

Products for Dementia



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We welcome this publication as an opportunity to celebrate the DSDC Product Accreditation service and the variety of products which we have accredited since its inception. We couldn't do this without the support of our industry colleagues and the rigorous research undertaken by our university colleagues. We hope this publication and the products inspire you as they have us.

Lesley Palmer
Director, DSDC

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DSDC Product Accreditation

The Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) is an international centre of knowledge and expertise dedicated to improve the lives of people with dementia. For over 30 years, the DSDC has drawn on research and practice from across the world to provide comprehensive, up-to-date resources on dementia and ageing.

DSDC offers a bespoke design consultancy service for the review and accreditation of products in relation to dementia-inclusive environments. The service has been developed based on the product design principles, which ensures products go through a rigorous assessment.

If you have products that you would like assessed through the DSDC product accreditation service, contact the team at dementia@stir.ac.uk or +44 (0) 1786 467350 or +44 (0) 1786 467745.



Foreword



In this second edition of our Products for Dementia brochure, the team at DSDC wanted to showcase our most recent clients who have completed a product accreditation and celebrate their achievement.

Since the emergence of Covid-19, and the resulting lockdowns, our world has changed immeasurably. I think that we can all agree that the storm Covid-19 created has affected us all in different ways but some individuals and specific groups within society have been adversely affected more than others. This would definitely include people with dementia who will have experienced many changes within care homes, healthcare and access to community and social care provision. DSDC welcome a renewed enthusiasm from manufacturers, care providers, architects, designers and others who are striving to design products and create environments which are suitable for ageing populations and people with dementia.

Since the inception of our Product Accreditation Service provision in 2017, our team of experienced auditors have assessed a wide variety of products including thousands of flooring products, clocks, tap ware, lifting aids and signage to name but a few categories. Six years on and we have broadened the range of product types which have now received an award with thanks to the commitment of likeminded

professionals within industry who, like us at the DSDC, care about the everyday lives of people with dementia and believe it is worthwhile to develop products which are familiar, intuitive to use and 'just work' for people who are living with dementia and their carers.

Over the past couple of years, we have had the pleasure of working with Altro on flooring and wall products, AKW on electric showers and safety flooring, Arjo on patient handling aids, bed & pressure-relief mattress, CTD on tiles, Evans textiles on fabrics, Fletco on carpets, Gerflor on flooring, Seating Matters on seating, and Tarkett on flooring products. Each of these companies have connected with DSDC to invest in our knowledge of dementia design and the evidence-based research carried out by our university colleagues. The hope is that we can not only help the end user of these products but also make it easier for the specifiers who are tasked with selecting products that are fit for purpose in a sector which is flooded with options.

We hope that the experiences of our featured clients and their accredited products will be useful in helping us to understand better how others see and perceive environments and the elements within them and highlight the importance of the person-centred approach to design.

Lynsey Hutchinson

Senior Interior Designer, DSDC

Meet the team

Our multi-disciplinary team is based at the University of Stirling, in Scotland, and come from backgrounds in health and social care, architecture, design and research. In addition to DSDC's core team below, we are privileged to work with a team of Associates, who compliment the work of the centre in Stirling. Currently, DSDC has Associates in the UK, Japan and Australia. Our team's diverse range of international experience and varied skillsets provides DSDC clients with a unique offering and a valuable source of knowledge and experience to support their projects.



Lesley Palmer – Director

Lesley is an architect with extensive international experience of designing and advising on dementia-friendly design principles. Lesley is involved in several research projects with a focus on ageing, dementia, and the built environment. In addition to her roles in academia, Lesley is a Director of INCH Architecture & Design Ltd, an award-winning social enterprise architecture practice based in Glasgow. Lesley previously held the position of Studio Director for the BSc Honours year at the Department of Architecture, University of Strathclyde and has been a guest critic at several acclaimed schools of architecture.



