

Products for Dementia



Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC)
Iris Murdoch Building
University of Stirling
Stirling
FK9 4LA

www.dementia.stir.ac.uk
dementia@stir.ac.uk
+44 (0) 1786 467740

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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
Chief Architect, 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 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 467740.



Foreword



World population is ageing and with that the profile of the 'end-user' is changing too. Data from the World Population Prospects report (2017) estimates the number of people over 60 will more than double by 2050; representing nearly a quarter of the world's population. Most notable is the increase in the oldest old (+80 years), which is expected to triple by 2050.

Dementia is not a consequence of ageing, but the risk of having dementia increases with age and therefore designing for ageing and dementia should be an important component of any design brief. It may surprise you to know that a quarter of UK hospital beds are occupied by people living with dementia who are over 65 (Lakely, 2009). As specifiers and designers, statistical information on the profile of the user, such as this, is likely to influence our design approach. It is therefore important that we as designers refer to the evidence base and value the impact it can have on the individual, their family and those who provide care.

The dementia design principles which the DSDC first championed in 1989 have been recognised as helping to reduce early admittance to care; to promote and maintain independence; and help older people to remain within a home environment for longer.

Dementia-friendly design compensates for the functional deficits associated with dementia (reduction in cognition, perception, and spatial orientation to name a few). Notwithstanding their specific benefits to people with dementia they are also beneficial to the majority – a principle of universal design – and encourage legibility, familiarity, control of stimuli, maximising independence and enhancing self-esteem. It is well recognised that design thinking, applications of design, and technology can contribute to ageing well and with dignity.

This publication recognises a new paradigm in dementia design. Manufacturers, specifiers, designers and end-users each looking for products which support the needs of a shifting demographic. Motivated by this 'industry-call' we launched our DSDC Product Accreditation in 2017. This evidence based accreditation supports good dementia design and the opportunity for design innovation. Our multi-disciplinary team includes nurses, designers, architects and researchers, each working to improve the lives of people with dementia. Recognising that industry design processes move at a pace unrecognisable to empirical evidence methodologies, we have developed a structured, rigorous assessment methodology in partnership with industry; utilising existing evidence to create impact today.

Lesley Palmer

Chief Architect, DSDC

Meet the team behind product accreditations

Lynsey Hutchinson, Interior Designer



Lynsey is at the helm of the product accreditation team. As an interior designer with more than 20 years' experience, she knows the difference great design can make to the lives of those living with dementia and their families. "Dementia friendly design is a basic human right for people with dementia", she says. "It increases independence, quality of life and can reduce incidences of falls or other adverse incidents."

Using the dementia design principles – a set of evidence based protocols developed by the DSDC – Lynsey reviews the products seeking to be officially accredited as 'dementia-friendly'. "Anything from flooring, bedroom furniture and kitchens; to signage, tapware, hoists and clocks – we've seen and accredited a wide range of items," Lynsey says.

A unique methodology, based on these specialist design principles and therefore the latest research, is created for each product seeking accreditation, allowing the team to accurately and fully review the product and provide a rating.

"We bring together the full expertise of the centre at this stage," Lynsey explains. "Two designers and a member of our knowledge exchange team, who has specific expertise in nursing, review the product individually, before we collate our findings and deliver a final accreditation grade."

Products can take anything from a couple of days to six months to review and accredit. Lynsey says, "We have been asked to collaborate from the very beginning of the design process, before a company has manufactured a product, in order to ensure it is fit for purpose and suitable for use by people with dementia, and doesn't need to be altered further down the line. But often, we are initially sent photos or samples of an existing product and we'll work from that. Our aim is to ensure environments are suitable for an ageing population," Lynsey says. "We want a product's purpose to be easily identifiable and for it to be easy to use."



Often DSDC accredited products will be suitable for those living with other conditions, such as visual impairments, sensory issues or using a wheelchair or mobility aid.



