Dulux TRADE

AkzoNobel

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HEALTHCARE SECTOR GUIDE





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CREATING INCLUSIVE HEALTHCARE SPACES WITH DULUX TRADE

At Dulux Trade, we understand the powerful role that colour, design, and lower VOC paints play in shaping how people experience a space. When you are specifying interior paint for a healthcare facility, such as a hospital, doctor or dentist surgery, and various other clinical environments, this guide can help you navigate our extensive product range. There is a list of recommended paints on page 5 that meets the specific regulatory requirements for your project and deliver a high quality and durable finish.

The Right Products for the Job

There are many factors to consider when writing paint specifications for healthcare environments: from infection control in clinical areas, to supporting wayfinding. From functional spaces that are subject to harsh cleaning regimes, to the need for calming and relaxing spaces that can improve the experience of patients and staff. Using a durable paint system is essential to extend maintenance cycles, while using quick-dry water-based paints helps with reducing the disruption of decorating to a minimum. The Dulux Trade product range within this guide is streamlined to help you achieve these high-performance requirements.

HBN 00-10

If your project is an NHS facility, then the paint specification must comply with HBN 00-10 standards. The table on page 9 details which Dulux Trade paints are best suited to meet the requirements for various clinical and non-clinical environments.

Technical Support

Specification support from Dulux Trade is available through our Technical Advice Centre at duluxtrade.advice@akzonobel.com or phone 0333 222 70 70.

