

Sustainability

November 2007

Sustainability enhancing quality of life



As the market leader in the piping and sanitary sector, Geberit places great importance in environmental management. By setting ourselves goals, supporting environmental initiatives and ensuring we as a company continuously improve our environmental performance, we demonstrate our commitment to creating a sustainable future.

We feel environmental improvement in the quality of people's lives is vital. Through innovative solutions in plumbing technology we ensure the needs of present generations are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This is how Geberit interprets sustainability.

Years of expertise

Sustainability has been integrated into the Geberit corporate strategy for many years. We are one of the environmental pioneers in our sector and have achieved major success thanks to our consistent environmental management.

Since 2002 the Geberit Group has been included in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, ranking us a European leader in sustainability. This was the first global index that set out to track the financial performance of the leading sustainability-driven companies worldwide. Alongside this, Henderson Global Investors, which only invest in companies providing solutions to sustainability challenges, ranked the Geberit Group in its top ten holdings. Investment is only made by companies whose products and practices are considered by the Authorised Corporate Director (ACD) to support the environment.

Geberit is environmentally certified



Since January 2007, Geberit has held a combined Group Quality and Environment Certificate as per ISO 9001 and ISO 14001.

4 Geberit Environmental Principles

■ Goals

Environmental concerns are taken into account in all of our actions and decisions, to achieve our goals.

■ Sustainability

At Geberit we are committed to continuously improve our environmental performance and we will never profit at the expense of the environment.

■ Credibility

We regularly monitor the extent to which the company has met its internal environmental requirements.

■ Initiatives

Ecology needs pioneers. We deliberately strive to support environmental projects, internally and externally of the company that deliver real value.

Eco efficient processes



Site Eco-balances

Since the early nineties, Geberit has measured the environmental impact of its major production sites and presented them as eco-balances. This allows for a comparison of environmental impact of the individual sites against each other and over time, so that concrete measures for improvement can be identified. As a result, it has been possible to save energy and water, plus reduce waste and hazardous substances.

Carbon Emissions

Over the past two years Geberit has reduced its absolute environmental impact by 18% each year, working in partnership with the Carbon Trust Agreement to reduce carbon emissions and energy. Furthermore, Geberit will increase its measurement criteria to include business travel (CO₂ emissions) procurement and delivery options (miles, products, travel). This is in an attempt to understand not just what our impact through our activities is, but also the impact from the choices we make.

Increased energy efficiency is the key to environmental performance as 90% of the environmental impact energy consumption is of central importance for production. At Geberit the emissions of greenhouse gases fell by 8% p.a. in the period 2004 to 2006. By 2009, the aim is to achieve a cumulative 15% reduction compared with 2006, through implementing the three pillars, "energy saving", "increase energy efficiency" and the "targeted expansion of the share of renewable energy carriers".

Life Cycle Assessments

The design of environmentally-friendly products and processes begins with research and development.

Geberit Eco-design workshops ensure that environmentally-friendly materials are chosen, so that risks are minimised and high efficiency of resources are achieved. The aim of Eco-design is to make each new product better than its predecessor in terms of its environmental aspects. For this Geberit uses Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs). LCAs help Geberit make decisions on the development of environmentally-friendly products.

The calculation of LCAs are governed by the international standard ISO 14040. The lower the points, the lower the impact on the environment. The assessments consider environmental concerns ranging from climate change to resource use, and balances these against the need for a higher quality of life and a healthy internal environment. Geberit's system of assessment uses the same system as EcoHomes' authoritative

environmental rating, which is the home building version of BREEAM (The Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method), the world's most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings. Geberit's calculations of environmental impact are mainly based on the scientifically acknowledged Dutch evaluation method, Eco Indicator 95 of 1995 (EIP95) and the Swiss method of ecological scarcity of 1997 (UBP97).



Silent-db20

Geberit's Silent-db20 is a drainage system that provides increased levels of sound proofing. It offers outstanding acoustic insulation by applying mineral reinforced plastic pipes and fittings with a ribbed profile which have enhanced noise reducing properties.