Lynsey Hutchinson – Senior Interior Designer

Lynsey trained in Interior Design in the world-renowned Mackintosh building at the Glasgow School of Art and has since worked in the design industry for over 20 years. In practice, Lynsey's work has covered corporate, hospitality, and housing design projects. Before joining DSDC, she focused her work on designing residential care homes, at both ends of the spectrum, for young and older people. As a result, Lynsey has extensive experience working closely with housing associations and care providers to help clients realise their design ambitions for each individual project.



Dr Martin Quirke – Senior Architect

With over a decade of practice experience in Ireland, UK and Australia, Martin is an experienced architect with a robust understanding of delivering in international contexts. Martin's PhD focused on architecture with expertise in the development and design evaluation tools for the assessment of dementia-friendly environments. Having worked across a broad spectrum of project types, from housing to public buildings, Martin's strongest area of expertise is design for ageing, especially residential aged care communities.



Jessica Noel-Smith – Senior Architect

Jessica is a professionally qualified architect specialising in accessible design, with a background in social care, housing, and the disability sector. Her architectural practice experience includes delivering age-friendly housing, neighbourhoods, and community-led regeneration buildings. She also recently completed a 2.5 year tenure as a Director on the Board of Management for the Architect's Professional Examination Authority in Scotland.



Dr Junjie Huang – Senior Design Consultant

Junjie joined DSDC from the School of Architecture, University of Sheffield, where he held the post of Research Associate. In his post at the University of Sheffield Junjie was a member of the ODESSA (Optimising care delivery models to support ageing in place: towards autonomy, affordability and financial sustainability) project. Alongside his role he was the China cooperation project manager and contributed to a wide range of business development and collaboration activities.



Dominic Chu – Design Consultant

Dominic has practised in architectural design and project management in Hong Kong for over 20 years. He has cultivated a deep interest in architecture and has a diverse skill set and knowledge on designing a prolific range of buildings covering healthcare, education, offices, hospitality and leisure, transport and infrastructure. Collaborating with world leading developers, internationally renowned architects and consultants has enriched his experience on design integration and translating design spirit into built environments that comply with local context, building code and sustainability goals.



Ailidh Aikman – Business Support Officer

Since graduating from Strathclyde University’s Business School with a BA (Hons) in Marketing, Ailidh has worked with a variety of third sector organisations with a focus on marketing and fundraising. Joining DSDC in 2015, Ailidh supports DSDC with marketing and communications, events, fundraising and project management.



David Wilson-Wynne – Senior Dementia Consultant (Care)

David has worked within the field of health and social care for over 16 years in a variety of roles including - NHS Tayside Post Diagnostic Team, Scottish Ambulance Service, Alzheimer Scotland and most recently was the Specialist Dementia Lead for a large care home provider. David is about to complete his MSc Dementia at Stirling University and has particular interests in transitions of care for people living with dementia and supporting people living with dementia who have experienced trauma.



Natalie Millar – Administrative Assistant

Having held a variety of financial and administration roles, Natalie joined DSDC in 2022. The focus of Natalie’s current role is the administration of online training courses and providing support to the Business Support Officers and wider DSDC team.



Lorraine Drummond – Business Support Officer

Having held a variety of customer service and management roles, Lorraine joined DSDC in 2012 to work within the Business Support Team. Lorraine’s current role requires her involvement across the whole team, supporting clients throughout their journey and managing projects both UK based and International.

SEEING AS OTHERS SEE IS KEY TO DESIGNING FOR DEMENTIA



Mark Johnstone,
Head of Commercial –
UK, Middle East and Ireland, Altro

With the introduction of legislation and expert guidance for designing for dementia over recent years, care homes and healthcare environments are becoming more aware and applying best practice principles more often – 70% of people in care homes have dementia or severe memory problems¹ so this is extremely relevant for them. However, when you consider that two thirds of people with dementia live in the community², it's clear that better understanding of these issues throughout the whole design sector is needed to change the way people with dementia are engaged with in the environments they live.