Dr Martin Quirke, Architect



Martin is a registered architect with two decades of practice in industry. He holds a PhD in Dementia Design and specialises in design for age-related health, physical and cognitive impairment.

Martin's experience in construction, design, teaching, and research, helps to ensure that knowledge and advice from DSDC's dementia design team, is not only grounded in the best available research evidence, but importantly, practical to implement.

"Most people living with dementia also tend to experience other physical or sensory impairments, such as hearing loss or sight loss," he says.

An ageing population and the growing public awareness of dementia has created a demand for more accessible environments, and for more reliable information about dementia-friendly design.

"The DSDC Accredited Product programme helps to address both of these growth areas, by providing confidence for both consumers and specifiers when making product choices," Martin says.

Some of Martin's innovative work with the DSDC includes Iridis - a ground breaking suite of digital dementia design tools.

The Iridis project, co-developed with DSDC's Chief Architect, Lesley Palmer, and architects Space Group, includes a smartphone and tablet app that allows individuals to assess the dementia design quality of their own physical environment.

The project is currently being developed to include a BIM (Building Information Modelling) plug-in, that will allow automated checking of dementia design quality in development proposals long before they are built. As well as a professional version of the Iridis app, that will provide access to more advanced tools and resources aimed at industry professionals.

Martin said: "Just as DSDC accredited products are automatically pre-approved, in principle, under the DSDC's Dementia Design Accreditation programme, the digital twin – for example BIM objects - of these accredited products, will also be pre-approved within the digital assessment tools of Iridis."



Design that is supportive of people living with dementia tends to be helpful for other people across a wide spectrum of physical and cognitive abilities. In effect, design for dementia is design for all.



Dr Grant Gibson, Lecturer in Dementia Studies



Grant has been an academic researcher in the fields of dementia care and chronic illnesses in old age, for more than 16 years. He forms part of the DSDC's accreditation team, evaluating products using the dementia design principles and the individual methodology created for each item.

"Research is at the centre of the whole accreditation process," he says. "The most recent findings in the field feed directly in to the 'checklist' created to evaluate a product. It's a unique way of working and the first scheme of its kind in the UK."

As an academic, who is focused on how individuals with dementia can be enabled to live a more independent and quality life, Grant brings a different skill set to the team. "Designing based on evidence makes sense for a whole host of reasons," he says.

"If the product works for the individual it is more likely to be used. With a progressive illness like dementia, insightful design can allow a product to be easily adapted and therefore, used for as long as possible."

"As part of the accreditation team, front and centre of my mind is always: does the evidence base reflect or support the idea that this product is appropriate to those living with dementia? The accreditation scheme is similar to providing a 'kitemark', but instead of being solely focused on safety, we are trying to ensure that the product is appropriate and will have a positive impact on an individual's experience."

Grant recognises that the landscape is changing and that the expansion of home technology is certain to play a major role in supporting those living with age-related conditions in the future.

"Those being diagnosed with dementia and age-related illnesses over the next decade or so, will be far more comfortable with tech than previous generations, and have more disposable income to use to enhance their homes."

With social policy continuing to focus on encouraging individuals to live as independently as possible in their own home – Grant says the accreditation scheme is more important than ever.

"How a home environment is designed is fundamental," he says. "If this isn't right, in many cases you will not be able to achieve this ambition. If a product or environment is designed appropriately to the individual, they are more likely to be able to live a quality life and the burden on family and carers, and the impact on formal services like the NHS, will be reduced."

There is already a growing home technology market and over the coming years, 'smart tech' will play a vital part in supporting people living with dementia.

Lynda Hutton, Learning & Development Officer



Having previously spent a large part of her career as a registered mental health nurse, Lynda has vast experience of working in care homes, the community and in hospitals, supporting older people with dementia and other age-related conditions. As part of the product accreditation team at DSDC, she is able to provide a unique insight. "I see my role as representing the person who will be using the product or environment, and ensuring that it will be understood and ultimately enhance the user's experience," Lynda says.

