

Alchemy Commercial Cleaning Specialists

Business Sector: Commercial Cleaning

Business Size: 50-249

REGION: SOUTH WEST

Business Profile: Established in 1995, Alchemy currently offer a range of cleaning services to a fifty mile radius of Bath and Bristol.



“Taking staff training seriously generates a sense of loyalty and boosts staff retention.”

Dave Jones
Managing Director

The challenge

In the last 12 years, former window cleaner Dave Jones has built Alchemy Commercial Cleaning Specialists into a regional success story that employs some 160 people.

Following steady, organic growth the Keynsham-based office cleaning business now serves corporate customers as far afield as Dorset.

One thing that sets the company apart is its long-standing keenness to use environmentally-friendly cleaning products and recycle as much waste as possible. It’s an approach that helps attract new clients. Dave said: “Just because we’re green doesn’t mean we are not ambitious. We’re going to keep growing the business.”

It also typifies the company’s commitment to quality and to long-term thinking, which also came to bear when it came to training.

The solution

Dave was keen to train his staff, but it wasn’t until he found out about funding available through Train to Gain, a Government funded service that matches business training needs with training providers, that he was able to make the commitment to train a large number of people.

Around 65 staff have now been assessed for NVQs in cleaning, while funding has also been accessed for leadership and management development for Dave. Other staff were trained in business development and operations and operational management.

The results

Business Link Adviser Corine Hines said: “I think training has opened up possibilities within the staff, helping them to develop in ways that will really benefit the business and its turnover.”

Dave said: “Taking staff training seriously generates a sense of loyalty and boosts staff retention.”

What is Train to Gain?

Train to Gain is a service offering independent advice on improving the skills of your employees. The Service helps employers – of all sizes and in all sectors – to boost their business by training their staff.

Independent Business Link Advisers help you to find the right training and the right providers, and construct a training package tailored to each business.