

Buying green basics

Some green products can come at a premium, and whilst you may not want to pay more, that is not exactly what we mean when we say buy green. Really it is about thinking about the green impacts when you purchase something.

Buying in bulk for instance can allow cost savings can to be made, but also one large bag of something often uses less packaging and less transportation than multiple smaller ones.



Keep it local. Try to buy from local sources if possible.

When making bigger buying decisions, thoughtfully consider what is available environmentally.

And, always buy for life and reuse as much as possible (see below).

Intelligent buying	Make sure that at the procurement stage you are buying wisely. Buy only what you need and control your stock very carefully. Housekeep regularly –make sure that you don't have redundant and old stock that you can't use.
Buy for life	Buy equipment that is built to last –modular machinery for example can grow and develop as your business does. Also, find out about end of life options at the time you buy and see what the supplier will do with your old equipment.
Create a waste minimisation strategy	Conduct a waste audit and see where you main problems lie. Then create an action plan that focuses on staff involvement and waste prevention.
Reuse where you can	Get into a mindset where your reuse rather than having throwaways – even small things like hand wipes or mugs can have a big impact.
Invest in the best	When you are buying, think about what is most long lasting and durable –even if it costs a bit more initially. It you can reuse it time after time and repair rather than replace it will save you money, but also keep you green.
Employee power	As with any initiative along your green route, get employee buy-in. Appoint a waste co-ordinator and create a bit of fun eg which department can save the most this month. Give them a prize for the best.
Set goals	Set reduction goals so that you have something to work towards. This will hep you to measure how well you are doing, and will allow you to see where you are saving cost wise too.