

Ethical and sustainability

POLICY

Ethical Policy

Norstone has a very strict ethical policy which ensures that the welfare and working conditions in our South East Asian manufacturing facilities are of the highest possible standard. We have built a brand new manufacturing plant that is equal to if not superior to many in the Western world.

Our appointed distributors from around the world are encouraged to visit our premises regularly, to see for themselves how their orders are being processed and view the entire manufacturing process and discuss any issues or concerns they may have. Generally they are surprised at the working conditions and the superior manufacturing facility we have and appreciate our efforts to constantly improve.

We place a significant importance on the welfare of our workers and we offer free accommodation and healthcare for our staff. We also have constant reviews of our safety regulations and provide regular onsite training to ensure a safe and productive manufacturing process. We believe that by providing a decent and caring working environment a happy, healthy worker is an efficient, effective and above all else, safe worker.

Before an order is placed with any new stone suppliers we visit their quarries and processing facilities to view for ourselves the working conditions, and our high expectations are discussed at length. We believe that supporting companies who share our values will continue to lift the general standard of the local stone quarrying industry.

Our trading with the local stone suppliers is of immense benefit to all concerned since the revenue earned stimulates the local economy, which in turn improves the living standards of those people who previously struggled with a subsistence lifestyle.

Norstone distributors also share the same values and beliefs as us and we believe that mutual respect for these values can only improve the world.

This is precisely the reason why we are committed to the belief that it is important not to discard worker safety, environmental protection and quality control in the relentless pursuit of competitiveness to drive pricing down.

Sustainability Policy

Whilst our natural stone materials are sourced from within Vietnam, Norstone is aware and sympathetic to growing concerns for sustainability; and this is the reason why we only purchase raw stone material from government approved and regulated stone quarries.

One issue that we feel should not be overlooked is the lifetime cost of natural stone products which are durable and enduring; usually decades after they are used as a building material. Whilst a higher level of resources may have been invested into a project initially, when compared with say locally produced man-made or cement based products which may need to be repaired and replaced on a relatively regular basis, a different picture may begin to emerge with regards to sustainability.

Although most Western countries have an indigenous natural stone industry the reality is the limited resources will not last forever. It could be argued, that the use of durable, value for money, imported stone might allow the prolonging of reserves of indigenous materials to be used far more sensitively in areas of historic value for generations to come.

We aspire to deliver ethically managed products and believe we have a duty of care to all our employees and their families

1. Employment is freely chosen
 2. We do not employ child labour
 3. Wages are above government award
 4. Working hours are not excessive
 5. Overtime is voluntary and meals are provided
 6. Accommodation is provided to our employees free of charge
 7. Our employees are treated respectfully and fairly
 8. Working conditions are safe and hygienic for all employees
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