of our commitment to make more sustainable choices easier for our customers, we want to ensure both products and their packaging are as sustainable as possible.

We aim to engage with our vendors and other stakeholders to continuously find opportunities that minimise packaging waste within our supply chain and maximise the use of responsibly sourced, reusable and recyclable materials in line with circular economy principles.

To remain compliant with UK and EU regulations and to demonstrate improvements are being achieved, we will monitor performance and regularly assess the quality of the packaging information we are provided to ensure it is in full and as accurate as possible.

Failure to support these principles could jeopardise opportunities to market your products with B&Q.”

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Our Packaging vision

Our product range packaging will have the lowest possible environmental impact while protecting, delivering and presenting products in perfect condition safely to our customers.

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Our Packaging principles

We encourage our vendors to observe the following principles for all primary, secondary and tertiary/transit packaging:

- avoid excessive material, reducing packaging waste within our supply chain where possible, whilst not compromising any protective or customer communication purpose.
- use materials that are domestically widely recycled and include the appropriate recycling labelling.
- adopt reusable or refillable alternatives to traditional packaging formats where possible.
- explore ways to reduce/optimize secondary and tertiary/transit packaging where possible.
- avoid the combination of multiple materials that cannot be easily separated by the end consumer to recycle efficiently.
- seek to replace and ultimately remove single-use plastic packaging where possible, otherwise use a minimum of 30% recycled content if plastic is unavoidable.
- explore any viable closed loop schemes for packaging waste recovery.
- only use responsible manufacturing practices and responsibly sourced materials.
- avoid unnecessary printing, use alternative print free techniques where possible, and adopt sustainable inks, varnishes and adhesives for any printed packaging.
- ensure packaging is always fit for purpose and attractive to the customer, avoiding waste caused by damaged, unpresentable, unsaleable or otherwise unsold products.
- All packaging must be compliant with current and upcoming UK and EU legislation.

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Our Packaging goals

We aim to achieve the following targets **by 2030**

- All packaging to be recyclable, reusable or compostable¹
- All plastic packaging to contain a minimum 30% recycled content.
- 20% reduction in all plastic packaging by weight on a true like-for-like basis.²
- All paper and board packaging to be sustainably sourced.

¹ supported by an accessible and appropriate waste stream.

² accumulative year-on-year measure and against a 2023 baseline.

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Guidance

Applicable to all primary, secondary and tertiary/transit packaging.

- All packaging materials to be domestically widely recycled and must include the appropriate recycling labelling.
- Any printed packaging to be produced using sustainable inks, varnishes and adhesives, minimising the use of solvents, and must not contain harmful chemicals or mineral oils. See Appendix - 'Definitions' for further details.
- Any adhesive labels attached to packaging components should not exceed 30% of the packaging surface area and should be constructed from the same material as the packaging it is adhered to, where applicable.
- Where current materials meet the above requirements, vendors must avoid excessive material usage and explore ways of optimising secondary and tertiary/transit packaging where possible.
- All packaging must be compliant with current and upcoming UK and EU legislations.

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Fibre-based Packaging

- Fibre-based packaging (i.e. paper and board) is our preferred packaging material and must be sustainably sourced in line with Kingfisher's Forest Positive Policy at www.kingfisher.com/ForestPositivePolicy; see Appendix – 'Definitions' for details of how we define and measure this.
- Where plastic coating or lamination is functionally necessary, vendor must aim to use single sided coatings.
- Where adhesive labels are necessary and attached directly to a fibre-based component, they must be produced on a paper substrate.
- Silicone, greaseproof or glassine papers must be avoided.

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Plastic Packaging

Where the use of plastic packaging is unavoidable, vendors must aim to use one of the below widely recycled core polymers with a minimum of 30% recycled content, with a preference of 50%, see Appendix - 'Definitions' for details of how we define and measure this.

Packaging must be constructed from one of the below single core polymers, in order of preference:

1. Both Rigid and Flexible Polypropylene (PP).
2. Rigid Polyethylene terephthalate (PET).
3. Both Rigid and Flexible High-density polyethylene (HDPE), Low-density polyethylene (LDPE).

The following plastics are not acceptable as packaging materials and must be replaced with widely recycled alternatives:

1. Expanded polystyrene (EPS), Polystyrene (PS).
2. Polyvinyl chloride (PVC).
3. Other expanded polymers such as EPP and EPE.
4. Oxo-degradable plastics that break down to create microplastics.
5. Plastics coloured using non-detectable near infrared (NIR) carbon black masterbatch pigment.

Bio-based plastics must be avoided where not supported by an appropriate and accessible waste stream.

Vendors must aim to remove single-use plastic packaging; this includes hybrid packaging formats that combine multiple non-separable materials such as traditional blister packaging.

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Data Collection and Validation

To ensure that B&Q remain compliant with current UK and EU legislation and the packaging supplied by our Vendors are aligned with our Sustainability Packaging goals, Valpak, on behalf of B&Q, regularly carries out scheduled Packaging Sustainability Data collections throughout the year.

All vendors will be provided advanced notice for when these occur. Vendors are required to submit accurate and complete packaging information to Valpak when requested, via Valpak Supplier Data hub (SDH). If vendors have included any claims of recycled content and or certified materials, Vendors will be asked to submit valid supporting evidence and proof of supply documentation to validate these claims.