In Lynda's experience, simple changes to a person's living environment can make a huge difference to quality of life. "Take a standing aid for example," she says. "We need to understand how the individual will interpret this and use it, to fully ensure it can be rated as dementia-friendly. This equipment is often unfamiliar to people – it isn't something they have seen throughout their life, and it can be intimidating or scary to those living with dementia."

"My role is to work with the design team to use the product and practise with it. We walk, and talk, through every stage of its use: from how it gets from A to B; to can it be operated by one carer to help promote 1:1 interaction?"

"I'm looking at the detail of the design in practice and whether the product can be easily understood. If the hand grips or foot pads are marked with a contrasting colour for example, it gives a clear direction to the individual."

With this simple addition, it's more likely the user will place their hands and feet in the right area, unassisted.

"The products we accredit all help give control back to the individual."

Although there are many different kinds of dementia, generally the condition causes people to misinterpret information. Processes like problem solving and comprehension are impeded, and some living with the condition can experience hallucinations.

"Daily tasks can become more difficult," Lynda adds. "Having a range of products available, which are familiar and easily understood by older people living with dementia, can be life-changing. Textiles, carpets, contrasting colour schemes, introducing coloured toilet seats, for example – can all help an individual navigate their surroundings, provide dignity and promote wellbeing."

The number of people seeking dementia-friendly products is on the rise and Lynda is often asked to make recommendations. "We run a variety of education and support sessions for family members and others involved in the care of someone living with dementia, and regularly I will be asked where specialist products can be sourced," she says.

While we have to remain impartial when it comes to promoting products, the accreditation allows us to give evidence based recommendations for products which have been proven to improve quality of life for people living with dementia.

DESIGN REALITY



Wyn Jones
DSDC Design Associate

Wyn Jones is a qualified Product Designer and Creative Director at Design Reality. As an Associate of the DSDC, Wyn provides product design expertise to the DSDC, assisting organisations who want to understand how they can create dementia-friendly, innovative products and services. He is committed to driving forward projects to provide functional benefits to all users and abilities.

Design is about more than shaping physical environments and products. Creating well designed desirable products and spaces, that take into consideration how people interact with their environment in its entirety, can considerably improve the lives of those living with dementia. Innovative and intuitive design for dementia care aspires to keep individuals safe from danger, whilst allowing them freedom to engage in everyday activity, helping to enhance their quality of life and independence.

Enhancing the environment

Historically, dementia inclusive design appears overly institutional and patronising to the user, e.g. red toilet seats; yellow signage; “big button” controls etc. Practical designs don’t have to be ugly or intrusive. We should be aiming to create products that enhance an environment rather than make it stand out as catering for a specific section of society. Design can offer more advanced solutions to problems faced today, for instance, instead of adding pull cords for high light switches, we could integrate sensor technology into a room. Enhancing environments to ensure accessibility and comfort for all can make a significant difference to the mental and physical wellbeing for the people living in that space. It’s about addressing standards, practices and behaviours to change the way people living with dementia are engaged with in their homes.

Designing for the senses

Understanding the emotive reasoning behind why we like, or dislike using a particular product or space over another can really help inform design direction. Taking into consideration sound, sight, touch, smell and taste to create things that users want to interact with. This means analysing a mix of different forms, materials, colours and cues within designs whilst ensuring that we ‘design out’ the frustration in products to create designs that are intuitive to use. For us, it’s these little details that matter the most and we’re firm believers that if we can design products and spaces that people love

to use, it will boost mental and emotional wellbeing leading to a reduction in stress for both people living with dementia and those caring for them.