Altro has worked to develop products to offer those designing for dementia choices in suitable, practical and effective solutions. Altro works with several partners, all directly involved in improving the lives of those living with dementia. One of these is the Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) at the University of Stirling. The DSDC is the world leader on the design of services and environments for people with dementia, who Altro worked with when developing new shades of Altro Aquarius to ensure carers and those with dementia can be safer in wet environments, and when developing the colour palette for Altro Suprema.

Altro encourages designing for dementia, and empathetic design: understanding how dementia affects those living with it, what that looks like to them and why and how you can make improvements through design choices, and meet legislation and guidance for dementia design.

The Department of Health's *Health Building Note 08-02 – Dementia-friendly Health and Social Care Environments*, was published in 2015 and is still current. It outlines design principles to aid design of new build and redevelopments and incorporates expert research and guidance from the DSDC and The Kings Fund amongst others. Within this there are 12 design principles. This is where 'seeing as others see' becomes highly effective, and for that we must understand more about visual impairment.

Visual impairment is experienced by many people as they age. However, dementia can add to the challenge of living with sight changes, or someone's eyes may be healthy, but their brain has trouble interpreting what is seen³.

Visual impairment often means lower contrast sensitivity, poorer colour vision, less spatial awareness, and poorer perception of depth. It can lead to misperceptions – when a person sees one thing as something else, for example mistaking a coat hanging up for a person - and disorientation – for example misinterpreting reflections on shiny walls as an intruder.

When designing spaces for people with dementia, it's important to consider flooring and flooring transitions: having consistent flooring or floor tone between rooms encourages a person to go through into the next room. Consistent flooring doesn't attract attention. Use consistent flooring materials and finishes across areas where those with dementia should be encouraged to move freely – a day room to an activity room for example.

When looking to achieve a homely, non-clinical feel, it may be tempting to opt for patterned flooring. However, someone with visuo-perceptual difficulties may mistake the pattern for objects to be picked up or to be avoided, and in doing so could result in a fall. Similarly, with wall coverings, heavy patterned wallpaper could be picked at and damaged.

Although a lot of the guidance around design for dementia considers visuo-perceptual difficulties, acoustics and sound also play a part. In fact, dementia affects, and is affected by, all of the senses.

Disorientation and bewilderment are a common experience for people with dementia - exacerbated by noisy communal and activity spaces, repetitive sound, and noise transfer to bedrooms. People with dementia need environments that are easy to interpret. Altro is committed to providing products which are suitable for supporting people living with dementia to live well, and to support and educate those we work with to improve their understanding of designing for dementia.



¹ www.alzheimers.org.uk/about-us/news-and-media/facts-media ² www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/dementia

³ <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/d4716cd3-2ba7-4f17-9d64-e3577c45cd81/downloads/Talking-sense.pdf?ver=1595543200019>



AKW

AKW design and manufacture care bathroom products and have supplied over 1.5 million accessible shower trays and wet room formers worldwide. In the UK, AKW are widely specified by local authorities, social landlords and residential care providers. Working extensively with Occupational Therapists (OTs), AKW ensure that all our new product designs address a broad range of clinical needs. In 2014 we recognised that an increasing number of OTs were asking us for dementia-friendly bathroom products. That led us to research and write 'The AKW Guide to Creating Dementia-Friendly Bathrooms.' AKW's new product design and engineering teams work to ensure that all new AKW care products conform to the key design principles that are promoted and championed by DSDC.

www.akw-ltd.co.uk

DSDC accredited product

AKW has launched the ultimate in easy-to-use smart electric showers – the AKW SmartCare Lever. This new BEAB CARE certified electric shower has all the contemporary styling of the existing SmartCare range, but also comes with an easy-to-use lever handle. Designed with visual impairments and dexterity - and mobility-issues in mind, the AKW SmartCare Lever shower can be quickly and seamlessly retrofitted, without any re-tiling required. The key to the new shower's design is its simplicity. A large centrally located lever, contains a prominent 'on-off' switch and the lever can be easily grasped and turned to control the shower's temperature. For those with visual impairments the shower has audible temperature control clicks, large red and blue temperature symbols and a large back-lit power button. It also has a matt anti-glare finish to reduce glare for those with dementia. Thermostatically controlled to avoid scalding, the unit has rounded surfaces and edges for additional safety.