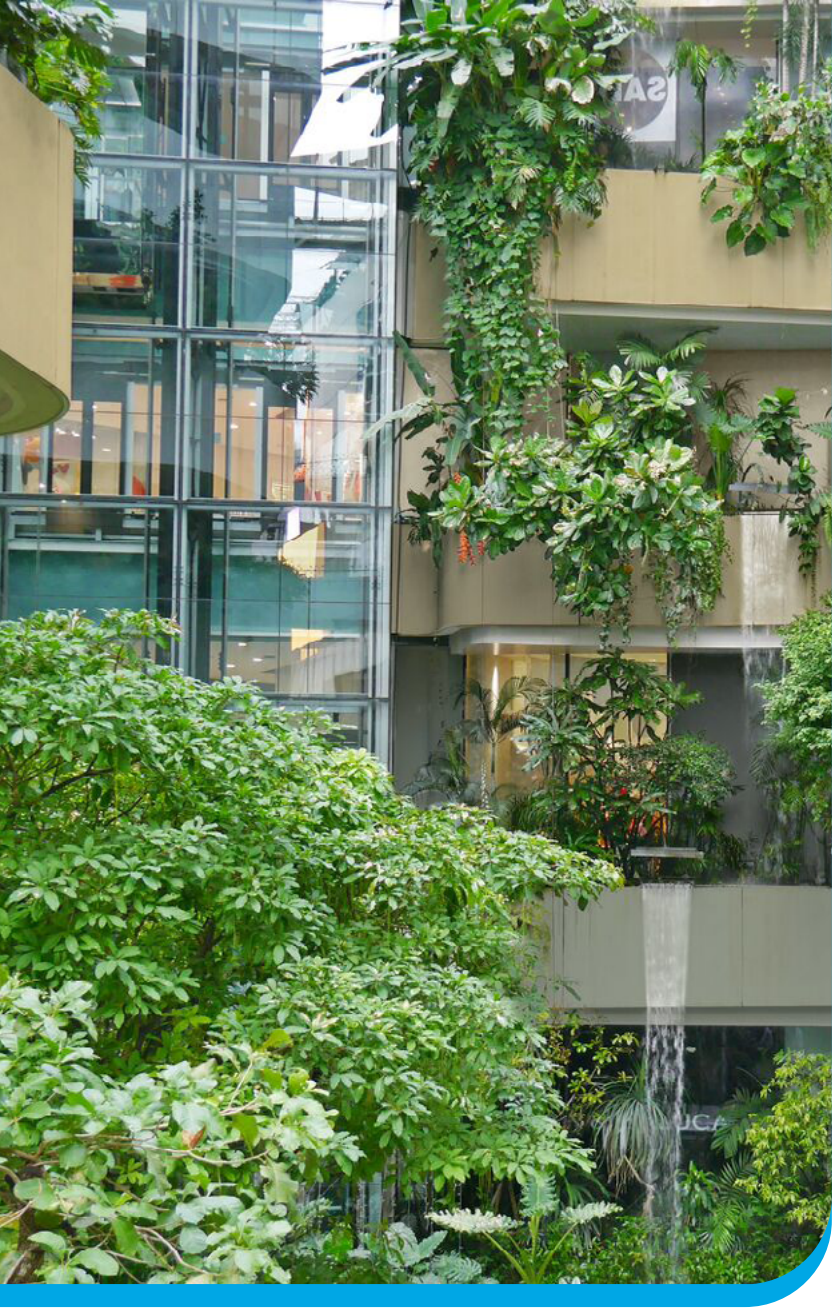


OUR SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

At AkzoNobel, we're focused on ensuring that the pioneering paints and coatings we supply continue to protect what matters – both now and in the future. We innovate with, and for, customers and play a progressive and collaborative role in energising entire industries to advance towards a more sustainable future. We're always finding new and exciting ways to make our products more sustainable and longer lasting. By partnering with Dulux Trade, you can create better healthcare environments through our product innovations and comprehensive services. Our goal is to help you minimise your footprint while maximising the benefits to patients and to your organisation.

We are committed to reducing our environmental impact which is why we were the first paint manufacturer to have our Science-based targets ratified.

1. **50% Carbon Emissions Reduction Across Our Value Chain.** Addressing climate change is integral to our strategy. We've committed to science-based targets to reduce absolute carbon emissions across our value chain by 50% by 2030, using 2018 as our baseline.
2. **Zero waste by 2030** with a strong focus on water reuse at our most intensive sites. This reduces our environmental impact and conserves essential resources.
3. **Building a Circular Economy:** Beyond recycling, we focus on eliminating waste, sourcing alternative raw materials, and repurposing materials. Collaboration with suppliers and customers plays a crucial role in achieving these goals.



MORE SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE BUILDING

At Dulux Trade, sustainability drives our innovation. Our products uphold the highest environmental standards and certifications helping your projects achieve Green Building compliance. Moreover, with Dulux Trade we provide responsible choices without compromising quality.

Our products are certified as follows:

- **ISO 14001 -** this is the international standard that specifies requirements for an effective Environmental Management System (EMS). The scope of the certification applies to design, development, supply, sales and technical support of all our decorative paints.
- **BES 6001 - Responsible Sourcing -** This certification guarantees that our raw materials are ethically and sustainably sourced. We ensure our products contribute to sustainable construction, making it easier for our customers to meet their own environmental targets.
- **EPD - Environmental Product Declarations -** Our EPD certifications provide independently verified life-cycle data for a selection of Dulux Trade key products, allowing customers to accurately assess environmental impact and make informed, sustainable choices.

Our products are compatible with these building accreditations:

- **BREEAM Compliance -** Our products help support BREEAM assessments by offering durable, responsibly sourced solutions with low environmental impact, assisting developers and specifiers in improving their sustainability scores
- **WELL - Building Standard -** By enhancing indoor air quality, lighting, and comfort, our products align with WELL standards and contribute to creating healthier environments focused on physical and mental well-being.
- **LEED - Green Building Certification -** We offer energy-efficient, low-impact products that support LEED criteria, aiding in the development of sustainable buildings with improved indoor air quality and occupant well-being.

Explore our certificates and compliance statements here



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HIGH-PERFORMANCE PAINT SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTHCARE

Dulux Trade products are designed to enhance hygiene, durability, and efficiency in healthcare environments, ensuring a clean and professional space with minimal maintenance. All the products listed here are water based and therefore have low or trace VOC emissions.

