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Key PRIORITIES

Richard Catt, CEO of the Contract Flooring Association, introduces this year's Guide to Sustainability, highlighting key themes and priorities for the industry's future.

A major milestone this year has been the conclusion of CiSuFlo (Circular Sustainable Flooring project) in March 2025, a four-year European-funded initiative in which CFA and FITA played a role.

The project aimed to minimise the environmental impact of the EU flooring sector, focusing on Circular Floor Coverings, product traceability, circular business models, and pilot projects. More details are available here: www.cisuflo.eu/project/objectives

A key takeaway was the industry's need for collaboration and coordination to implement circular solutions – echoing CFA's Zero Avoidable Waste report from 2021 (www.cfa.org.uk/Contract-Flooring-Association-Information-and-Downloads). Conversations with CFA members and across the sector, including with the United Kingdom Sustainability Flooring Alliance (UKSFA), formerly Carpet Recycling UK, reinforce this need.

CFA has also engaged in Government consultations, including Defra's Packaging EPR scheme and the 2025 Future Homes and Buildings Standard. However, beyond policy, the focus must be on actionable solutions such as:

- Best practices for product design to enable recyclability.
- Product identification post-installation.
- A digital product passport for tracking material lifecycle.
- Developing industry-wide logistics for collection and recycling.
- Expanding recycling capabilities. Some existing initiatives contribute to sustainability, but the key question remains: do they align with the wider net-zero agenda and help prevent Government-imposed regulation? The packaging EPR scheme shows that Government intervention is a real risk.

While achieving a truly circular flooring industry may seem ambitious, collaboration doesn't have to stifle innovation or competition. CFA's success in technical standards proves that industry-wide coordination is possible without stifling innovation or commercial opportunity – why not apply the same approach to sustainability?

“CFA's success in technical standards proves that industry-wide coordination is possible without stifling innovation or commercial opportunity”



Richard Catt, CEO

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Collaboration and joint working across borders drives success for CISUFLO project

Circular SUsustainable FLOorcoverings (CISUFLO) is an international project launched in June 2021 and ending in June this year. It has funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme. Its aim has been to work on new technologies and products to improve materials' recovery and drive the flooring sector in Europe towards a circular economy.

The collaboration brought together 19 partners from across research, industry and trade association backgrounds in 7 different countries with 32 voluntary supporting parties.

In the UK, the CFA and Flooring Industry Training Association (FITA) have played a leading role. Meeting every six months, the project enabled conversations from across fields, bringing different flooring specialists across industries and nations together to share their insights.

The focus of the research has been on design for circularity, material selection and manufacturing technology. In addition, research was conducted on how to integrate tags in

all types of flooring products and collect this information to produce a digital product passport. This information is to be managed and identifiable by an app called ePRODIs (Electronic PROduct Information System). Research has been reported back to the European Commission and contributes to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

The project is due to end in June this year, with the publication of the final report at the Flanders Flooring Days – a big commercial flooring event held in Belgium. As we come to the end of this project, there are a number of lessons on sustainability and collaboration to benefit the whole European flooring industry, as our interviews explore in more detail.



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*As the CISUFLO project comes to an end this year, we spoke to **Ine De Vilder**, Research Scientist at Centexbel, and Project Coordinator **Guy Buyle** about the achievements of the project and also some of the challenges that it has faced. Centexbel is the coordinating organisation of the project, and is the Belgian-based collective centre which provides an extensive range of activities like R&D and services to the textile, plastics and flooring sectors.*

The CISUFLO project, in which the CFA is a trade association partner, is founded on collaboration. It brings together different materials – laminate, vinyl, carpet – as well as all different players involved and their complementary fields of expertise. Ine De Vilder likens it to a puzzle, figuring out who can do what, seeing where cooperation is possible and bringing in contacts from outside, and eventually you have a consortium working together.

