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DESIGNING SUSTAINABLE KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS

1. What are the characteristics typically associated with sustainable materials?

Sustainable materials are often described as materials that are sourced responsibly, reduce carbon footprints, conserve resources, and encourage a healthier indoor environment. Durability and longevity are synonymous with sustainability.

2. What is the difference between 316 and 316L stainless steel?

The key difference between 316 and 316L stainless steel is the carbon content. The "L" stands for "low", which means the material has a lower proportion of carbon in its composition. The lower carbon content of 316L imparts even better corrosion resistance than 316.

3. What is the significance of steel grades to the design and specification process?

Steel grades are used to differentiate between various steel types according to their special characteristics. Understanding these characteristics will help architects and designers choose the appropriate steel for their intended application.

4. What are the key reasons why stainless steel can contribute to the sustainability of a building project?

Stainless steel has robust resistance to corrosion, high rates of recycled content and recapture, and a lengthy service life. In addition, the energy efficiency of stainless steel in both production and recycling enhances its sustainability and sets it apart from many other materials.

5. What is the effect of the new lead requirements in the NCC 2022?

From 1 May 2022, plumbing products containing more than 0.25% lead will no longer be authorised for installation in a plumbing system used to convey drinking water.

6. Does the lead requirement apply to all plumbing products?

No, the lead requirement does not apply to all plumbing products. A few items are exempt because they are not in regular contact with drinking water and are unlikely to be used for drinking water consumption.