It is just one example of Geberit's commitment in improving its environmental performance. By being lightweight in the production, transport and installation processes Silent-db20 reduces the need for heavy mechanical equipment thus reducing energy consumption (therefore carbon emissions) as compared to cast iron whilst producing the same acoustic benefits.



	Inside diameter (mm)	Outside diameter (mm)	Wall thickness (mm)	Weight (kg/m)	Density (g/cm ³)
PVC	105.6	110	2.2	1.04	1.4
PP	104.6	110	2.7	0.85	0.93
HDPE	101.4	110	4.3	1.36	0.95
Silent Db20	98	110	6.0	3.4	1.7
Cast Iron	103	110	3.5	8.4	7.2
Stainless Steel	108	110	1.0	2.8	7.98

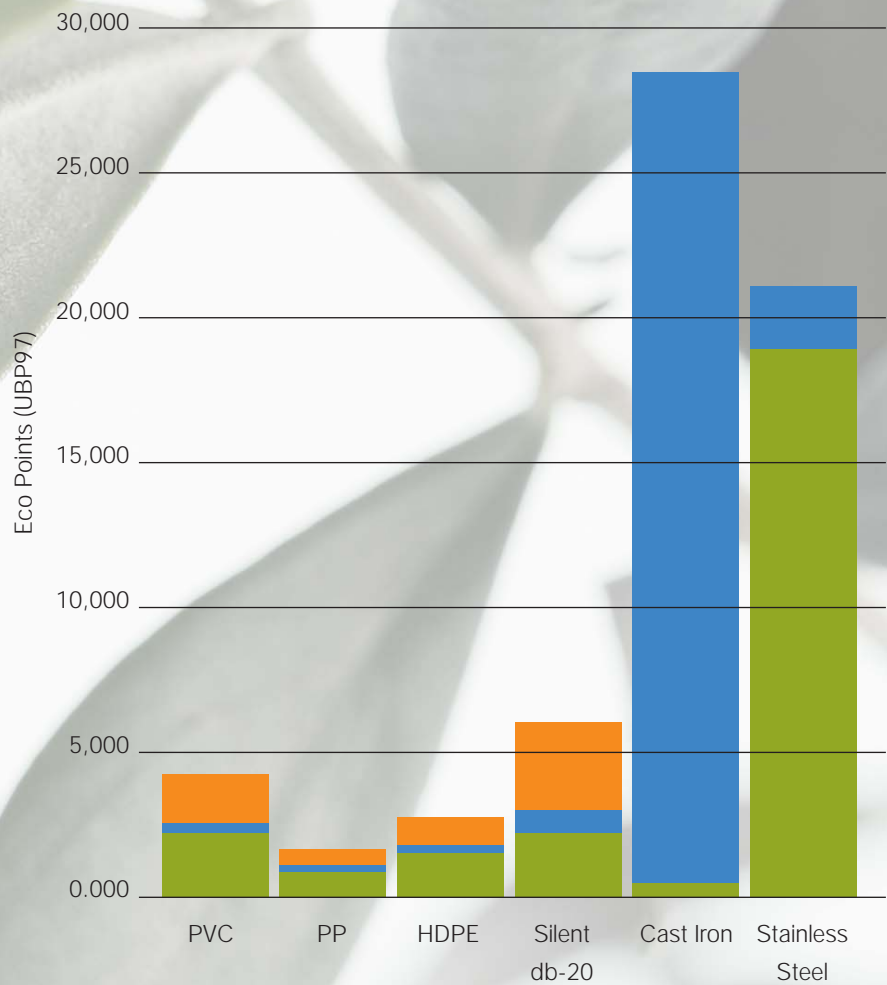
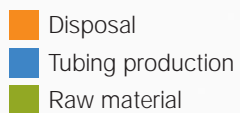
Environmental Impact

Impact of different materials for pipes and fittings

An Eco Point is a measure of the overall environmental impact of a particular product or process.