The cooperation which CISUFLO embodies has certainly led to good results. The project ran pilots for each of the three types of floorcovering in its focus, one of which has actually made the transfer to an industrial line. It is quite rare that this happens with a pilot line during the life of an EU project, say Ine De Vilder and Guy Buyle. This year the Unilin laminate pilot line in France will be rebuilt into an industrial line and the plant is aiming to launch by the end of the year, greatly increasing capacity.

“The laminate recycling line is the main achievement of the project, a really nice result,” says Ine. “It does not happen often within this type of European project that you get an industrial line within this timeframe. In my view it is exceptional that you get that far.”

Vinyl presents a unique challenge because you can only add a maximum of 5–10% recycled content in the backing layer using the conventional plastisol technology. After that, the viscosity of the material starts changing too much for it to be used. PVC from recycled materials behaves differently to virgin PVC and doesn’t work well, although there is work going on with extrusion and calendaring processes which might lead to a breakthrough. Recycled PVC is not compatible with the current plastisol technology, so there needs to be a shift in production technologies.

“With LVT you can add up to 100%

recycled PVC, as it is an extrusion-based technology – different from cushioned vinyl. You can use mechanically recycled materials such as window profiles or end-of-life LVT for this and the technology works well. But flexible resilient remains an issue, because you cannot just substitute virgin material with recycled vinyl.

End-of-life carpet needs to have above 85% Polyamide 6 content to make it economically viable to be recycled as a mono-material carpet. An eco-designed carpet produced by Edel Carpets was installed at FITA’s Loughborough Training Centre. Aquafil, an Italian company that for over 50 years has been a leading player in the production of Polyamide 6 and which claims to be the only company in the world to produce 100% recycled nylon, reports that technical tests have so far been successful. The carpet was recently uplifted to be assessed as an end-of-life carpet to ascertain the impact of the installed tackifier and the continuity of its recyclability.

You need the 85% Polyamide 6, which

becomes difficult if you have a carpet with a very short pile. This approach therefore will probably not be for the commercial market, but only domestic. So that looks like the main drawback of our mono-material approach so far.

“We are still looking at a separation layer approach meaning that you can combine it with a conventional backing. By melting the back of the piles you don’t need latex to fix them,” says Ine De Vilder. “If you add a separation layer, you can put a conventional backing for a carpet tile for example. This separation layer can be loosened at end-of-life by heating it, which re-melts it, allowing the separation of both layers.

“We also looked at the potential for recycling conventional carpet, that is carpet which was not designed with recycling in mind. The PolySep technology involves a solvent treatment, followed by exposure to steam, the aim being to separate the different layers. However it turned out that the pilot line was not fit for carpets, because you have to start by shredding the carpet, and this creates ➤



Flexible resilient remains an issue, because you cannot just substitute virgin material with recycled vinyl

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“So you try different things – some are successful, others are not. What you can continue to learn from these trials is the most important thing.”

Another important strand of the project, say Ine and Guy, has been to carry out an overview of tagging, looking at watermarks, QR codes, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) to see what is out there and establish the pros and cons. This aspect has been spearheaded by the German-based research institute TFI Aachen GmbH. The idea is both to provide consumer guidance about product maintenance, as well as necessary information for the recycler.

“Ideally we would have loved to come up with one solution for all flooring types, but unfortunately this has not been possible, taking into account both the economic and technical aspects. RFID is an established technology and communicates well, but it is expensive if they need to be temperature resistant. It is still the best option for carpet, as it can be embedded during production and is not visible. But there are always pros and cons to the different methods. If you use a printed label, that is not really going to work once the carpet is installed. QR codes can be easily printed on LVT or laminate planks, but are not visible during the use phase. Watermarking is very promising as it can be placed on the top side of the smooth flooring, where you cannot see it, but where it can still be read using a smart phone. Although

it works on e.g. cushion vinyl flooring, it's no good for carpet as it has no flat surface.”

