

COOPERATIVA CERAMICA D'IMOLA

company profile



QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola and the environment

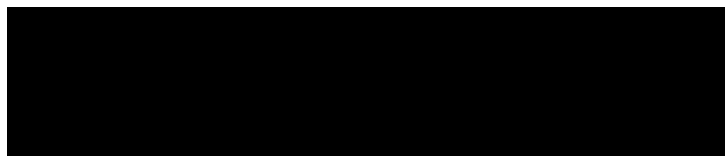


Nature and technology combine to give birth to a new concept in ceramic tiles which places the relationship between man and the environment at the centre; an inseparable combination for the conscious achievement of eco-efficient corporate principles as well as those of environmental eco-compatibility, sealed with important recognitions such as ISO 14001 Environmental Certification, the Emas Registration, L.E.E.D. credits, Ecolabel Certification and the production of ceramic products with the Biogres.

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ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION ISO 14001

The environmental management system of Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola - in reference to the UNI EN ISO 14001 Normative- was imposed on the basis of the following principles:

Protection of the environment and natural resources:

Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola strongly believes in the value of the environment and feels that its industrial production objectives should be pursued and fulfilled using strategies and facilities that allow the optimal and efficient use of the resources and in complete respect of the environment.

It is for this reason that Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola focus on minimizing the environmental impact of its production of ceramic tiles and optimizes the use of natural resources thanks to the recycling processes which recover the waste from the various raw and cooked processing as well as optimizing the water supply resources and the reutilization of recyclable material for packaging.

Efficient and effective energy policy:

Through the introduction of optimized plant solutions, Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola is devoted to constantly reducing the energy consumption of the production processes.

The majority of the electrical energy utilized is produced in-house through the use of the most modern cogeneration systems.

Respect for the ecosystem:

Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola is dedicated to minimizing the environmental impact of its industrial production in order to protect the entire ecosystem. Therefore, Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola completely recovers all of the water used in the working processes thus reducing the discharge to zero; it performs continual monitoring of the significant emissions in order to achieve a high level of reduction of the pollutants that are critical to the environment, it conducts complete differential waste collection of the paper, plastic material, wood, steel and copper.

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COOPERATIVA CERAMICA D'IMOLA OBTAINS EMAS CERTIFICATION

Through the implementation of a precise company policy on sustainable development, Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola has obtained Eco-management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) registration. This is an important recognition on a European level that aim at the continuous improvement of production standards and awareness of all of its employees in terms of protecting the environment.

The EMAS system is a voluntary awareness for those companies committed to evaluating and improving their environmental efficiency through a more responsible choice of buying and management, a more careful use of air, water, territory, raw materials and energy.

EMAS Certification represents for Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola one of its communication instruments for the company's eco-sustainable commitment in its industrial sites under two main profiles:

- Efficiency in preventing environmental degradation thanks to the implementation of a large range of skills concerning environmental problems in the ceramics sector, in its prevention means, waste plant management and controls especially in terms of waste water and atmospheric polluting agents released emissions;
- Transparency thanks to its continuous dialogue with consumers, citizens, public administration offices with the consequent aim of directing the market towards the choice for products and services with low environmental, social and economic impact.

Note: Emas Registration obtained for Casalfiumanese plants.

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LEED CERTIFIED

Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola is a member of the Green Building Council Italia, an Association that works towards spreading the criteria of the LEED trademark. L.E.E.D (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a System of Environmental Energy Certification for buildings which envisages the attribution of a score, assigned in function of demonstrated conformity with certain pre-established "credits". This contribution is assessed in the total materials used in the building: so our ceramic slabs also contribute to obtaining L.E.E.D credits in relation to the features and the production process with which they are made.

The following are the thematic areas in which our products are involved:

**SS - Site sustainability;
Heat Island Effect**

CREDIT SS 7.1 (1 POINT);

Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola contributes to reducing heat island effect (heat difference between urban areas and their surrounding suburbs) with view to reducing impact on the microclimate.

**MR - Materials and Resources;
Content of recycled Material**

CREDIT MR 4.1/4.2 (2 POINTS);

Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola's ceramic slabs may contain materials recycled pre-consumption and therefore contribute to obtaining this credit.

Use of Local Materials

CREDITS MR 5.1 / 5.2 (2 POINTS)

Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola mainly uses materials from surrounding or local areas.

**EA - Energy and Environment;
Optimisation of energy performance**

CREDIT EA 1 (1 POINT);

Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola products contribute to defining the building's heat conductivity value.

ID - Innovation in Design

CREDIT ID 1.1 (1-4 POINTS);

Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola products contribute to gaining additional points for exceptional and/or innovative performances.

