

ASK THE EXPERTS



ROOT TO TIP

These experts have the goods to keep your home green and cost-effective to run.

Photographs Tim Lake

STBB

more than just

GO GREEN WITH THE PAPERWORK. *^*



Our ability to add value is an art form that has taken years of experience to perfect. At STBB we build long lasting relationships and give you hands-on-advice to protect your rights of ownership.

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OGGIE HARDWOOD FLOORING

Nick Gluckman, Owner



ON TAP

Julia Barton-Hill, Marketing Manager



SAINT-GOBAIN

Lisa Reynolds, Technical & Specification Director



WORLD GAIA TRADING

Greg Walton, Director

How does your company help others live a greener life?

After a lengthy process, Oggie finally achieved the coveted full Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Chain of Custody certification in June 2009. Although full compliance with FSC standards is expensive, we've absorbed these costs – our customers don't pay more for high-quality, fully green flooring.

Describe your newest and most popular products?

The full range of WoCA Denmark maintenance oils and soaps. These are vegetable based and completely free of VOCs. WoCA oils penetrate the wood and harden to form a protective surface, which becomes part of the floor. So tough, in fact, that WoCA oils are used to protect the wood flooring at Eurostar's St. Pancras International terminal.

How can one tell if a wood product is genuinely green?

It's simple. Look for a supplier's FSC certification number. Without it, claims of being green are meaningless. Surveillance Générale of Switzerland does regular audits for the FSC throughout the supply chain to ensure compliance by certificate holders.

Some of your more recent, prestigious projects?

Oggie's hardwood flooring has been used in a variety of exciting projects this year, including wine farms, game farms, boutique hotels, corporate head offices and top-end residential projects.



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How does your company help others live a greener life?

Our 38 ON TAP franchisees nationwide sell a wide variety of water-saving taps and shower heads that can help you save up to 60% on your water usage, as well as energy-saving heat pumps, solar heating systems and grey-water systems. We have bathroom and kitchen products to suit your needs and your budget. ON TAP will also recommend qualified, Eskom-registered installers so that you may claim for your Eskom rebate, ensuring that your going green initiative is well worth it. ON TAP has the support of many international brands, such as Duravit, Hansgrohe and Kale, who all have in place environmental policies for manufacturing. Our 'Water Wise' logo helps customers to easily identify all green products. We also provide free advice and information on local and international bathroom and kitchen brands that are geared towards green living.

Some of your more recent, prestigious projects?

The five-star Pepper Club hotel in Cape Town and the revamp of Beacon Isle Resort in Plett.

Describe your newest and most popular products?

One of our popular products, the GeyserWise switch, allows you to control the temperature and timing of your geyser inside your house without even touching the geyser, helping you save electricity.



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How does your company help others live a greener life?

Saint-Gobain manufactures insulation products for the domestic, commercial and industrial markets, along with energy-saving lightweight construction and mortar systems, through Gyproc, Isover and Weber in SA. Isover Aerolite glass wool insulation is manufactured from up to 80% recycled glass, and in its lifetime saves more than 100 times the energy that is used in its manufacture. Gyproc's gypsum-based RhinoWall and Rhinolite products and Weber's tiling products and mortars are made from natural resources, and are VOC free.

Some of your more recent, prestigious projects?

Saint-Gobain's energy-efficient systems have been specified in several upmarket homes, as well as in prestigious projects, such as the Pearls in Umhlanga, Freedom Park, King Shaka International Airport, the Mall of the North and the Sandton Holiday Inn. Our products have also been used by Habitat for Humanity in housing projects in Diepsloot, and in Cosmo City in a project with Cornell University.

Describe your newest and most popular products.

For homeowners, Aerolite and Geyser Packs are the most popular products for making a quick and affordable reduction in energy consumption and a decreased impact on the environment.



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How does your company help others live a greener life?

We have sourced, imported and distributed eco-friendly products for the last three years, focusing on eco-friendly alternatives for regular daily use and providing ways for consumers to partake in their own personal journey of contributing to a healthier planet. We specialise in lighting, including solar and LED lamps. Besides the economic advantages our lights offer, the reduction in power usage will result in a lower electrical generation requirement, which ultimately has a positive outcome for all of us.

Describe your newest and most popular products.

For exterior use, our Sentry-108 is a powerful all-night LED floodlight with an internal battery and 10W solar panel, available through large retailers like Builders Warehouse. The unit is ideal for lighting up an area of around 150m² and requires only a small amount of DIY to fit. Our internal LED range has proven to be a big hit. Our 6W warm-white unit is the ideal replacement for the traditional 50W halogen. We supply this lamp in 220V and 12V. The lamps also have a dimmable option. The other options are 3W and 9W, all of which are available in warm white and cool white. LED lighting has come a long way in the last five years: the first lamps had fewer colour ranges and were not as stable as those available today.



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