Eco Points are calculated by multiplying the normalised impact with its percentage weighting. More Eco Points indicate higher environmental impact.

The graph clearly shows HDPE and Silent-db20 have excellent environmental properties compared to alternatives.



Waste and internal recycling



To reduce the disposal of plastic waste, we collect the waste parts of the manufacturing processes, which are then milled and reused.

“ Geberit's HDPE pipes and fittings are not only durable, lightweight and easy to install, they are also more environmentally friendly as HDPE is easy to recycle. ”

John Gilbert Architects

HDPE's main environmental impact comes from using raw materials, which is resolved through recycling. All of this is reflected in the recognition from Greenpeace who suggest HDPE as a green alternative to other pipe materials.

HDPE has a high rate of recycling, with 100% of the waste created during manufacture recycled back into the production. This can be compared to the lowest recycling rate of all plastics, PVC, due to its chlorine content.

We are continuing our campaign to make contractors installing Geberit HDPE aware of recycling centres, and are working with our distribution base to facilitate recycling initiatives.

There are recycling sites available in most major towns in the UK for HDPE. The British Plastics Federation has a list of available recycling sites, found at www.geberit.co.uk or you can refer to our list of possible sites on the insert included.

Water

Water is the key to sustainable development.

Geberit sets trends in plumbing technology together with its customers, with particular regard paid to sustainable building, implementing sustainable building practice. We are concerned how water saving, flexible and modular building, and optimum acoustic insulation can support a sustainable manner of building, whilst still retaining the luxurious quality of bathrooms. Efficient plumbing technology ensures that as little of the precious and expensively processed water as possible is wasted. Touch-free electronically operated faucets such as Geberit's Infra-red touch-free

technology, combine a high degree of hygiene with an efficient use of water. In other words, water only runs when needed. The Geberit Hytronic 60 tap has been awarded the international energy-saving label "Energy".

A considerable amount of fresh water consumption is used by flushing the toilet. Geberit technology provides for an important contribution to the reduction of potable water consumption. Geberit's dual flush WC mechanism can reduce the volume for 1 person from 30 litres per day to 18 based on switching from single flush.

All of Geberit's new concealed cisterns have been rated as particularly environmentally-friendly, and are awarded the environmental label "Blue Angel". Since 2003, Geberit has offered a clean flush using a special trap and urinal flushing control consuming only one litre of water. The electronic urinal from Geberit registers the number of users and, in case of high user frequency, does not flush after each use so that a further 30% of water can be saved.



Geberit are making sustainable building a reality

“ Geberit HDPE represents the future of above and below ground drainage systems and offers a real alternative to cast iron installations. It consumes less energy during manufacture and transport than steel, cast iron... is fully recyclable and with pre-fabrication, material wastage is kept to an absolute minimum. ”

Green Construction

Recognised for our commitment in reducing the impact of our production process and improving the sustainability of our products, Geberit was awarded the Green Supplier of the Year award at the 2007 Green Construction Awards ceremony.

Organised by Construction News, the Green Construction Awards is a national ceremony that recognises companies that are leading the way in sustainable construction, highlighting the achievements of companies that are effecting positive change and working towards sustainable construction.

Project SLAM (Single Living Accommodation Modernisation), Various sites

SLAM is a tri-service military project that aims to modernise its Single Living Accommodation. The design was to ensure that service occupiers live in comfortable fit-for-purpose living environments.

Project SLAM, designed around using recycled or recyclable products, sets out to minimise the consumption of energy, reduce water discharge, emissions and harmful radiation or ozone depleting chemicals and products associated with the destruction of rainforests or those that threaten animals species. Every SLAM project is assessed using BREEAM and features Geberit's Mepla piping system.





Group Sustainability Reports

For more information on sustainability from the Geberit Group visit www.geberit.com to view our 2004 and 2007 Sustainability reports.



Life Cycle Assessments

For individual Geberit product Life Cycle Assessments please refer to our product Life Cycle documents available on our website www.geberit.com

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