



## Furniture Barn, Thurrock

# VRV IV gets Furniture Barn off to a good start at Thurrock

Air conditioning systems from Daikin UK have contributed to a successful first year for Furniture Barn's new store in Essex.

The 37,000 sq.ft. retail unit at Thurrock Shopping Park – part of the Lakeside retail area – has Daikin VRV IV units totalling 108hp, Roundflow cassettes and a pair of heat recovery VAM ventilation units.

Not only is the Daikin equipment delivering comfortable surroundings for staff and customers on hot and cold days – it's also running close to operating cost forecasts, helping Furniture Barn to budget with confidence.

An added benefit – from leasing rather than purchasing the equipment – was that the company was able to divert capital into additional stock. Furniture Barn Managing Director Richard Kimbell says this has given a significant boost to the store's performance.

Thurrock is the Leicestershire-based furniture and accessories retailer's seventh store. It is also the largest furniture outlet in the Lakeside area.

Furniture Barn acquired the premises after another furniture retailer closed.

Although the store needed refurbishment and a new air conditioning system, as an obsolete R22 system had been removed, Furniture Barn opened initially as a clearance outlet to pay the rent while the refurbishment was being planned.

The project to help transform the store into a fully stocked southern flagship for the group gave Rayleigh-based Daikin D1 installers Direct Cooling Services UK the challenge of working around furniture displays and over Christmas. Direct Cooling's Martin Ball says: "We had a man following us with a duster and a vacuum cleaner, but the job was completed with no problems."

Richard Kimbell says: "With no heating it was like an icebox at first, but since the Daikin systems have been operating they have coped well with the extremes of hot and cold weather.

"The original estimate was that the systems would cost about £2,500 a month to run and costs so far have been very close to this."