

Cerdomus and the environment

Cerdomus S.r.l. has in its DNA the utmost respect for the Environment, and, therefore, has adopted environmental policies aimed at the maximum protection of its territory. The main elements from which we start for the manufacture of ceramics have always been our centre of attention, as it pertains to both quality (e.g., search for raw materials, alternative energy and natural resources) and the protection of workers (e.g., ergonomics and cleaning of indoor and outdoor environments, safe machinery designed with manufacturers and customised to suit the Company).

Here is how Cerdomus is organized to limit its impact on the environment:

1. **Environmental Management System:** the production plant is certified according to ISO 14001:2004 and EMAS standards, and has adopted an environmental policy document and an integrated control system aimed at constantly improving environmental performance through the consistent achievement of improvement objectives in terms of products and the health of its employees.
2. **Waste water outfall and protection of water resources:** Cerdomus S.r.l. has no industrial waste water outfall and fully recovers all the water resulting from production cycles; all waste water coming from the various processing phases is recovered and purified, and is added to well water, thus considerably reducing drainage. Moreover, the water purifier also collects rainwater from the covered raw materials storage areas, thus further reducing the consumption of ground water. Our cutting, grinding and lapping department uses purified water obtained by an extremely efficient purification and filtration system.
3. **Emissions into the atmosphere:** thanks to cutting-edge purification systems, gaseous emissions from the production cycle are purified well below the statutory requirements. During the phase of maximum vegetation of cultivations installed around the plant, analyses performed on emissions coming from our firing and atomization plants are doubled.
4. **Widespread emissions:** this type of emission results from dusts in the environment released by raw materials; in order to eliminate this source of dust, Cerdomus S.r.l. cleans its external areas by mechanical sweepers, while indoors, floors are cleaned and washed with industrial scrubbers.
5. **Waste:** 99% of the waste produced inside the plant is recycled or recovered: processing raw waste is reused in the formulation for ceramic mixing or reused by other companies, always for the production of ceramic mixtures, thus contributing to the reduction of materials from quarry. The fired waste is fully and properly ground by specialised companies and return, also as part of the mixture, thus contributing to 100% of reuse of waste. Even the sludge from cutting and polishing operations is entirely reused within the production cycle.
6. **Energy policy:** a cogeneration group with a power of 3.6 MW supplies the electricity needs of the entire plant, managing to feed any surplus into the mains, thus contributing to reducing external

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energy demands. The exhaust gases of energy producing equipment are then reused in the preparation of ceramic mixtures, cutting down the use of natural gas by about 35-40%, as well as carbon dioxide production, pursuant to the Kyoto Protocol.

7. **Packaging:** all packaging of Cerdomus S.r.l. product, from cardboard to plastic and wood, are recyclable according to the instructions on boxes and catalogs. Our pallets are bark-free and compliant to IPPC/FAO ISPM 15 for the protection of forests. Scrap tiles are classified as inert materials and can be used as a filler for roadbeds or building foundations.

Cerdomus was awarded **LEED** (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, which warrants that its products contain more than 40% of recycled materials, thus providing credits for the construction of eco-friendly buildings.

Furthermore, as a ceramic company, Cerdomus is the holder of a **sector-related EPD** (Environmental Product Declaration) associated with Confindustria Ceramica. The EPD certification is a voluntary and certified environmental product declaration which is becoming a tool of particular interest worldwide for the qualification and selection of environmentally valuable products. The EPD underscores the high levels of environmental performance resulting from the continuous investments that Cerdomus has put in place to improve its environment-related corporate goals.

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The Environment POC

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