Q What interested you in having your product accredited by DSDC for dementia design?

Invaluable advice and support in producing 'The AKW Guide to Creating Dementia-Friendly Bathrooms' was given to AKW by DSDC. As many local authority housing team specifiers are now producing 'dementia-friendly' bathroom specifications, we felt it was logical to seek a formal DSDC accreditation to give those specifiers full confidence in specifying the AKW Smartcare Lever shower as a suitable care shower for those living with dementia.

Q Who is this product aimed at / designed for?

The AKW Smartcare Lever shower is designed for end-users who have a broad range of clinical needs, both physical and cognitive. It is designed to help individuals shower independently for as long as possible thereby helping to preserve their dignity. The leading housing adaptations Occupational Therapist, Kate Sheehan, advised us on the shower control dimensions, shape and operation, etc to ensure it is suitable for as many end-users as possible. The shower has been designed for use by people with limited or no hand or finger movement and those with partial or full sight loss.

Q Why is the product accreditation of value to your company?

When delivering our talks on dementia-friendly bathroom design we have recognised the high esteem that DSDC is held in by OTs and architects, etc so that is why we are now submitting new AKW care products for evaluation at both the design and completed product stage.

ARJO

Arjo provides products and solutions to improve the quality of life for people affected by reduced mobility and age-related health challenges, in the fields of patient handling, hygiene, disinfection, diagnostics, medical beds and prevention of pressure ulcers and venous thromboembolism. We work closely with contractors, architects, designers and planners in health care settings, providing design support and planning tools. For over 20 years, we have distributed the “Arjo Guide for Architects and Planners,” which offers tips on design, layout examples and space requirements for working areas and equipment.

www.arjo.com

DSDC accredited product

The products accredited by DSDC this year are named Evenda and AtmosAir Velaris.

Evenda is a modular-based care bed focusing on a good night's sleep and easy to use for the caregiver. The Evenda promotes the creation of a recognisable living space, helping residents living with dementia to feel more secure and comfortable by a wide bed frame option, simplified resident hand control, flexible hand control holder, easy egress handle and lighting under the bed.

AtmosAir Veralis is a pressure injury prevention surface with a hybrid of both reactive and active therapy. It has a significantly lower noise level than what has become standard in the industry. A surface that is firm and “non floating,” and gives good support for edge-of-bed sitting. Audio pump notification (alarm) can be put in silence mode. AtmosAir Velaris accommodates a ‘One Surface Strategy’ as it can replace all but the most advanced automatic surfaces with one easy-to-use flexible mattress system.

Q Has the DSDC product accreditation benefitted your organisation? Is so, in what way?

There's a clear connection between mobility and people's physical and mental wellbeing. We've seen how empowering movement in dementia care can quickly improve both clinical and financial outcomes.

Our collaboration with DSDC has been a key success factor in this journey, and the dementia design accreditation builds trust and is a strong confirmation of our commitment as a healthcare partner.

Q Can you describe one aspect of this product which is designed to be dementia friendly?

Evenda is easy to adjust and includes a range of features, such as a mobility assist handle with two position options, which help make it easier for residents to get in and out of bed without assistance.

Simplified hand control designed for residents living with dementia, reduced vision or other cognitive challenges. The ergonomically-shaped hand control has large buttons with symbols and good contrast. The hand control is also easy to reach by a flexible holder that can easily be adjusted to a suitable position for easy view and reach.

