

## Case Study

### Carpet Tiles Refit Charity Shops

**Organisations Involved:** Harmsen Tilney Shane, The Chrysalis, The Salvation Army, Mercy In Action

#### THE CHALLENGE

Harmsen Tilney Shane is a commercial interior design and workplace consultancy. The company recently started a project to refit an office in Gloucester that saw the need to find a home for approximately 3600 reusable carpet tiles.



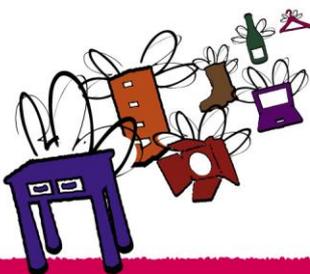
Bath-based charity, Mercy in Action, relies on a network of 14 shops to raise funds for its work to rescue vulnerable children in the Philippines. There are more shops in the pipeline and a continual need to renew fixtures and fittings in their existing shops.

The Salvation Army is opening a furniture shop in Bristol and needs to refit a unit quickly and at minimal cost.

#### THE SOLUTION

Collecteco clears commercial premises and commits to reuse least 75% of all it clears. Reusable items and materials are donated to The Chrysalis, a not-for-profit, social enterprise, where they are made available to a range of good causes.

Harmsen Tilney Shane's commitment to sustainability spans the whole company involving everyone, including the operatives removing the carpet tiles, which meant this was done with care and they were kept clean and dry to maximise what could be reused. The tiles were stacked neatly on pallets that we borrowed from The Chrysalis and neat stacking reduced the space needed on the collection vehicle.



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Rather than send a dedicated vehicle to Gloucester to collect the pallets of tiles from site, Collecteco used a transport contractor that was already travelling to Gloucester to make use of part of the load on the return journey. This reduced the mileage for the project and the associated carbon. The vehicle had a tail-lift to load the pallets, which also meant that we didn't have to arrange for a forklift truck to attend site.

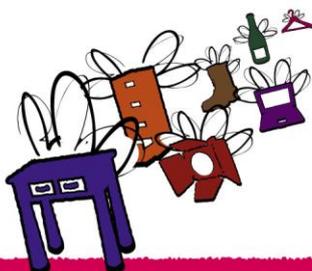
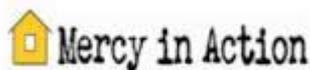
The stock at The Chrysalis is constantly changing and if they don't have something in stock they log this requirement so that they can quickly fulfil the need when the stock becomes available. The Chrysalis has dealt with Mercy in Action for many years and knows that they regularly require fixtures and fittings for their shops. When The Chrysalis knew carpet tiles were due to arrive, they were able to contact Mercy in Action to get them rehomed.

The Chrysalis heard that The Salvation Army was opening a used furniture shop in Bristol, so they called them to offer them stock for the shop, but also fixtures and fittings to get the shop refitted. When they called The Salvation Army were days away from getting the keys, but the beauty of The Chrysalis is that they can allocate stock to a good cause and store this until such time that is needed, as many of their charity partners struggle with lack of space and transport issues.

## THE RESULTS

- ✓ ENVIRONMENTAL: Landfill Diverted: 3600 Kg
- ✓ ENVIRONMENTAL: CO2 Reduction: Transport reduced by back haul on an existing journey.
- ✓ ENVIRONMENTAL: Reuse vs. buying new items made from virgin resources
- ✓ SOCIAL: Jobs/training created: collection, warehousing, cleaning, delivery
- ✓ SOCIAL: Support of local good causes
- ✓ ECONOMIC: Cheaper to reuse than to skip carpet tiles

**harmesen  
tilney shane**



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