Although there are different methods of achieving this, the technical solutions are workable and close to being marketed. In order to bring the system together in a digital passport, called ePRODIS (Electronic PROduct Information System), you need to standardise the content which needs to be included. This is currently the subject of discussion and, according to Ine and Guy, is the only thing that is holding back ePRODIS from going live.

Lifecycle assessments have been important as well, since they are useful in comparing conventional materials with recycled materials.

“There was a lot of interest from the focus groups in this,” says Ine De Vilder. “More than a decade ago you hardly saw any LCAs, then there was product LCA, now we are just beginning with social LCAs, so this has changed very quickly.

“It is important both to increase the proportion of recycled content and also to engineer the products so that they can be recycled for longer without losing value. If you are just adding recycled content you can do it once and that's it, but if you design the products to be recycled, then you can start creating a loop.

“For textiles we have the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes coming up. These might include more

takeback schemes, which already exist, though they are company specific. EPR will act as a driver to harmonise these takeback schemes. Producers will need to think about what to do with the waste, as they have a responsibility there. It will also be important to consider carefully an EPR scheme for carpets, as it is a totally different material from textile clothing for example.” A recently initiated European project, called Circula-Tex, is covering this issue.

Although some of the developments might have taken place without the CISUFLO project, Ine and Guy believe, in summary, that it has played an important role, particularly with regard to achieving the necessary funding and bringing everyone together collaboratively.

“The project has helped to lower the risks for the companies involved, by providing resources to enable a thorough investigation of what is feasible. It has enabled cooperation, which is the way progress is going to be made. Any company on its own can look at the technical feasibility of recycling technology, but the sector needs more than that. You have to consider the whole value chain, how waste can be collected, you need to develop the business model – there are a lot of things that need to fit together to provide circularity, and you need to consider best practice and the relevant legislation.”

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*Founded in 1918, Edel Carpets is a modern Dutch carpet manufacturer specialising in mid-to-high end flooring. The company has been a key contributor to the CISUFLO's aims to develop circular flooring and digital product passport technologies on the carpet front. We spoke to **Robbert Wapstra**, managing director of Edel Carpets.*



Specialised in high quality products with a high level of service, Edel Carpets – with almost a century of carpet manufacturing experience – has in recent years laid a clear focus on the importance of sustainability in luxurious flooring design.

One of three top producers in all of Europe, the Dutch company has a particular stake in the UK contract flooring industry as our country is the largest carpet export market from the Netherlands, accounting for around 40% of total carpet exports. The majority of Dutch carpets are produced in Overijssel, the region local to Edel Carpets, where an estimate of 70% gets made.

From the first pilot, CISUFLO set out to produce New Circular Floor Coverings (CFC) prototypes, which could then be sorted via a digital product passport. In addition to 'CLaminate', composed of >90% of recycled wood fibres, and 'CVinyl', composed of >90% recycled PVC content, the project aimed to produce 'CTextile' – a mono-material (PA) or easily separable carpet product. Edel Carpets' relevant experience proved invaluable to CISUFLO,

providing innovative samples that were tested in long-term environments by volunteers from across the project's reach, which were installed according to local standards. In the UK, FITA was more than happy to conduct testing, as our interview with CFA and FITA Training Manager Shaun Wadsworth explores in more detail.

By the sixth and final pilot, which focused on textile flooring recycling, CISUFLO aimed to manufacture the first fully circular carpet. In this respect, Edel Carpets highlights its chief achievement is its ALLOA carpets (ALL Over Again). This product, the company believes, can be totally recycled into new carpet or other high-quality products without diminishing in quality over time. It argues that the 100% recyclable design maximises the value that can be kept in the supply chain and makes it a 'true circular product'. The ALLOA carpet range actually comprises two soft and stylish polyester collections: the short, strong Eternity collection and the full, shaggy Nexus collection. These are available from www.edelcarpets.com/en/.

