

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

RAW MATERIALS

The marble chips used for the production of Santamargherita® marble are sourced from quarries located within 500 km (310 miles) from the factory. The excavation activity in these quarries produces not only blocks to be used by the natural stone industry, but also “stones” in various shapes and sizes. These smaller stones cannot be processed by the natural stone industry into tiles or slabs and are considered a waste product by quarry owners. As long as its technical characteristics fit with our production requirements, Santamargherita® buys this “waste product” and uses it to manufacture Santamargherita® marble. In purchasing this waste, Santamargherita® provides the quarry owners a way to recycle their byproducts and to slow down new excavation in the quarries. The glass, mirror, feldspar, granite and porcelain used for the production of some Santamargherita® quartz are all recycled products.

WASTAGE AND WATER RECYCLING

Santamargherita® complies with Italian regulations on water recycling and disposal of the waste resulting from the processing of engineered stone. Complying with current regulation involves a 2.5 million Euro yearly investment. The plants of Santa Margherita S.p.A. were designed and built in order to produce minimum discharge, to protect the health of its workers and to protect the surrounding environment.

The dust generated by the cutting of slabs and tiles during the manufacturing process is partially vacuumed and filtered to avoid the dispersion inside and outside the factory.

The calcareous sludge generated during the manufacturing process of Santamargherita® marble, and the sludge created during Santamargherita® quartz manufacturing, are transferred to the recycling plants. There the water is filtered and re-used in the manufacturing cycle, while the “dry” part, after proper treatment, is re-used in an industrial sector.

Santamargherita®, together with one of its main vendors, Minerali Industriali SpA, is involved in the Sasies Project. This environmentally important project is co-financed by the LIFE + Programme of the European Commission. It is designed for the development and testing, at pilot level, the recovery and valorization of sludge. The project seeks to develop and test a new process for recovering and treating sludge generated by the processing of siliceous and carbonate agglomerated stones. The reintroduction of the waste itself, after proper treatments, in the same industrial sector and in any other sectors has the following goals:

- Reduction of industrial waste currently landfilled in Europe.
- Reduction of the need to dig raw materials, quartz and marble 1.5 times the recovered materials.
- Saving more than 75% CO2 emissions in the processing and disposal of waste.
- Reduction of the current cost to dispose waste.

For more info, please refer to the website www.sasies.com/en.

The water used during the processing of engineered stones (cutting, calibrating and polishing) is cleaned and reused through 2 recycling plants:

- marble based engineered stones: water recycling system, capacity 2700 m3 (95,350 cubic feet), which can clean 25,000 liters (6600+ gallons) per minute;
- quartz based engineered stones: water recycling system, capacity 850 m3 (30,000+ cubic feet), which can clean 7000 liters (1850 gallons) per minute.

Finally, our town municipality has implemented differentiated refuse collection: paper and plastics produced by the factory and the offices during their activity are disposed separately and recycled. The recycling ratio in our municipality is 76%.

PACKAGING

The cardboard boxes used to pack our tiles are made of recycled paper. The wood used for crates and bundles is partially recycled and is pre-treated to comply with ISPM #15 Standard.