Walls

For walls in high-traffic areas, Dulux Trade **Diamond Matt** and Dulux Trade **Diamond Eggshell** formulations offer exceptional resistance to scrubs, scuffs and stains and therefore extend maintenance cycles, reducing disruption. For enhanced infection control, Dulux Trade **Sterishield Diamond Matt** and Dulux Trade **Sterishield Diamond Eggshell** helps inhibit bacterial growth, including common strains like MRSA and E. coli.

Ceilings

Dulux Trade **Ultra Matt** provides a smooth, dead-matt finish with anti-flashing properties. Its excellent touch-in capability allows for near-invisible repairs that maintain a clean, uniform appearance of ceilings.

Wood & Metal

The Dulux Trade **Quick Dry** range for wood and metal allows for faster drying times, enabling spaces to be re-occupied on the same day. The range includes Dulux Trade **Quick Dry Undercoat**, with a choice of **Satinwood** or **Gloss** finishes for the topcoat.



FOR WALLS

For interior walls in the healthcare sector, Dulux Trade offers a range of highly durable, scrub/stain proof products that can endure the tough cleaning regimes of various clinical and non clinical environments.

	 DIAMOND MATT	 DIAMOND EGGSHELL	 STERISHIELD DIAMOND MATT	 STERISHIELD DIAMOND EGGSHELL
Durability*	Highly durable	Highly durable	Highly durable	Highly durable
Key Benefits	Durable, scrub/scuff and stain resistance, repeatedly cleanable	Scrub/scuff and stain resistance, repeatedly cleanable. Mid-sheen	Anti-bacterial, tough, scrubbable, stain resistant, with Active Silver Bactericide	Anti-bacterial, tough, scrubbable, stain resistant, with Active Silver Bactericide. Mid-sheen
Coverage per litre	16m²	16m²	16m²	16m²
EPD	✓	✓	✓	✓
BREEAM	✓	✗	✗	✗
LEED	✓	✓	✓	✓
WELL building standard	✓	✓	✓	✓
VOC content	Trace (0–0.1% Max)	Low (0.30–7.99% Max)	Low (0.30–7.99% Max)	Low (0.30–7.99% Max)

**Highly scrubbable. Achieved Class 1 ISO 11998 and Type C BS 7719 scrub ratings. Tested up to 10,000 scrubs, meaning that walls withstand daily wear and tear and the finished job looks better for longer.*



FOR CEILINGS

Dulux Trade Ultra Matt is recommended for interior ceilings in the healthcare settings thanks to its excellent coverage, smooth and anti flashing properties ideal for large areas under critical lighting.



	ULTRA MATT
Key Benefits	Anti-flashing, dead matt finish (ideal for ceilings in critical lighting), excellent touching-in properties.
Coverage per litre	16m^2
EPD	✓
BREEAM	✓
LEED	✓
WELL building standard	✓
VOC content	Trace (0–0.1% Max)

FOR WOOD AND METAL

The products in the table below detail a comprehensive choice for interior wood and metal paint specification for the healthcare sector. These paints offer proven solutions for durable and clean spaces that require less maintenance over time.

	 QUICK DRY GLOSS	 QUICK DRY SATINWOOD	 QUICK DRY UNDERCOAT
Durability	Highly durable	Highly durable	Durable when used with a topcoat
Key Benefits	High gloss finish, longer lasting whiteness, tough and durable finish, water-based trim paint	Excellent Satin finish, advanced water based technology, tough durable paint for trim, no undercoat needed	Excellent opacity, advanced water based technology, low odour, use with Quick Dry Gloss
Coverage per litre	12m^2	12m^2	10m^2
EPD	✓	✓	✓
BREEAM	✓	✓	✓
LEED	✓	✓	✓
WELL building standard	✓	✓	✓
VOC content	Low (0.30–7.99% Max)	Low (0.30–7.99% Max)	Low (0.3–7.99% Max) for Light & Medium Base; Medium (8–24.99% Max) for Extra Deep Base

FOR HBN 00-10

If your project is an NHS facility, you may be asked to work within the guidance for the Department of Health HBN 00-10 Part B: Walls & Ceilings. The table below outlines which Dulux Trade products are best suited to meet the requirements of healthcare environments.