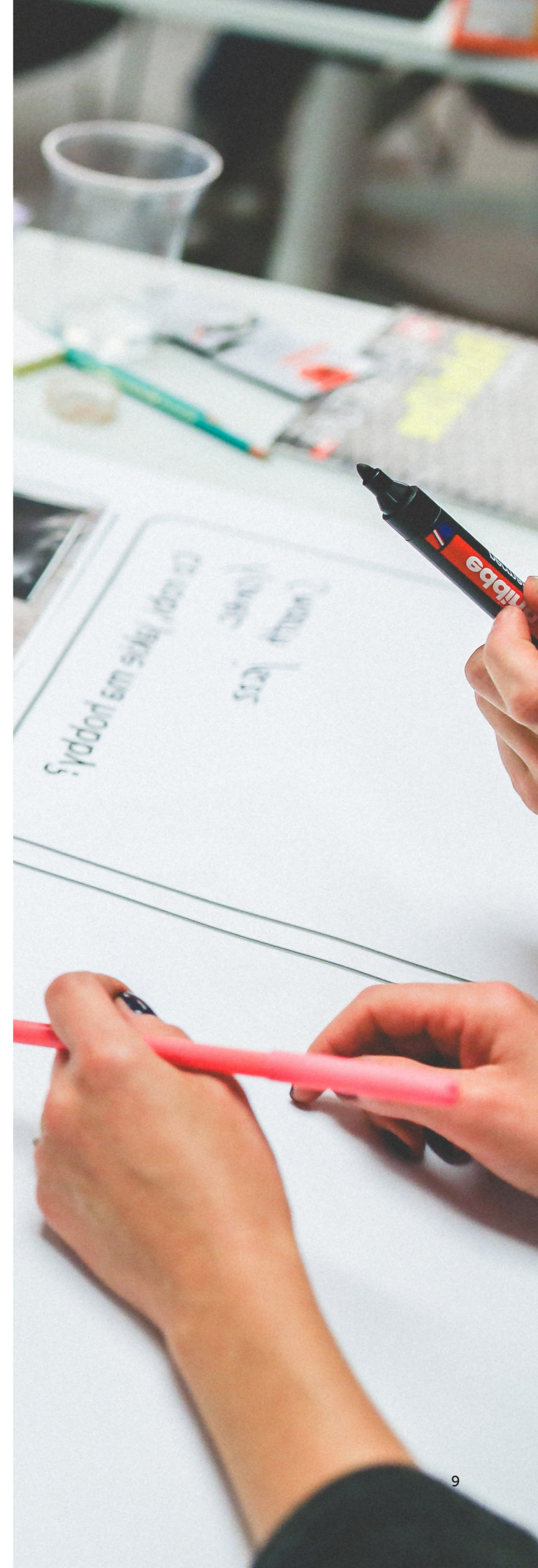
Inclusive design

Historically mainstream product design has shied away from creating products for the minority, due to concern over their financial returns, however if we were all to think a little more about intuitive, inclusive design that can cater for everyone, the scope to reach a larger audience then expands and this surely leads to greater commercial rewards and further advancements in design innovation and quality - and that helps everyone.

Future proofing

Ageing is a fact of life for all of us and yet it is often something which many of us struggle to accept. When you consider that dementia alone affects 46 million people worldwide, a number likely to grow further as life expectancy continues to increase, the need for us to improve products and environments couldn’t be more crucial. Through the use of inclusive design, we can remove many of the restrictions from our environments and products, without compromising on the beauty and functionality of designs desired in our youth.

Simple considerations such as designing spaces that are accessible regardless of mobility, integrating smart technology into spaces or fitting flexible furniture to accommodate evolving needs could provide lifelong benefits. The nature of design evolves around the concept of continuous improvement - our challenge is to bring everybody on that journey with us.