Combined with the AtmosAir Velaris® mattress, instant step up to alternating therapy can be achieved without any need to move the resident. This is complemented by QuietConcept™ technology which limits pump operation sound levels to just 19 dB, and LED pump lights that automatically dim when dark ambient lighting is detected.

CTD ARCHITECTURAL TILES

CTD Architectural Tiles specialises in the supply of high quality ceramic tile finishes and tiling solutions across all sectors in the UK commercial specification market. We work with industry leading, innovative manufacturers, in order to offer a complete portfolio of ceramic and porcelain tile ranges to suit the architect, interior designer, developer and specification professional. Full NBS M40 specification service available, along with a 'cradle to grave' approach to ensure projects are delivered; on brief, on time and on budget.

www.ctdarchitecturaltiles.co.uk

DSDC accredited product

CTDA Swedeglaze, matt finish ceramic wall tiles

Q Who is this product aimed at / designed for?

Due to the extensive colour palette and sizes available, CTDA Swedeglaze is a perfect solution for interior designers when specifying tiled splashback areas for kitchens and bathrooms.

Q What interested you in having your product accredited by DSDC for dementia design?

CTD Architectural Tiles strive to offer a complete portfolio of ceramic and porcelain tile ranges which are long lasting and the perfect tiling solution for care home type projects. Our wide range of porcelain and ceramic tiles create an aesthetically pleasing layout whilst taking into account - durability, anti-slip technology and reported light reflectance values. We have partnered with the DSDC to provide additional credibility to the dementia friendly products in our extensive portfolio.

Q Can you describe one aspect of this product which is designed to be dementia friendly?

CTDA Swedeglaze has a broad colour palette with a plain matt finish design, therefore, can prevent visual misperceptions. Our comprehensive LRV ratings ensure that the correct contrast can be achieved and also avoid what can be perceived as holes / changes in levels by dementia by people living with dementia.

Q Has the DSDC product accreditation benefitted your organisation? If so, in what way?

The DSDC product accreditation has provided additional comfort and ease for our clients when specifying our tiles for their assisted living projects. Our relationship with DSDC reinforces our position and dedication to be the UK's leading ceramic tile supplier to assisted living schemes and all other types of commercial projects.

EVANS TEXTILES

Evans Textiles is a leading and trusted supplier of curtain linings, blackout, bespoke fabric designs, FR contract fabrics, window blinds systems and curtain tracks. Established in 1897, we're proud to have over 100 years' experience in supplying high quality, innovative and market leading products. We supply and deliver all of our products on time and within budget to designers, specifiers and contractors in commercial and domestic sectors.

www.bespokebyevans.com

DSDC accredited product

"The Stirling Collection" - A collection of x5 co-ordinating printed fabrics that meet all British Standards for use within the contract and care sector (flame retardant, crib 5, waterproof, anti-bacterial, anti-microbial and the option to have with an anti-viral finish).

Q Who is this product aimed at / designed for?

Interior designers, specifiers, architects, care home owners, care home managers. It is designed specifically for people living with dementia to create a calming, homely atmosphere and promote positive well-being. We also wanted to make sure it was aesthetically pleasing to those that may be looking at a care home for a loved one.

Q Can you describe one aspect of this product which is designed to be dementia friendly?

We wanted the designs to have an on-trend but traditional look to them that incorporated nature so William Morris was a big inspiration, however his designs are typically very busy so we made sure we found a good balance of this so that they were dementia friendly whilst also being aesthetically pleasing. For the main design "Flora" we created the pattern and repeat first so the design wasn't too "busy" and cause confusion for dementia residents. After this we chose a colour scheme and used an LRV meter so there was no more than 10-20 LRV points difference between the colours within the designs. The flowers in the designs were painted so they didn't look too realistic and cause residents to try and pick at them.

Q When did you first become aware of the DSDC and their work in dementia design?