For those clinical rooms where enhanced infection control is required, we recommend choosing the Sterishield range, which can inhibit bacterial and viral growth.

	PRODUCT SOLUTIONS	CATEGORY ROOM SPACE & APPLICATION AREA						
		Clinical Dry	Clinical Wet	Specialist Patient Rooms	Non Clinical Wet	Non Clinical Dry	Heavy Traffic	Clinical Specialist X-ray Room
WALLS	Sterishield Diamond Matt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	No*
	Sterishield Diamond Eggshell		✓	✓	✓		✓	No*
	Diamond Matt	✓				✓	✓	No*
	Diamond Eggshell		✓		✓		✓	No*
TRIM	Quick Dry Gloss	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	No*
	Quick Dry Undercoat	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	No*
	Quick Dry Satinwood	✓	✓		✓	✓		No*
CEILINGS	Ultra Matt	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	No*

**Alternative specialist Akzonobel products are available for these areas.*



CREATING SUPPORTIVE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS

Healthcare spaces must balance clinical requirements with patient, staff, and visitor wellbeing. Traditional hospital settings can feel sterile and uninviting, which may negatively impact patient recovery and morale.

Carefully selected colours help soften the clinical feel, enhance patient comfort, and support the evolving needs of modern healthcare. Our specialist coatings are designed to meet key industry standards, ensuring both compliance and best practices in healthcare design.

The sections on the following pages provide an overview of the guidelines and regulations in place for the choice and use of colour in public spaces.



COLOUR & CONTRAST GUIDELINES

Legal & Regulatory Context

Creating inclusive environments starts with understanding the legal responsibilities for accessibility in the built environment:

- **The Equality Act 2010:** This sets out the legal framework to protect individuals from discrimination and ensures equal access to goods, services, and facilities—including buildings—for people with disabilities.
- **Building Regulations Approved Document M, Volume 2 (2015):** Provides technical guidance to help meet the requirements of the Equality Act by setting standards for accessibility and usability in non-domestic buildings.
- **British Standard BS 8300-2:2018:** Offers best practice recommendations for designing and constructing accessible and inclusive environments. While not legally binding, it's widely used as a benchmark for achieving compliance with the above regulations.

Both Building Regulations Part M and BS 8300 recommend that adjacent critical surfaces—such as ceilings, walls, floors, and doors—should be clearly distinguishable through the use of colour contrast. A difference of at least 30 Light Reflectance Value (LRV) points between surfaces is advised to aid navigation and support users with visual impairments.



USING LRV FOR COLOUR CONTRAST

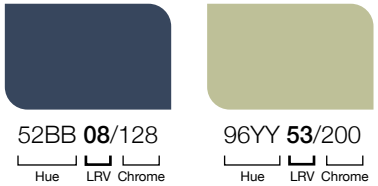
Understanding LRV

Light Reflectance Value (LRV) is a scale from 0 to 100 that indicates how much visible light a colour reflects. The higher the LRV, the more light is reflected and the paler the colour appears; the lower the LRV, the darker the colour.



LRV values range from darkest 0 to 99 maximum possible light

The LRV for each Dulux Trade colour is clearly indicated in its colour palette notation. For example, the colours shown below have LRVs of 08 and 53 respectively – giving a difference of 45 points, which meets current accessibility recommendations.



Using Colour for Wayfinding

By applying LRV principles effectively, healthcare environments can balance clinical functionality with user safety and accessibility. Strong contrast between walls, ceilings, floors, doors, and fixtures helps patients—including those with visual impairments or cognitive challenges—navigate spaces more easily. Clearly defined transitions between surfaces can reduce fall risks and support intuitive wayfinding, particularly in high-traffic areas.



RECEPTION & CORRIDORS

A welcoming entrance lobby and reception area can reduce anxiety for patients and visitors. Theses spaces should be easily navigable with clear wayfinding signs and contrasting colours. Highlighting the reception desk and using strong accent colours in corridors can aid navigation. High-contrast colours throughout the building can improve accessibility for people with visual impairments.