ALTRO FLOORING

Altro invented safety flooring and hygienic wall cladding, and over our 100-year history we have been at the forefront of innovation to create products that help transform everyday spaces into environments that can improve the wellbeing of everyone that uses them. We have safety and smooth vinyl floors, hygienic wall cladding and doors that are suitable for all areas of buildings in health and care, education, hospitality, leisure, offices and retail, housing, food production, and manufacturing.

www.altro.co.uk

DSDC accredited products

Altro Aquarius safety flooring	Altro Cantata adhesive-free flooring
Altro Pisces safety flooring	Altro Orchestra flooring
Altro Wood Safety safety flooring	Altro Operetta flooring
Altro Wood Safety Comfort safety flooring	Altro Serenade flooring
Altro Suprema safety flooring	Altro Ensemble flooring
Altro Walkway safety flooring	Altro Whiterock Satins hygienic wall cladding
Altro XpressLay adhesive-free safety flooring	Altro Whiterock wall designs wall cladding

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

Altro have a range of products that is sparkle-free and provide shades and tones that meet the appropriate light reflectance value (LRV) contrast between floors, walls and doors. Altro products can also be used to assist in wayfinding through colour and images.

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

Altro's key sectors are health and care, housing and education. We have been working with the DSDC along with other dementia specialists for over 10 years. The specification community is keen to implement dementia-friendly design, not just in health and care environments, but for all public buildings; this accreditation adds credibility and peace of mind.

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

The impact of imagery and patterns on walls needs further investigation. Altro have a range of products in our portfolio and have had a lot of success with using biophilic imagery in health and care, although there is conflicting information around the impact of full scale digital photographs potentially causing confusion for people with dementia or visuo-perceptual difficulties.



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 product accredited by DSDC is called Sara® Flex. Sara® Flex is a mobile standing and raising aid used to support a person with affected mobility to perform the sit-to-stand movement, and to facilitate transferring from one place to another. Standing and raising is an essential transfer task, often performed multiple times a day. The ability to rise from a seated position is one of the most fundamental movements amongst normal activities of daily living. People with dementia experience more barriers to participating in physical activity than a person without a cognitive disease and, to a large extent, depend on support to become physically active. If performed without the right equipment or using an unsafe manual technique, it is a transfer that can put both patient and caregiver at risk of serious injury. Sara® Flex equips one caregiver with the ability to position a patient from a seated to a safe, secure and comfortable standing position, in one ergonomic movement.

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

Our mission is to improve the everyday life of people affected by reduced mobility and age-related health challenges. During more than sixty years, Arjo’s genuine passion for improving the health and well-being of others have been helping people all over the world face their health challenges with confidence and dignity. Arjo continuously develops our products and one of our design focus areas is to include dementia aspects in our products. We aim to aid good dementia care, by combining our products portfolio with the understanding of the challenges in dementia care. Our cooperation with DSDC have been a key success factor in this journey and the dementia design accreditation is a strong confirmation on our commitment.

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

The silicone leg support is designed to be dementia friendly; since verbal communication may be affected as the dementia progresses, someone living with dementia may have difficulties to verbally express pain or discomfort. Every person is also unique. Sara® Flex was designed with a silicone leg pad to support comfort during the standing and sitting movement and to adapt individually to different bodies. The flexibility in the leg support also allows the body to do a forward movement and flexion of the knees and at the ankles, which allow the resident to utilize aspects of normal sit-to-stand movement. Resembling a natural and familiar movement, is also an extremely important aspect when supporting a person with dementia to stand up.

BRISTAN TAPS & SHOWERS

Design principles

Designers can support the independence of people with dementia by following the design principles of Familiarity, Usability, and Unobtrusive Safety:

Familiarity

People with dementia are more likely to recognise, and understand how to use objects they have experienced on a regular basis over their lifetime.

Usability

Physical impairments such as stiff joints, or reduced grip strength, can mean some types of taps and shower controls are more difficult to physically operate.

Unobtrusive Safety

Cognitive impairment can reduce a person's awareness of risk. Whilst protective measures may be needed these should be as unobtrusive as possible to help preserve the sense of independence.



Cross Head Tap



Lever Taps



Thermostatic Mixing Valves

Cross Head Taps

The cross head tap is the most likely to be recognised by people with dementia. Whilst older types are often tight or required several turns can be difficult to operate, modern versions are designed with a quarter-turn operating mechanism, making them easier to turn on and off.