Edel Carpets typically also sells two polyamide carpet collections as part of the Alloa carpet range, also

of interest to CISUFLO's CTextile material research. Specifically, it has manufactured carpets using PA6. Following a change in supplier production, the company is now analysing other PA6 yarns to find a suitable replacement that can continue this activity.

This product innovation is the result of a circular loop from yarn to carpet which is at end-of-life sorted, shredded and recycled into granulate which then turns back into yarn to restart the cycle. Not only does Edel Carpets claim this recycled yarn can be used indefinitely to produce recyclable carpets, but the company also reports success in reuse for other high-quality textile products such as swimming costumes. Edel Carpets identifies a need to work with other sectors of the plastics industry, citing that as carpets represent only 3% of all plastics, it must cooperate within the bigger picture.

Through its research into textile flooring recycling research, CISUFLO aimed to develop new installation materials and techniques to ensure easy removal and post-use circularisation. ALLOA carpets can be recycled in just one step, as Edel Carpets reports, representing a significant step in ➤



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this direction. As the product can only be recycled without glue, using appropriate adhesives and installation practices, as advised in the manufacturer's guidelines, is necessary for the material value to be recovered within a circular loop.

Robbert sees the manufacturer's primary responsibility to sustainability as product design and manufacturing methods, concerned foremost with the environmental suitability of raw materials involved. He estimates that the production and purchase and processing of yarn accounts for about 70% of the company's CO2 emissions. In addition, Edel Carpets continues to investigate the ways to limit its water consumption and pollution, while offering good employer practices and governance.

Drawing from its experience with QR technologies, Edel Carpets also assisted CISUFLO's efforts to identify and sort end-of-life carpets with durable labels. The project quickly recognised it was integral that a floorcovering label doesn't deteriorate at the same rate as the floorcovering itself and remains perfectly readable at end-of-life. Although the project focused on QR technologies, a long-term option includes the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, which instead uses radio waves to wirelessly track information.

Rugs in particular present a unique challenge because of how a carpet is cut to different shapes and sizes. Identifying tags must be repeated frequently enough to

ensure it appears within an end-of-life rug when it comes time to remove and recycle it. Indeed, this requirement also must be considered for lifted carpet scraps. In its own rug manufacturing, Edel Carpets prints QR codes in a linear, repeating fashion typically every 1m.

The overall success of the CISUFLO project has been limited by the difficulty of balancing technical advances with commercial viability and industry capacities. To encourage bolder progress in the industry, Robbert argues that more action needs to be taken by governments across Europe to incentivise the supply and demand of sustainable floorcoverings and level the playing field with external competition through tariffs. The next frontier, as supported by industry and government, is, he argues, to deliver flooring that is both sustainable and affordable for a wide audience.

Robbert believes that EPR for packaging should be pursued to fund the recycling schemes necessary for a circular flooring product to not just be possible but fully practised. Better infrastructure and support would expand upon manufacturers' takeback engagement, which for Edel Carpets is currently predominated by the wholesale market, allowing more retailers and contractors to take advantage of product recyclability. However, Robbert contends that EPR for packaging should be instated based on some type of 'eco-modulated' fee; that is, that the more environmentally friendly the

product manufactured is, the less burden that manufacturer should have to carry.

Just as collaboration is the keynote of the CISUFLO project and this year's CFA Guide to Sustainability, Robbert states a willingness to take part in other future projects and is keen to continue building on developed relationships. Edel Carpets' own future focus is on continuing to develop upon the technical success of ALLOA and meet ambitious climate targets to reduce its carbon footprint by 50% every 10 years. This progression is measured by manufacturing using recycled raw materials, producing carpets suitable for circular recycling systems, greening energy consumption and using more efficient production methods and machines.

Reflecting on the CISUFLO project, Robbert declares: 'Sustainability is the key to the future success of not just Edel Carpets but all the flooring industry, and it will only continue to increase in priority. I am convinced that without sustainable products, a company won't have a product anymore to sell. As much as more progress is necessary, as the CISUFLO project comes to an end it is important to recognise much has been achieved. We will continue to innovate upon sustainable carpet technologies and support circular flooring with our stakeholders, and I am thankful to all of the parties involved in this project, in particular to the CFA and FITA for their efforts in supporting research in the UK.'