DOOR

27BB 10/138	87YY 27/274	39YY 52/691	38YR 17/442	28GG 22/002

FEATURE

70BG 32/238	61YY 39/443	45YY 61/368	60YR 31/368	46YY 53/062

WALL

76BG 72/113	83YY 72/129	60YY 83/156	70RR 74/051	63YY 80/051



WAITING AREAS

Waiting areas should be visually appealing and calming to help reduce anxiety and stress. Soft, muted colours create a soothing atmosphere, while slightly bolder accent colours can highlight different departments. Incorporating elements that connect with nature, such as natural light and nature-inspired colours, can enhance the calming effect and contribute to a sense of comfort and tranquillity.

DOOR

52BB 08/128	50GY 18/178	54YR 12/074	99YR 23/456	28GG 22/002

FEATURE

10BB 30/203	08GY 36/175	50YY 51/519	04YR 27/258	46YY 53/062

WALL

14BB 55/113	45GY 55/052	50YY 49/191	10YR 50/101	63YY 80/051



WARDS & PATIENTS ROOMS

Patient areas should feel safe and calming. A mix of soft neutrals with subtle accents creates a restful atmosphere without overstimulation. Avoid excessive bright hues, which can hinder visual diagnosis. Thoughtful colour placement aids orientation and fosters familiarity in multi-bed spaces.

DOOR

70BB 09/241	87YY 27/274	75YR 27/487	04YR 18/324	28GG 22/002

FEATURE

54BB 39/103	61YY 39/443	10YY 38/316	10YR 37/143	46YY 53/062

WALL

30BB 63/084	70BG 56/061	30YY 64/149	50YR 65/056	63YY 80/051



RESTAURANTS & CAFES

Restaurants and cafes should have a different atmosphere from the rest of the building. Warmer palettes make these areas feel comfortable and inviting, encouraging use. The decor should complement the healthcare facility, with brighter colours that are not too saturated to create an air of warmth and informality.

DOOR

56BB 07/196	78GG 19/078	30YY 21/438	50YR 15/377	28GG 22/002

FEATURE

30BB 33/163	90YY 35/169	40YY 49/408	04YR 27/258	46YY 53/062

WALL

30BB 63/097	64YY 65/071	40YY 67/196	16RB 69/065	63YY 80/051



PAEDIATRIC UNITS

Children's wards should feel comforting and reduce fear. Bright colours add playfulness, while warm muted tones create security. Balancing these hues supports both energy and rest. For neurodivergent children, avoid overstimulating colours like red, and in baby units, steer clear of bright yellow, which can hinder jaundice detection.

DOOR

56BB 07/196	57GY 28/292	20YY 32/494	22YR 18/488	28GG 22/002

FEATURE

69BG 40/190	90YY 58/424	50YY 60/538	90RR 28/245	46YY 53/062

WALL

30BG 72/069	70YY 66/130	20YY 64/171	10YR 67/100	63YY 80/051



INTENSIVE CARE UNITS

ICUs require a calm and controlled environment that supports both patients and medical procedures. Light, neutral wall colours with a matt finish reduce glare and create a restful space. While strong colours should be avoided, soft, muted accents can add warmth and prevent the space from feeling too clinical.

DOOR

30BB 17/158	79GY 36/106	30YY 35/249	10YR 37/143	28GG 22/002

FEATURE

90BG 44/049	79GY 59/017	40YY 60/103	30YR 64/044	46YY 53/062

WALL

84BG 66/028	70GY 72/025	53YY 77/064	50YR 73/022	63YY 80/051



PHYSICAL REHABILITATION AND THERAPY ROOMS

Colour choices should reflect the type of therapy provided. Energising hues like red, orange, and yellow encourage movement and engagement in physical therapies, while softer, muted tones create a calming space for mental well-being. A balance of vibrant and subdued colours helps tailor the environment to support each therapy, enhancing patient comfort and progress.