After creating bespoke fabric designs for interior designers that specialised in designing for dementia, and then attending the Intersection of Design + Dementia course; it was so informative and interesting.

Q What interested you in the work of DSDC?

Having always been fascinated in how art and design can help people, DSDC's research and work on promoting the importance of design for people with dementia really interested Evans Textiles. DSDC are the world leader on design services and environments for people living with dementia, so it was a no brainer to work with them and their experts to create a dementia friendly fabric range.

Q Why is the product accreditation of value to your organisation?

From speaking to our customers it's evident it's hard to find patterned designs that look nice and are suitable for dementia care homes. This accreditation will give our customers and their end-users peace of mind and credibility.

PERSON-CENTRED PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Arjo has a long history as a partner for the long-term care and acute care sector focusing on improving the quality of life for people with reduced mobility and age-related health challenges.

For more than 50 years, we have been developing medical devices to support the activities of daily living (see picture 1). It has been our passion to improve the work posture of caregivers and reduce work related injuries, and we have successfully gathered extensive knowledge and received our customers' appreciation.

Richard Nilsson
Customer Insights Director

Since we strive to do better continuously, how have we improved?

We decided to do an ethnographic study in order to learn more about the everyday life of caregivers and residents and understand their experiences, perspectives and practices. We spent 70 days (and some nights) following and observing 450 people working and living in more than 30 care environments across three continents. This gave us invaluable insights.

Regardless of country, we saw a clear pattern. In a big care home in rural France as well as in a small home in urban Japan, moments of friction between caregiver and resident occur throughout the day (see picture 2). The cognitive aspects of the residents play an important role. Throughout the history of Arjo, we have been focusing on mobility issues and bodily needs of residents and caregivers, which led to the development of mechanical supporting aids as well as the

'mobility gallery' and 'positive eight philosophy' (see arjo.com). The products are involved in a wide variety of care situations, including those moments where friction can arise. Our insight was clear: we need to have equal focus on the resident's mind, not just their physical activity. This is more than performing a task - it's a meeting between people and a day to enjoy. It's a life.

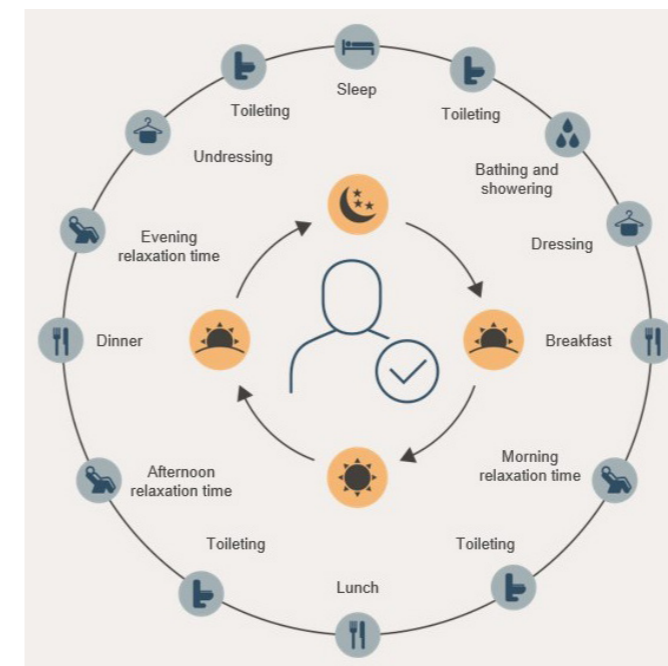
From that moment on, we wanted to apply this principle in our designs. We reached out to global experts within the field of dementia care, inviting focus groups, performing co-creation workshops and gathered data to support our work going forward. This is when we got connected with DSDC at Stirling University, and have had a very valuable journey and collaboration ever since.