Note - If a Vendor supplies own brand products as well as Kingfisher branded products (Own Exclusive Brand) to B&Q, the Vendor will provide data for Kingfisher products via Kingfisher Packaging Sustainability application, and the vendor is not required to provide the same data to Valpak. Data for vendor branded products shall be provided via Valpak Supplier Data hub.

As B&Q uses the information provided to Valpak by our vendors for sustainability reporting, taxation calculations etc., all data provided must accurately match actual physical packaging specifications. To validate accuracy, vendors may be requested to participate in B&Q's Packaging Audit where Valpak will check the physical makeup of the packaging materials against the information provided in the packaging submissions. Vendors will receive advance notice if they have been selected to participate, and which SKUs will be audited. We may ask our vendors to send physical empty packaging samples to Valpak or select delivered packed products for auditing purposes. On completion of our audit, we will provide feedback to the Vendor on the SKU's we have tested, if any of the information Vendor provides Valpak is found to be inaccurate, the vendor is responsible to immediately rectify the information in the Supplier Data hub and provide B&Q an actionable and improvement plan upon request.



Definitions

Primary packaging

Primary packaging is any material that is used to contain and protect the finished product, including any internal inserts or parts, and that is disposed of by the end consumer.

Secondary packaging

Secondary packaging is any material that is used in addition to the primary product packaging to protect Group product units or display the product and its primary packaging during transit and/or merchandising in store. This includes shelf ready packaging (SRP) and is most often seen by the end consumer.

Tertiary/transit packaging

Transit packaging is any material that is used to protect and aid handling of individual products or secondary packaging during shipment and distribution of the product. This includes pallets, strapping and stretch wrap and is rarely seen or handled by the end consumer.

Sustainable inks

Any inks used must contain less than 0.1% mineral oil saturated hydrocarbons (MOSH) and mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons (MOAH) content by mass of ink. B&Q must be supplied documentation when requested to verify the percentage of mineral oils present in printing inks and/or recycled materials.

Hybrid packaging

Hybrid packaging is any packaging solution that is produced using a combination of different materials that cannot be easily separated by the end consumer to recycle efficiently. Hybrid packaging solutions and materials must be replaced with suitable mono-material packaging solutions that are widely recycled.

Domestically widely recycled

Domestically widely recycled means Item of packaging or component must be collected at kerbside by at least 75% of local authorities (LAs) across the UK, as determined by WRAP's local authority data.

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Definitions

Post-consumer

Post-consumer recycled (PCR) waste is waste material produced by the end consumer and collected through domestic recycling schemes after the material has served its purpose, that would otherwise end up in landfill or incineration.

Post-industrial/Pre-consumer

Post-industrial or pre-consumer recycled (PIR) waste is waste material produced through the manufacturing process before the material has reached the consumer and served its purpose. This must have been reprocessed by a separate facility.

30% recycled content in plastics

A minimum of 30% recycled content is required in any plastic material used in our packaging. This may be calculated using a mass balance approach. Both post-consumer and post-industrial recycled waste may be used, except for scrap and regrind. For plastic to be accepted as recycled content, the waste must have been reprocessed by a separate facility. Vendors are required to provide Kingfisher and B&Q with suitable evidence of any recycled content claims upon request.

Scrap and regrind

Scrap and regrind is waste that is generated through the manufacturing process of packaging materials that have been reprocessed in-house. This will not be classified as recycled content unless it has been reprocessed by a separate, independent facility.

Bio-based plastics

Compostable bioplastics that are safe to be home composted or bio-based plastics that are widely recycled may be suitable alternatives to conventional plastic packaging materials. Bioplastics that require industrial composting environments to degrade will not be accepted in regions where the infrastructure is not widely available.

Forest Positive

In 2020, Kingfisher made a commitment to become Forest Positive by 2025. See our Forest Positive Policy at www.kingfisher.com/ForestPositivePolicy.

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Definitions

Sustainably sourced paper and board (i.e. fibre-based packaging)

Any paper and board used in packaging must be sustainably sourced in line with Kingfisher's Forest Positive Policy at www.kingfisher.com/ForestPositivePolicy. Kingfisher defines this as being one of the following in order of preference:

- **Recycled:**
 - **FSC® or PEFC™ certified recycled**, with full Chain of Custody.

OR

 - **Verified recycled content (preferably post-consumer)** – minimum of 50%, with a preference for 70%; any remaining fibre must come from Controlled sources as set out in our Vendor Guidelines on Responsible Sourcing of Wood and Paper at www.kingfisher.com/ForestPositiveGuidelines. Recycled fibre must contain less than 0.1% mineral oil saturated hydrocarbons (MOSH) and mineral oil aromatic hydrocarbons (MOAH) content by mass of material. Kingfisher must be supplied documentation when requested to verify the recycled content and percentage of mineral oils present.
- **Sustainably managed (in order of preference):**
 - **FSC® certification** with full Chain of Custody; note – this is the only certification scheme accepted for paper and board packaging harvested from tropical countries.
 - **PEFC™ certification** with full Chain of Custody.

All suppliers of packaging must also comply with requirements set out under the UK Timber Regulation and EU Timber Regulation, EU Deforestation Regulation and UK Environment Act.

FSC® (Forest Stewardship Council®) www.fsc.org/en/chain-of-custody-certification

PEFC™ (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification) www.pefc.org/standards-implementation



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Support and questions

If you have any questions about this document, please email: bqsustainabilityteam@b-and-q.co.uk

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