Kremer Pigmente

The inclusion of social, ecological and economic principles is embedded in our corporate culture. We actively practice our social responsibility to environmental awareness.

Since 1977, Kremer Pigmente has provided high-quality products for restoration and conservation, monument preservation, fine-art painting and handcrafts. The inclusion of social, ecological and economic principles has been the basis of our corporate culture from the very beginning.

We would like to be more transparent into our eco-social activities. As a family-run company, we consciously want to be sustainable in our business practice. With our corporate values, culture and working methods, we are proactive with our customers, partners and suppliers. As an employer, we are responsible for the well-being and motivation of our employees in Aichstetten, Munich and New York.

“Pigments and colors do not only consist of raw material and formulas. You always learn more by looking behind the curtain.”

Company founder Dr. Georg Kremer
Sustainable environmental protection

Many products from our assortment come from natural materials from our nearby environment. That is why it is extremely important that we are committed to sustainable management of renewable raw materials.

Climate protection through green electricity
Since we moved into a flour mill in 1984, we have been producing our own electricity with hydropower coming from the river Aitrach which runs right next to our premises. This energy source is supplemented by a photovoltaic system on the mill roof.

Ecological balance
The company premises surrounding the head office in rural Aichstetten (German Allgäu) is characterized by unspoilt nature and biodiversity. Wide meadows around the company and the mill river have been preserved in their original condition. No fertilizers are used on the meadows or in the farm’s own orchard.

Affiliate programs: Grüner Punkt & LUCID
With the dual system, “Grüner Punkt”, and the LUCID packaging register, we transparently display how our packaging is placed on the market for the first time. Recycling is an important factor in reducing greenhouse gases and thus making a decisive contribution to climate protection.

Conscious handling of packaging and shipping material
The best packaging and shipping material is the one that doesn’t even show up! We therefore try to keep the volume as low as possible. At events and trade shows, we replaced plastic bags with the use of cotton bags that can be used for many years. In addition, we try to establish an optimal delivery timeline in cooperation with our trading partners. The focus is on less frequent but larger deliveries.
Wildlife conservation

The protection and preservation of wild animal and plant species by respecting trade in accordance with CITES Regulation EG (338/97) is self-evident for us. We apply all regulations for the import and export of endangered species of wild animals and plants, as well as by-products from these species.

Chemical management

All chemical products from Kremer Pigmente are liable to the regulations of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and are registered accordingly. We fully comply with the regulations of ECHA and the German legislator, in particular the sale of products subject to restrictions.

Social commitment

Together we want to make a difference! Our broad network in various areas connects us with people in diverse focuses. Regardless of whether restoration, conservation, monument protection, design in handcraft or painting—we are looking for proactive cooperation to promote a variety of projects.

Scholarships

With the scholarship, “Deutschlandstipendium”, Kremer Pigmente has for a long time, continued to support students at the AdbK Munich and the HAWK Hildesheim/Holzminden/Göttingen. With its extensive program, the scholarship offers an ideal platform for promoting cultural education. The focus of the scholarship should not only be financial support, but also to initiate a dialogue with the students.

Promotion of art projects

The promotion of special scientific, artistic and creative work, is a major focus of our corporate policy. Our support is geared entirely towards the needs of creators and researchers.

Sponsorship of events

It is important that Kremer Pigmente continues to promote communication between specialists from the fields of restoration, conservation, monument preservation, handcrafts and art history. In the process of communicating ideas, not only do we focus on a mutual exchange, but also link artistic processes with their historical and intended meaning.
Around 250 pigments are produced in the Color-Mill according to old recipes. Raw materials from all over the world are carefully treated and manually rubbed, sieved and filtered into powder. For some raw materials, the large chunks are pre-crushed by hand and the fragments are sorted by hand. Then the good pieces are processed into pigments.

Our research in old recipe collections gave us a lot of knowledge about the production of historical pigments. With this knowledge, we have been able to continuously improve production over the past 40 years. Our work leads to the rediscovery of new, historical pigments every year. The needs of our customers for materials for restoration and modern, artistic painting make great demands on our product development. The questions and wishes of our customers from all over the world always require targeted research and new product developments.

In addition to the production of pigments, we manufacture a large number of ready-to-use colors in our factory in Aichstetten. Based on color formulations we have watercolors, liquid shellac inks, retouching paints for monument

| Memberships |
As an active member of numerous professional and specialist associations, as well as independent, non-profit institutions, we greatly emphasize professional and interdisciplinary networking. In the associations we promote the economic, scientific and cultural connection of people and institutions in theory and practice all over the world.

| Research projects |
We actively and passively participate in research projects with our specialist knowledge, which has been acquired over decades. We also support selected projects with the appropriate material and monetary funds.

Product evaluation

The demand for sustainable or vegan products is steadily increasing. We are happy to help you realize your individual projects and support you in the procurement of products according to your requirements. We can draw on a wide range of specialist knowledge and our own production facilities in the Color-Mill. With our special machines, we can process temperature-sensitive earths as well as gemstones (such as ruby or emerald). We shred, grind and completely sieve different materials to the required fineness on behalf of the customer.

Kremer-Made: Traditional production by hand

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Sustainable product classification

Our understanding of sustainability in production primarily means manufacturing without using fossil raw materials. Fossil raw materials in general are all substances on our earth that have not yet been processed. Fossil raw materials in the narrower sense are substances like natural gas, crude oil and coal.

The CO₂ footprint of a historical energy source is lower the less these three raw materials are required for production. Regardless of the type of energy generation and the corresponding transport expenses, natural products, such as earth colors, are always more neutral than processed products, such as synthetic iron oxide. The use of cultivated, vegetable materials, such as indigo, is more sustainable than the use of the synthetic products (i.e. synthetic indigo).

In general, we can classify the following of our product groups as sustainable:

- Natural earths such as ocher, red bole, terra di sienna, umber, green earth
- Mineral pigments obtained from stones such as cinnabar, malachite, azurite, lapis lazuli, basalt, iron mica
- Colored lacquers, dyes made from vegetable materials that are lacquered into pigments such as madder lacquer, stil de Grain, indigo, purpurissum
- Natural dyes and vegetable colors such as sepias, dragon blood, saffron, henna, apple tree bark
- Mineral fillers such as champagne chalk, marble powder, bole, quartz powder, granite, cristobalite
- Natural mortar and building materials such as pit lime and pumice powder
- Natural binders such as warm glue, fish glue, mastic, starch, natural resin, balm, wax, oil
- Textiles made from natural raw materials such as canvas
- Brushes made from natural hair/bristles

Products without animal components

The major part of our products do not contain any animal components. This refers to technical applications only (cosmetic use is not covered).

Products with animal origin are limited to the following materials:

- Pigments such as carmin naccarat, purple, eggshell white, Gofun Shirayuki, ivory black, sepia, bone ash, mother of pearl, fish silver
- Colorants such as lac dye, cochineal, kermes lice, gall apples
- Binders such as protein-containing glues, shellac, beeswax, claw oil
- Chemicals like glycerin
- Brushes with natural hair/bristles
- Bone folder
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