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*The CFA and its training arm, the Flooring Industry Training Association (FITA), played a key role in the progress of the development of a circular carpet (Ctextile) research workstream. We spoke to **Shaun Wadsworth**, CFA and FITA Training Manager, to find out more.*



A major point reflected in the CFA's Zero Avoidable Waste in Flooring - A Scoping Study (2021) is that collaboration is key, which the CFA believes CISUFLO made real.

Through its training arm, FITA, the two UK flooring associations have played a significant role in the project's [Pilot 6](#) – Textile Flooring Recycling research. Indeed, FITA's research trials were vital for understanding how the high polyamide (PA6) circular floorcovering prototype at the centre of the project's CTextile research might eventually come to be used in and transform the UK's flooring sector.

FITA's research trials took place from May 2024 to February 2025 across three stages: stage 1 – small, focused trials using commercial and domestic installation methods in small control areas; stage 2 – in situ testing and monitoring of larger scale trials using mainly commercial fitting techniques; and stage 3 – end-of-life suitability testing. Throughout the research process, there was great engagement from CFA members, including contractors and manufacturers, as well as support from the CISUFLO workstream including Edel Carpets and Aquafil.

The goal of stage 1 was to consider how the circular carpet might be installed in the UK across a wide range of possible requirements. It included almost a dozen installation trials under varying conditions, testing the textile floorcovering in combination with subfloors, tapes, tackifier adhesives, underlay and joins, using traditional British installation methods such as stretch fit for areas including stairs and raised floors. The results identified limitations in how reasonably the thick pile, felt-backed carpet could be installed for all purposes. With some results proving more effective than others, it was useful to narrow down the installation methods that FITA would progress for further testing.

Stage 2 tested the carpet's performance in a live site. FITA

installed 45 sqm of the prototype carpet at one of its training centre conference rooms and monitored the effects of regular traffic and wear. This lasted for six months, with the carpet in situ from July 2024 to January 2025. Over this time, FITA tracked more than 3,500-foot traffic passes using a bidirectional people counter. The trial included the installation of Radio Frequency Identification tags (RFID technology) incorporated to act as a possible method to identify the CTextile product and provide recycling information when the product reaches end of life. The ability of the tags to be read and to withstand traffic was checked with an antenna mounted in the room. It became clear, through this element of the research, that to ensure any system identified will be useful for identifying end-of-life carpets, further consideration must be given to the logistics of how frequently they appear within a floorcovering, how easily they can be read, cost and durability.

Finally, for stage 3 the carpet was uplifted and sent to Aquafil to be tested for circularity requirements – and successfully passed their criteria! This means that the product has been deemed fit to be broken down and reused in the flooring sector, creating a closed material loop.

Throughout the project, Shaun notes that the CISUFLO partners had regular meetings and kept to deliverable timelines and worked together extremely well. "It was excellent to support CISUFLO's research, which promises to offer some next steps in how we understand sustainable flooring," says Shaun. "As installation must work together with manufacturing for new products and processes to work, being able to coordinate with the supply chain and provide our feedback has been an incredibly rewarding exercise.

"Although the product demonstrates success as a recyclable, high-end domestic textile floorcovering, more research and innovation is necessary to

make this product viable for the UK's commercial flooring sector. Similarly, while the RFID technology was competent at identifying the floorcovering, more work will be required to make the technology portable and practical for everyday purposes. However, the groundwork so far has been very positive. I am interested to see how market innovation will continue with the lessons of the CISUFLO project."

Reflecting on their involvement with CISUFLO, the CFA felt that the overall organisation of the project was very positive and was pleased to be invited to witness first-hand the innovations in major European factories and research facilities. While directly involved in the CTextile workstream, regular communications across workstreams meant that they were able to see and learn about developments in the CVinyl and CLaminate pilots.

