

Products & Projects

Checking Inside The Envelope

The BFRC has extended the scope of its testing division with the introduction of CWCT onsite testing which provides a way to check that a building envelope is performing as expected.

The BFRC (British Fenestration Rating Council) testing division has been aided in its development by the Centre for Window and Cladding Technology (CWCT),

Lee Dearman, the development officer at BFRC says: "BFRC is now a UKAS accredited testing laboratory to conduct onsite CWCT Testing in line with the CWCT Standards for systemised Building Envelopes, TN41, BS EN 13051:2001 and the NHBC Chapter 6.9 S17 and S18 standards.

"Onsite CWCT testing evaluates the ability of cladding, curtain walls and window systems to resist water penetration, under simulated weather conditions. The onsite CWCT standards are recognised across the UK and are becoming a regular requirement for warranty providers. The testing can assist with identifying any construction or design issues at an early stage of the build and can also assist when a live building is having water ingress issues."

CWCT testing standards are vital for ensuring the materials used in facades can withstand environmental pressures, giving



developers confidence that their facade systems will perform as intended." [i](#)

www.bfrc.org/testing

New Woodgrain Foils For Facias & Soffits

Freefoam Building Products has updated its fascia, soffit and accessory ranges. Three new woodgrain foil finishes have been added to the roofline range, including Matt Black, Matt Anthracite Grey and White Woodgrain.

The Matt Black and Matt

Anthracite Grey have been introduced to complement aluminium black and grey windows and bi-folds. Both colours have RAL codes which helps stockists and their installers to tap into this colour trend and upsell a full suite of matching building elements.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for installers to sell a higher-end look that can transform houses in a few days," says Colin St John, Freefoam's commercial director. "We even offer cladding to match. It gives installers the edge to win business, sell more products and make better margins."

The new finishes are offered in 10mm square leg and magnum square leg fascia, general purpose soffit board and hollow soffits and come with a range of trims in the same colour options.

Additional product sizes have been added to Freefoam's foiled fascia too. Freefoam's 10mm square leg fascia is available in Irish Oak, Chartwell Green and Cream woodgrains, while the 18mm square leg range now comes in Light Oak, Black Ash, Anthracite Grey and Agate Grey woodgrains. [i](#)



www.freefoam.com/geopanel

The Most Recognised Glazing Hand Tool

In a recent survey conducted by Insight Data, Xpert has emerged as the most recognised brand among installers in the glazing hand tool market.

The survey invited installers to share their thoughts on glazing hand tools and brands. When presented with a list, 52% of respondents named Xpert first. Even though respondents were allowed to select multiple brands, Xpert still secured a clear majority.

Sarah Parker, Xpert business development manager says: "Xpert is recognised as the go-to name for so many installers. This overwhelming response highlights the trust and confidence that professionals place in our products."

The survey also revealed which factors currently drive brand preference among installers. Quality emerged as the top priority, with 39% of respondents ranking it as their primary consideration when selecting glazing hand tools.

"At Xpert we understand that for a skilled installer, the right tool at the right quality is key to delivering results," adds Parker.

Convenience of supplier ranked second in importance with 23% of responses, followed closely by price with 15%.

With over 400 Xpert stockists across the country, Xpert's popular glazing tool range is readily accessible to installers. [f](#)

www.xpertools.co.uk

Simple Sustainability Survey

Oakdene Hollins, a boutique sustainability and circular economy consultancy, is inviting companies to stress test their levels of sustainability through its simple Circular Economy checklist.

Concerned about the potential to fall into a greenwashing trap, the company's checklist is a comprehensive insight into the multilayered approach needed to implement a robust, closed loop system across all operations.

Oakdene Hollins has put forward a number of simple questions highlighting the key areas of a company's operations that need greater scrutiny. Answers are a simple tick box to get the conversation started but support goes far beyond the tick box to avoid making sustainability claims that cannot actually be verified with science and data.

"Oakdene Hollins sees sustainability as more than simply

complying with the bare minimum of regulations. The creation of a circular economy is a key part of an organisation's strategy for growth," says director Simon Scholes (pictured). "Gaining a rigorous understanding of what it involves and how it can benefit your business, will position you firmly above your competitors.

"Our Circular Economy checklist highlights gaps that may need filling and provides an initial road map towards integrating more robust closed loop and sustainable processes within your organisation."

The checklist delves into your activities around 1, 2 and 3 scope emissions and waste protocols you may already have in place. It also checks on areas such as SBTis (Science Based Targets), and VRPs (Value Retention Processes). Crucially, the list takes just a couple of minutes to complete but gives a thorough



insight into where changes need to be made.

"Coming from a commercial background, we understand the need for businesses to always have an eye on their bottom line," says Scholes. "This knowledge places us in a hugely beneficial position where we can work alongside companies creating deep seated sustainability strategies that will give verifiable competitive edge." [f](#)

www.oakdenehollins.com