

Blenheim Palace Retail Green Buying Credentials November 2010

Retail Department use a supplier screening document that asks suppliers to express their green credentials.

Paper products e.g. greetings cards, wrapping paper, guidebooks, packaging that meet green guidelines with paper and inks.

- Bug Art Greetings cards - All paper used to manufacture greeting cards is FSC compliant. All inks, varnishes and laminates are vegetable and water based. Packaging and shipping materials are manufactured from recycled or reclaimed materials.
- Our Sir Winston Churchill playing cards adhere to green guidelines as regards inks and paper. They use only sustainable wood sources for their paper/card.
- Frederica Cards range - use a card for the cards with an approximately 40% recycled content. 100% corn starch for the transparent bags for the cards - compostable and breakdown within 40 days. 100% recycled paper envelopes. They use bespoke brown cardboard boxes for wrapping papers with almost 100% recycled content. All other packing materials are recycled from other uses and 'in house' deliveries. Cards and wrapping papers are printed by printers operating within a 20 mile radius of their home town Bath.
- Our new card range 'Five Dollar Shake' - use specially selected board made from pulp sourced from sustainable and renewable forests. All cards are handmade in Britain and the cello bags and envelopes they use, are all FSC approved.
- 'The History Map' - The paper used is wood free. It is produced in a mill whose environmental system meets the ISO 14001 standard and EMAS. The mill is FSC and PEFC certified which means that the paper is also certified, even though it doesn't contain any wood. The inks are produced by Sun Chemical and are non hazardous and not dangerous to the environment.
- The History Press (Pitkin Guides) books - All of the paper stocks used are either FSC or PEFC Certified. All the lithographic inks used contain high levels of non-volatile vegetable oil based type materials, a mixture of boiled Linseed and Soya oils. There is approx 50% of oil within a standard ink formulation. Some solvents, in small amounts are required to help with certain performance characteristics. The solvents used have a very low environmental impact and are carefully monitored. Other constituent parts are made up of renewable natural resins and organic and non-organic pigments. The suppliers are also ISO accredited, which has to meet certain responsibilities, of how waste is disposed of, and recycled.

Products that have recycled content.

- One of our best selling products is a rug made from 100% recycled wool and made in the UK
- Frederica cards range has approx 40% recycled content and 100% recycled envelopes (as above)
- Our picnic tumblers mad by Maison Bengal use recycled glass.

Locally and home-produced food and drink and plants.

- Our honey is produced on the Blenheim estate.
- All of the bottled water we sell is from a spring on the estate.
- All herbs and lavender plants are grown in Fringford about half an hour away from Blenheim.
- Our Blenheim Palace Ale is brewed and bottled (recyclable glass bottles) near Marsh Gibbon in Oxfordshire, about half an hour drive from Blenheim.

- Our range of cider, apple and pear juices are produced near Ledbury in Herefordshire.
- Other food ranges including handmade biscuits, preserves and chutneys are produced approximately 1 ½ - ¾ hours drive away from Blenheim.

Fairtrade products:

- Our Blenheim Bear is produced for us by Downman Imports in China, they have a strict fair trade policy and have built their own factory to ensure the best working conditions for their staff, who are all paid a good salary for their work.
- Plush fair-trade chocolates.
Range includes 4 non seasonal items and 6 Christmas items that are all 100% fair trade.
Packaging is either: Reusable hand-made fairly traded gift boxes, recyclable boxes made from FSC card or Trays made from Plantic, an eco friendly biomaterial. All print uses vegetable oil inks.
Fairtrade Ingredients used include: cocoa butter, cocoa mass, cane sugar
- All the tea and coffee we serve in 'The Pantry' is fair-trade
- Madaraff Hats - a range of colourful fair trade summer hats produced in Madagascar.
Handmade by family run cooperatives or small artisan units using raffia, sisal and other renewable and sustainable materials.
- Emily Readett-Bayley - range of fair trade wooden products produced in Bali.
- We stock a range of picnic tumblers made by Maison Bengal in Bangladesh. They are a fair trade company working with NGO's and artisan cooperatives.
- Our range of silk scarves from 'Peony' are not fair-trade but many of the units who produce the scarves are ethically audited as they make scarves for many large charities including Oxfam.
- Our range of Asian made purses, handbags and accessories from 'Lua' - they regard themselves as adhering to fair trade principles and are currently drafting an application to be certified as a Fair Trade Importer by the BAFTS (British Association of Fair Trade Shops).

Ethical products whose sales go towards helping charities.

- We stock a range of Christmas card packs that support charities. 10% of the retail price (£4.25) from each pack goes to the following charities: CLIC Sargent (helping children and young people with cancer), Kidscape (an anti-bullying charity) and the Irish Society for Autism.
- Our range of handmade purses, handbags and accessories made by 'Lua' - Lua make donations from their revenue to charities working in Vietnam including The Kianh Foundation - a small grass-roots UK charity providing health and education services to children with disability in Quang Nam Province, Central Vietnam.

Local craft products.

- Walking sticks made by a family business based in the West Country, using their own sustainably grown wood.
- We stock a range of hand turned and carved items produced using fallen timber from the estate. Many items are carved onsite before being brought directly to the shops.
- Our brand new range of bespoke jewellery made by a local designer in Oxfordshire.
- We sell a range of lavender toiletries. The lavender for which is grown in the Cotswolds, many of their products are also made on site.
- Our soldiers and figures are painted by hand by a local enthusiast, just 5 miles away from Blenheim.
- The honey produced on the estate is used to make hand cream and moisturizer, this is made in Oxfordshire.

‘wildlife products’ that encourage wildlife in our environment, e.g. bug hotel etc

Whilst we do not stock items such as a ‘bug hotel’ we do have a large selection of wildlife books and guides, as well as magnifying glasses and ‘bug boxes’ to interest children. We also sell wildflower seeds to attract butterflies and insects to the garden.

Other:

- Our plastic carrier bags contain 3% EPI additive & therefore will start to degrade in 12-18months.
- We sell two types of ‘bag for life’
- Our range of wooden pens are made with wood from FSC approved forests.
- We sell three types of ‘Ecotronic’ torch - they are ‘wind up’ with no need for batteries.
- Retail provide prizes for two charity events.