Through this work, we created research and development design guidelines, specific for dementia, to be used in our product development process. These principles not only guide product development, they are the foundation of our portfolio to ensure we continue to meet the

evolving needs and challenges of today's care environments. When identifying the solutions in our portfolio best suited to the needs of people living with dementia, we prioritise eight key areas (see picture 3).

This thinking and knowledge has been implemented in all our new product development projects. It is an extensive task to develop products and solutions that are tested and validated to meet our high requirements for premium quality and safety, while still being affordable.

Our latest projects with DSDC included achieving two new product accreditations – the Evenda care bed and the Velaris mattress with alternating pressure system – both of which received a class 1-A rating. We are excited to continue working with the DSDC on projects that bring high quality care products and solutions to dementia care. Together we are empowering movement for residents, carers and providers.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



FLETCO CARPETS

Fletco Carpets is one of Europe's leading manufacturers of commercial carpets to the contract market, including the healthcare sector. Our story goes back more than 70 years and today, we are a modern company focusing on product development, technological innovation and efficient, eco-friendly production. All our carpets including backings, are manufactured and quality controlled at our state-of-the-art production facility located in the heart of Denmark. Quality and credibility are key to Fletco Carpets, and behind each product lie the ambition to exceed expectations and produce the best product that can meet the highest industry standards.

www.fletcocarpets.com

DSDC accredited products

Our range of "Spectrum Tonals" that includes 24 classic colours.

Q Who is this product aimed at/designed for?

Our range of Spectrum Tonals carpets is designed for use in the care home industry, and it is already widely used due to its market-leading performance.

The subtle and plain design provide for a visually calm environment for people whose wellbeing depend on such factors and it offers variety of colours with a good range of LRVs at the darker and mid-range end of the light reflectance value spectrum.

Q What interested you in having your product accredited by DSDC for dementia design?

With a growing older population and the need for products that will support their independent living for as long as possible, be it at a care home or in the citizens own homes, we feel a responsibility to look further into requirements, specifically for this group of people. For our continuous product development, we were therefore keen to gain DSDC's expert insight into the other important and deciding factors in relation to carpets and what we should focus on to make more products suitable for dementia inclusive environments.

Q Why is the product accreditation of value to Fletco Carpets?

We wish to offer both our partners, the care centres and end users, peace of mind. The DSDC is regarded as a leading centre for dementia design, and their accreditation ensures that our products meet all the requirements in terms of design and light reflection values. When choosing a carpet from the Spectrum Tonals range, the designer or decision maker can comfortably focus their time and resources on colours and tonal contrast to the remaining interior.



GERFLOR

Gerflor is recognized as a specialist and a world leader in resilient flooring and wall solutions. The group creates, manufactures, and markets innovative, design-led, and eco responsible solutions for flooring and complementary interior finishes.

With over 80 years' experience in the healthcare sector, Gerflor has become a true expert in this field, creating, manufacturing and marketing innovative, decorative and environmentally responsible floorings, walls and related solutions.

We continuously revamp our solutions and designs while putting in mind the user experience and market needs.

www.gerflor.co.uk

DSDC accredited product

A variety of colourways within the following ranges:

Taralay Impression

Tarasafe Standard

Tarasafe Ultra

Taralay Premium Compact / Comfort

Taralay Millennium Compact

Q What interested you in having your product accredited by DSDC for dementia design?

As DSDC is recognised as a dementia design expert, partnering with DSDC gives us confidence that our solution will be reliable and meet the requirements. We can also share our expertise by participating in the continuous improvement of these recently developed concepts.

Q Why is the product accreditation of value to Gerflor?

We are always looking for a solution that meets the user experience and market needs. Therefore, working with DSDC - as a dementia expert - on products accreditation will definitely help reach our goal of a better future for our users and clients.

Q What is the greatest challenge in our sector when designing for a person with dementia?

The greatest challenge is trying to imagine oneself in their situation. To be able to quantify the effect of the design on a person with dementia, it is necessary to fully simulate what they see and feel, which necessitates a large number of studies and trials.