For Shaun, a highlight of the project has been how bringing different nations and work projects together has allowed for insights to be shared, whether that be lessons learned in the development of different sustainable floorcoverings, or how European processes can influence the way we think about sustainability here in the UK.

As a result of this overall collaboration, the CFA and FITA have made some very interesting overseas connections, strengthening the UK flooring sector's collaboration with the rest of Europe. Both the CFA and FITA expressed an interest in working again with the other parties in the CISUFLO project.

Shaun concludes: "We are proud that, on behalf of the CFA, FITA could help play our part in the CISUFLO project to understand how circular textile floorcoverings might be fitted and perform from a UK installation perspective, and I look forward to any continued opportunities this project could lead into."

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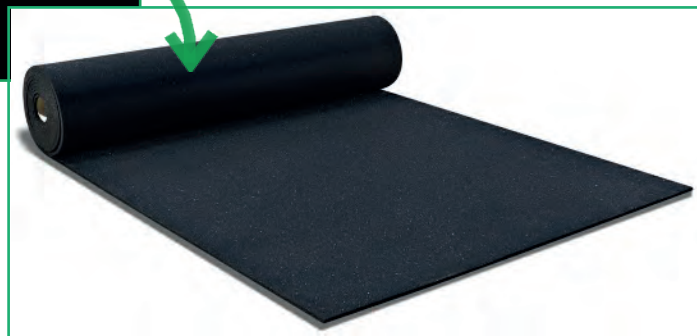


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It's everyone's responsibility

Alan McEwan, CFA president and F. Ball and Co. Ltd. technical representative, on the need to work together to achieve sustainability goals, and the importance of being proactive when it comes to making changes.



Everyone in the supply chain has a part to play in reducing the environmental impact of the flooring industry. Fortunately, we are seeing individuals and companies increasingly buying into it, both because it's the right thing to do and it makes business sense. Effecting real change requires a collective effort.

Contractors are looking to buy more sustainable products, including floorcoverings, smoothing compounds and adhesives, in part driven by demand from customers. They are also evaluating their waste management systems and finding that it is more cost-effective to recycle waste than send it to landfill. Some are even reducing their carbon footprint by investing in electric or hybrid vehicles.

Manufacturers are supporting these efforts by designing products with circularity principles in mind. Many have established recycling schemes, such as Recofloor for vinyl takeback and F. Ball's recycling scheme for plastic buckets and bottles. They are also adopting renewable energy sources like solar panels and making the switch to LED lighting. There has been a steady move away from solvents and VOCs over the past decade,

and there are already adhesives that make it easy to remove old floorcoverings to allow for recycling.

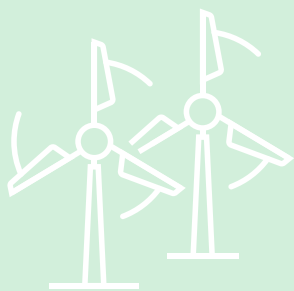
Learning and development is also important for flooring contractors to have the skills and knowledge to ensure flooring installations last as long as they should, as well as an understanding of how their businesses can operate more sustainably. For this reason, the CFA and its members have already been involved in recent revisions of the Floorlaying Apprenticeship Standard and The National Occupation Standards for Floorlaying. These include adding green skills to training and assessment plans, so topics such as sustainable waste disposal, environmental regulation and carbon footprint management are covered at apprentice level and assessed.

The CFA has an important role in sharing best practice with regard to sustainability and the environment, as well as highlighting forthcoming legislation and what it means for members, so they can prepare well in advance of it coming into effect. We also need to bring together parties in the supply chain, including manufacturers, distributors and contractors, and foster coordinated collaboration to achieve objectives.