Lever Taps

The simple lever tap also tends to be recognisable for people with dementia. The intuitive push/pull action of the levers makes them easier to operate, for example, using a closed fist.

Thermostatic Mixing Valves

Thermostatic Mixing Valves (TMVs) are used to eliminate the risk of scalding by preventing the temperature of the water going above 41°C, providing for comfortable yet safe use.

Demonstration Installation

New taps have been installed within the Iris Murdoch Building (home of the DSDC) to demonstrate some of DSDC's design recommendations. One older pair of cross head taps has been retained for comparison. A new thermostatic mixing valve has also been installed, remaining unobtrusively hidden behind low level access panels. This reduces the risk of scalds.

Tap Selection Tips

DSDC recommends separate controls for hot and cold water. Two taps with a single mixing spout, as commonly used in kitchens, can be appropriate. An alternative, suitable for baths or showers, employs one control for water flow rate, and another for temperature control. However, 'sequential', 'mixer' taps and related designs where both flow and temperature are controlled using a single lever are thought to be more difficult to understand. In all cases there should be clear indicators on the taps to help people understand their function. Hot and cold indicators should be coloured red / blue or include words hot / cold, or ideally both.

Research

For some of the research behind this guidance, see: Boger, Craig, and Mihailidis. 2013. "Examining the Impact of Familiarity on Faucet Usability for Older Adults with Dementia." *BMC Geriatrics* 13 (1): 63.



FORBO FLOORING SYSTEMS

Forbo Flooring Systems is a leading global flooring manufacturer that offers a fully integrated portfolio of floor coverings, from linoleum and vinyl to carpet tiles and flocked flooring, for a variety of segments, including the health and aged care sector. Its mission is to design and deliver products, which will positively contribute to creating better environments for all end users, whether they be employees, patients, residents or visitors.

www.forbo-flooring.co.uk

DSDC accredited products

Forbo has over 900 products accredited by the DSDC. This includes a wide variety of floor coverings from its own linoleum brand, Marmoleum; its Luxury Vinyl Tile collection, Allura; and its acoustic and safety flooring ranges, Sarlon and STEP. What's more, its Westbond carpet tiles collection and a selection from its Tessera range, along with some of its 'off the floor' solutions such as Bulletin Board and Furniture Linoleum are also DSDC accredited. All of the above ranges have been assessed for their suitability for use in dementia-inclusive environments, with them being certified as either Class 1a, 1b or 2 on the rating system.

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

With life expectancies increasing, and the number of people living with dementia also set to rise to more than a million by 2025, the industry is now facing the challenge of adapting care homes or medical environments to meet the demands of the aging population. In addition, the Government, BBC and financial institutions are all also looking to make their public buildings more dementia friendly - and while there is a lot of information available about how to create dementia-friendly environments, there is still some confusion within the industry about what is actually correct. As such, we decided to partner with the DSDC back in 2013 to explore which of our extensive bank of entrance systems and floor coverings would be suitable for these types of environments, to help ease the selection process for any project and provide peace of mind to those choosing the flooring that it will be fit for purpose, as it has been accredited.

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

All of our DSDC approved floor coverings have a matt finish, with simple, plain and/or recognisable designs (like wood or concrete). When designing dementia-inclusive interiors however it's important not only to select an appropriate design but to fully appreciate the tonal contrast and/or continuity required in its application. As such, our floor coverings all have LRV ratings clearly available to help identify how contrast (with other surfaces such as walls) or continuity (where more perhaps the desired aesthetic requires more than one floor covering colour to be used) can be achieved.

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

The accreditation itself makes it easier for clients to select which of our products are suitable for use, but the ongoing partnership with DSDC and their training is equally important to Forbo. We want to ensure that we can provide the most up to date knowledge and service to our customers and help them understand how our flooring fits into dementia inclusive environments. As such, Forbo's Care Key Account Manager attends training annually and Forbo's Sales teams are regularly updated on ongoing DSDC research and activities to ensure that their knowledge is constantly relevant and refreshed.