DOOR

27BB 10/138	18GY 38/328	23YY 44/541	00YR 18/531	28GG 22/002

FEATURE

10BG 46/112	61YY 39/443	50YY 60/538	50YR 32/460	46YY 53/062

WALL

77GY 68/066	60YY 72/225	20YY 69/120	60RR 62/086	63YY 80/051



CONSULTATION ROOMS

Designed for short visits, consultation rooms should feel welcoming and open. Light, neutral tones create a calming, spacious feel, while bold accents add warmth and positivity. Used strategically, these colours enhance patient comfort and maintain a professional, efficient environment for staff.

DOOR

50BB 27/232	45YY 51/365	10BG 38/119	85YR 32/167	28GG 22/002

FEATURE

70BB 49/082	45YY 63/251	74GG 60/059	10YY 64/048	46YY 53/062

WALL

70BB 64/035	58YY 72/095	49GG 77/014	10YY 72/021	63YY 80/051



DENTAL TREATMENT ROOMS

Colour choices in Dental Treatment rooms should consider cool, muted palettes with greens and blues that create a calm, focused environment for the dental team and for patients, and enhance comfort by reducing the glare from bright task lighting.

DOOR

18BB 19/153	10BG 26/134	50GG 23/085	08GY 26/190	28GG 22/002

FEATURE

70BG 56/061	68GG 53/098	79GY 57/120	13GY 52/120	46YY 53/062

WALL

74BG 73/042	50GG 63/042	90GY 73/059	16GY 66/078	63YY 80/051



SUPPORT DIGITAL TOOLS

Paint Specification Creator

The Dulux Trade Paint Specification Creator simplifies the process of selecting the right paint system, ensuring accurate and professional specifications:

- Quickly find the best paint systems for your project.
- Define your project - interior or exterior.
- Specify surfaces and substrates - ensuring optimal product selection.
- Choose your desired finish - get tailored recommendations from the full Dulux Trade range.
- Generate tender-ready documents with M60 clauses and application details automatically included.
- Easily customise with project details for a polished, professional presentation.

Dulux Trade Specification Creator

Colour Schemer

The Dulux Trade Colour Schemer is a powerful online tool designed to simplify colour selection for commercial projects across healthcare, education, retail, and more.

- Pre-made, sector-specific colour schemes for quick and professional results.
- Customisable moodboards - select a feature colour, add your logo and project name, and create client-ready presentations.
- Professional-quality prints - order your colour-accurate A3 boards

Dulux Trade Colour Schemer



SUPPORT DIGITAL TOOLS (CONTINUED)

Colour and Contrast Digital Design Guide

This is a program designed to help specifiers maximise the inclusivity and usability of a space, by creating colour schemes that are both aesthetically pleasing and also comply with the visual contrast guidelines set out in BS 8300 and Approved Document Part M of the Building Regulations, while supporting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Colour and Contrast Design Guide

Bring BIM Models to Life

For professionals using AutoCAD, Revit, or SketchUp, our free Colour Plug-ins integrate the Dulux Trade colour palette directly into your design software.

- Seamless integration with your preferred BIM tools.
- Enhance 3D simulations with thousands of Dulux Trade colours.
- Accurate colour representation in your digital models.

Dulux Trade Colour Plug-ins

Find an Approved Painting Contractor on Dulux Connect Directory

Use the Dulux Connect Directory to find independently audited contractors in your area. Simply search by location, skills and accreditations and connect with specialists who meet the highest industry standards.

Dulux Connect Directory

CONTACT THE TEAM

We're always on hand to answer any queries on how we can help you with your specification projects.

COLOUR

For any colour related queries, contact the colour services team on duluxtrade.advice@akzonobel.com

TECHNICAL

If your query is technical please contact the technical advice centre on duluxtrade.advice@akzonobel.com

CALL US

Call the team on 0333 222 70 70

SIGN UP FOR SPECIFIER NEWS

We'll keep you informed with developments in sustainability, Dulux Trade product innovations and sector-specific solutions.

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