SEATING MATTERS

Seating Matters is a leading global manufacturer of therapeutic seating, providing postural support for those with disabilities and low mobility or with degenerative, neurological conditions including dementia. Seating Matters chairs are used in hospitals, long term care facilities and people's homes around the world.

seatingmatters.com

Q Name & type of product accredited by DSDC

The Seating Matters Atlanta™ and Sorrento™ have both obtained rating 1A accreditation by the DSDC.

Q Who is this product aimed at / designed for?

The Atlanta™ chair was designed for use with people who are at high risk of sliding and falls. The Sorrento™ chair was designed for people with postural and seating needs who require upper body and head support.

Both chairs are engineered for the care of:

- People with dementia in their own homes, in long-term care or in hospitals.
- People with other neurological conditions.
- People with reduced mobility who are at risk of pressure injuries.

Q Can you describe one aspect of this product which is designed to be dementia friendly?

The Atlanta™ features a tilt and recline feature which provides a deep seated position, allowing a higher level of proprioceptive feedback and a more “cocooned” feeling for the chair user.

The Sorrento™ features tilt in space, this can help people with reduced mobility to achieve a standing position and can also redistribute pressure in the backward tilt position.

Caregiver feedback indicates that these features allow the chair users to feel highly supported, this has reduced levels of agitation where this has been observed in previous chairs. Some caregivers have also reported a reduced requirement for medication and one on one care.

Q How do you see the industry moving forward?

We see that there will be advancements in the understanding of dementia and also in the specification of products to improve the quality of lives for people living with dementia. We will be working hard to understand how clinical seating can be further developed to meet the needs of people with dementia, working closely with people with dementia and their caregivers to continuously improved seating options.

TARKETT

For more than 140 years, Tarkett has been manufacturing innovative and sustainable floor, wall and sport surface solutions, that meet both the functional and design needs of multiple market segments. With an interest in dementia design, it became our mission to understand the challenges that come with ageing, both with and without dementia. Our extensive range of products include, vinyl, safety, LVT, linoleum, carpet, wood, indoor and outdoor sport surfaces. Committed to making a positive impact on people and planet, we help create people friendly living spaces, combining wellbeing, health, performance and design.

www.tarkett.co.uk

DSDC accredited products

Over 200 flooring solutions, 17 wallcoverings and 18 wetroom solutions.

Q Can you describe one aspect of this product which is designed to be dementia friendly?

All the solutions accredited by the DSDC are manufactured in plain or subtle designs with a matt finish, and of course are made from healthy materials to protect both people and planet. To ensure your environment is truly dementia-friendly its vital that light reflectance values are considered not just for the floor, but anything in its adjacency including walls, furniture, doors, handrails and handles.

Q What is the one question related to dementia design which you would like researchers to study?

We would love to see more research carried out in order to better understand ways of reducing anxiety using sensory materials and products, for example could the use of soft lighting and music be beneficial in areas where carers are helping with 'personal care'? We believe that all companies who offer a product relevant to designing interiors for people living with dementia should work holistically with experts to find out how we can improve the overall experience for the individual and those that care for them.

Q What is the greatest challenge in our sector when designing for a person with dementia?

The greatest challenge is the starting point, we often choose our interiors based on a look and feel we hope to achieve. Many of us, including architects and designers choose a certain style, colour or item of furniture as a starting point, that spark of inspiration that then drives a design. However, when designing for dementia we need to be very careful and ensure we consider how the LRV's work against each other – it comes down to simple maths!

With the array of paint and fabric colours to choose from, we would recommend starting with the floor and choosing a low LRV such as a 9 or 10 as this will give you lots of scope to include more colours in the overall design. It might be a different starting point to the design process, but it still creates beautiful spaces which are safe and comforting for those living with dementia and for those who aren't.

NOTES

Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC)
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