One example is the high environmental performance products certificated Ecolabel*.

*In the course of EU Ecolabel certification

**EQ - Internal Environmental Quality;
Low emission materials - Volatile**

Organic Compounds Content

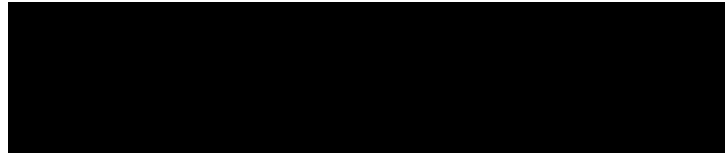
CREDIT EQ 4.2 (1 POINT);

Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola products do not emit VOC and are created in a manufacturing cycle that culminates in firing, which provides for the elimination of organic compounds.

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ECOLABEL

The Ecolabel* system refers to European regulations that define the criteria of voluntary environmental and industrial policy, aimed at promoting the presence of 'clean' products on the market.

Ecolabel is a tool:

- **Voluntary**
Respects ecological criteria based on LCA (life cycle analysis)
- **Selective**
Issued by a competent body following verification of observance of the relevant criteria

Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola is awaiting ECOLABEL certification for its products, which feature reduced environmental impact, in relation to the rigorous ecological standards set by European regulations. ECOLABEL products, respecting precise criteria regarding the production cycle, represent Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola's environmental and production excellence. These criteria are:

- Low environmental impact production process
- Use of materials without carcinogenic or toxic substances and therefore not harmful to workers
- Low energy consumption
- Great reduction of emissions into the atmosphere
- Recycling of water used in the production process
- Waste recycling (98%)

*In the course of EU Ecolabel certification

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BIOGRES

Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola has undertaken a new project: to create its own porcelain stoneware composed of a blend which combines traditional mixes with materials that derive from the recovery of raw and cooked scrap as well as the residue from the depuration processes. This combination gives birth to the Biogres brand which characterizes the production of Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola with ecological quality and aesthetics.

The Biogres brand products have the following distinctive characteristics:

- 100% reutilization of the raw waste, with the reduction in the use of new prime materials and protection of the natural resources;
- 100% reutilization of the water used for processing and consequent reduction in the water requirement, thus protecting the water resource of the territory;
- 100% recycling of the cooked waste;
- Reutilization of the non-ceramic waste for the recycling processes and using them in other production processes;
- 100% recycling of the depuration residue;
- 20% reduction of the energy consumption through the installation of high energy performance system solutions;
- Over 95% of the energy required is generated through in-house production using cogeneration systems;
- 15% reduction of the CO₂ emission;
- Absence of volatile organic substances;
- Containment of the emissions into the atmosphere which is by far inferior to the environmental limits required by the Italian legislation.

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System Certification in terms of quality



Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola has obtained the Quality System certification in relation to the UNI EN ISO 9001 Normative for the design, production and marketing of ceramic tiles for all of the production types.

Implementation of this system has the following objectives:

- **achievement**, through adequate management of the technical and system resources, of the ongoing improvement of the production processes;
- **guarantee** the correct use, efficiency, reliability and dependability of the results of the measurements and tests through the planning of the maintenance and the control of the systems, equipment and instrumentation;
- **contribute** to the improvement of the social context of which it is part and in terms of the people and the environment into which it is integrated.

Green Squared® Certification



Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola understands the importance of third-party environmental certifications and we are the first Italian tile manufacturer to achieve **Green Squared® certification**. Green Squared® is a tile and related installation material product certification program developed by the **Tile Council of North America (TCNA)** that **recognizes leadership in environmental stewardship and corporate responsibility**.

Green Squared® certification is a companion to ANSI A138.1, a standard developed under the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) process for sustainable ceramic tiles, glass tiles and tile installation materials. The standard establishes **criteria across the product life cycle from raw material extraction through manufacturing, use, and end-of-life management**.

Green Squared® is a multi-attribute certification, scoring products in five categories of performance:

- *Product characteristics*
- *Manufacturing and Raw material Extraction*
- *End-of-Product Life Management*
- *Progressive Corporate Governance*
- *Innovation*

By designing **our products for sustainability, manufacturing with environmental sensitivity, and leading operations with ethical responsibility**, Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola has met and exceeded all established mandatory requirements as well as additional elective requirements within each assessment category as defined in ANSI A138.1. Notably, as a result of having undergone the certification process, Cooperativa Ceramica d'Imola no longer discharges any industrial wastewater to POTW and **recycles 100% of its wastewater**.



**COOPERATIVA
CERAMICA
D'IMOLA** bee Italian dal 1874

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