GRADUS

GRADUS

Gradus is an international, market-leading, interior contract solutions manufacturer, with an outstanding reputation for quality products, built over 50 years. Our products include stair edgings, floor trims, commercial carpet, wall protection, barrier matting systems and specialist LED lighting. In addition, we also offer a project management and installation service for our wall protection, barrier matting systems and specialist LED lighting in the UK. We have experience in a wide variety of sectors such as commercial office, education, healthcare and retail. Our products have been installed in many prestigious projects worldwide.

www.gradus.com

DSDC accredited products

Flooring Accessories

- Stair Edging and Floor Trims
- Skirting, Capping Strips and Accessories

Stair edgings can help to reduce accidents on stairs as well as helping to provide an 'inclusive' environment giving access to all building users. Floor Trims reduce the risk of accidents for pedestrian traffic by providing a safe link between floorcoverings. Skirtings, cove formers and capping strips are used to provide a clean, neat solution for junctions where the floor meets the wall. Solutions are available to suit most applications in terms of safety, performance and aesthetics.

Carpet

Carezone carpet offers a modern design in a range of contemporary colours that can be used to create attractive interior design schemes for care homes, care facilities and accommodation. The range is suitable for dementia applications and can be used to help create calming and relaxing environments.

Wall Protection (Sheet)

- SureProtect Endure®
- SureProtect Design®
- SureProtect Pure®

Gradus wall cladding sheet is through coloured and textured to conceal the effects of impact and abrasion. The available colour options, plus bespoke design, mean almost any dementia design scheme can be catered for.



Why is the product accreditation of value to Gradus?

As knowledge leaders we have a responsibility to help inform specifications to ensure a safe and inclusive environment. The knowledge that we have gained from DSDC has helped improve our service, recommendations and new product development process to ensure that we continue to provide products that are fit for purpose, with safety and inclusion at the forefront of our business.



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

Many specifiers are still not sure how to design for dementia and we are finding that we need to educate as well as advise. Once a design has been submitted it is often difficult to get it changed, which is why we always urge specifiers to speak to us at the very beginning of the design process.

GRAYSON TIME MANAGEMENT

Walsh have been around for more than 70 years supplying the Jewellery and Horological trades and Grayson have operated within Walsh for more than 30. In that time we have worked frequently with the NHS supplying building synchronising master clock systems, specialist operating theatre clocks and also many of the calendar clocks that you can find here. We've also worked with companies and people like TFL, Goldman Sachs, The Houses of Parliament and the artist Darren Almond. So we cover all the bases when it comes to timing and clocks.

www.graysonclocks.com

DSDC accredited product

G200HIVIZ High Visibility 30cm Wall Clock

Q Who is this product aimed at / designed for?

Our High Viz clock was initially designed with the partially sighted in mind. Also for use in lower visibility industrial settings.

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

Our research during the design phase led us to believe that black and yellow have a higher contrast than the standard black on white. We were hoping the accreditation process would back up those findings.

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

We appreciate that while not everyone living with Alzheimer's or dementia is old enough to already be subject to the deterioration of our eyesight that we are all often subject to; the idea was that the high contrast nature of the clock could only help in regards to its legibility.

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

We have only received our accreditation very recently so haven't been able to judge the award's impact but we foresee it helping our potential customers' confidence in knowing they are buying the 'right thing'.



WALLGATE

For more than 40 years Wallgate has specialised in the design and manufacture of robust, innovative and efficient washrooms and sanitaryware solutions. This includes washbasins, showers and WCs, all developed to create normalised washrooms for the mental health sector. The full sanitaryware range of anti-ligature products helps create a safe, secure and normalised environment for users. When installed with Wallgate's intelligent water controls, they vastly reduce energy and water use, delivering significant cost savings for healthcare providers. Wallgate has developed a new care and dementia-friendly product range that could transform sanitaryware solutions and water management within dementia and aged-care facilities.

www.wallgate.com

DSDC accredited products

'e-Suite WC' electronic lever flush handle

'e-Suite Tap' electronic hot and cold crosshead taps

'e-Suite Shower' electronic shower controls

SMVA22-DEM' shower temperature controls

Q Who is this product aimed at / designed for?

The new e-Suite dementia-friendly sanitaryware range has been designed specifically to aid independence of patients living with dementia in long-term hospital care.

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

Recognised as industry experts, continually providing innovative sanitaryware solutions, it was important that Wallgate's new product development team produced problem-solving designs that follow industry standards to then successfully meet market demands and needs. The accreditation by the DSDC provided an independent review of the e-Suite product range, allowing Wallgate to further push boundaries, improve the design and achieve the DSDC's highest 1A rating.

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

The e-Suite Tap was designed specifically to help normalise the user experience through a recognisable traditional cross head tap, that behaves and feels like standard mechanical taps with variable flow control, re-engineered using an innovative electronic system to manage the water services. This provides an unseen automatic shut off when the tap has been left running, allowing patients to maintain their dignity by using the products unobserved, with care providers safe in the knowledge that the controller will manage any taps left running. Being perpetually ready, the tap can be activated from any position, regardless of where it was left. This improves the patient's experience, reducing stress and disturbance, minimising the risk of slips and falls, helping to retain or prolong their independence. The usage data collected is recorded to then provide the care provider with information that could help them to spot changes in patient behaviour, to then adjust the care levels as needed.



POLYFLOR

Part of James Halstead plc, Polyflor is the only UK-based manufacturer of a full range of high quality, resilient floor coverings, supplying the health and care sector. Available in an extensive range of designs and meeting UK and international performance standards, Polyflor is often the product of choice for many of today's facilities. At the heart of our portfolio is product innovation. Ranges are launched with the greatest maintenance and environmental benefits built in and for quick turnaround projects, adhesive-free, loose lay collections have been developed. Meantime, for dementia-led environments, ranges featuring a contemporary, plainer decoration are available for specification.

www.polyflor.com

DSDC accredited products

Block PUR

Polysafe Verona PUR Pure Colours

Polysafe Quattro PUR

Bloc PUR

The product is manufactured in the UK and is a high performance heterogeneous sheet floor covering with a textured matt finish. It was developed in response to feedback from the marketplace for a plain decoration flooring. The collection of solid colour sheet flooring has been designed to create tonal, complementary or harmonious interior design schemes. The collection of single solid colour designs, with a matt floor finish offers specifiers in a simple yet effective way, more creative options when specifying in areas suitable for those living with dementia.

Polysafe Verona PUR Pure Colours

The product is manufactured in the UK and is a safety sheet floor covering with a specially engineered emboss and unique matt finish. It was developed in response to feedback from the marketplace for a plain safety flooring with a tonal decoration. The safety floor looks like a smooth vinyl with virtually 'invisible' slip resistance. For those areas where underfoot safety for occupants is required in a contemporary decoration with a uniform appearance, the collection is well suited to specification within dementia friendly design schemes.

Polysafe Quattro PUR

The product is manufactured in the UK and was developed in response to feedback from the marketplace for a safety floor offering enhanced slip resistance for bare feet and footwear. For enhanced comfort under foot, the product features a stud-free finish. The collection features aqueous and subtle solid colours with a colour complementary aggregate for continually wet environments. For continually wet areas, where the potential for slip is higher, the collection, as an HSE compliant safety flooring, is ideal for creating a harmonious feel within a residential care setting.



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

To assist in the selection of suitable flooring, the DSDC rating signposts specifiers to a selection of floor coverings where the needs of those living with dementia have been considered. This then enables the creation of overall designs that promote harmony and wellbeing whether in a residential care setting or within a person's home to support independent living. DSDC accreditation is a further example of Polyflor as a manufacturer highlighting its commitment to the health and care sector and sits along side established principles of supplying fit-for-purpose flooring products that fully comply with many UK and international statutory requirements and regulations for healthcare flooring.