In this guide you will find lots of ideas to make your business greener in relation to products, operations and recycling, with examples from a number of companies, and we take a look at some of the recent and upcoming legal developments. The idea is that it serves as a tool for fostering collaboration by promoting a shared understanding of best practice and standards and encouraging conversations about working together.

More legislation compelling companies to become more sustainable is inevitable in the coming years, along with greater societal pressure to minimise the environmental impact of their business activities. For those at the beginning of their sustainability journey, my advice would be to be proactive and take the lead in adopting more environmentally friendly practices now, rather than have them forced on them when it will be a lot more expensive. Access to support and advice that comes with CFA membership, including in this guide, can be particularly helpful with taking the first steps.

It is only by working together that we can effect the necessary changes and make a difference.



Contractors are looking to buy more sustainable products, including floorcoverings, smoothing compounds and adhesives

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Pioneering Change: UKSFA's vision for a sustainable tomorrow

*The United Kingdom Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA), formerly Carpet Recycling UK, has embarked on a new journey in the last 12 months under the leadership of its most recently appointed CEO, **Cathie Clarke**.*



With experience and a passion for driving collaboration and innovation within the sector, Cathie is steering the organisation towards a future defined by transformation, collaboration, and change. Against the backdrop of evolving legislation, heightened environmental concerns, and an urgent need for sustainable solutions in the flooring industry, she sees both challenges and exciting new opportunities.

Connecting people and breaking down barriers

Cathie Clarke's career has been shaped by a passion for bringing people together to create meaningful change. Her journey began in construction in 2003, where she played a key role in the Leader+ European-funded project, a £2 million initiative with a strong educational focus on traditional building skills. Recognising

the knowledge gaps in the industry, she established the Heritage Skills Hub, a social enterprise aimed at connecting construction professionals and educators to preserve historic skills and craftsmanship.

Her ability to unite stakeholders and build networks led her to the National Heritage Training Group as General Manager, where she worked to bridge the gap between training providers and industry needs. She then transitioned into trade associations, first with the Single Ply Roofing Association (SPRA) in 2015, where she tackled industry fragmentation, promoted collaboration, and expanded the association's influence in key national organisations such as Build UK and the Construction Products Association (CPA).

Cathie's experience in membership organisations, technical best practices, and advocacy, uniquely positions her to lead

UKSFA through a critical period of change. Her expertise in fostering collaboration among competitors and engaging with policymakers will be instrumental in ensuring the industry's voice is heard as new regulations take shape.

Navigating change in flooring recycling

One of the biggest challenges facing the carpet and flooring industry is the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). This legislation, which is set to reshape waste management across multiple sectors, places financial and logistical responsibility on manufacturers and distributors for the end-of-life disposal of their products. The impact on flooring is particularly significant, with potential cost implications for producers and consumers alike. Cathie sees this as a crucial moment for the industry to take control of its future.

"The EPR is coming, and it's going to change everything," Cathie explains. "Landfill tax is increasing, and we need to find viable alternatives for all flooring waste. Right now, a significant portion of textile flooring waste is burned for energy, but as the majority of textile flooring is made from synthetic fibres which are produced from oil, this is not a long-term solution. The industry must innovate to reduce waste, improve recycling rates, and create a

The EPR is coming, and it's going to change everything. Landfill tax is increasing, and we need to find viable alternatives for all flooring waste





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circular economy for flooring.”

Cathie emphasises that working together is the only way forward. UKSFA is committed to helping its members navigate the evolving legislative landscape, ensuring they stay ahead of regulatory changes while fostering sustainable practices.

A rebrand to reflect a broader mission

One of the most significant steps under Cathie's leadership is the rebranding of Carpet Recycling UK to UK Sustainable Flooring Association. A name change, she explains, is a strategic move that allows the organisation to represent the entire flooring sector in the future, whilst continuing to focus on carpet and textile flooring.

“When EPR discussions first began, the Government focused solely on carpet and textile flooring, leaving out resilient flooring like vinyl and LVT. This created an uneven playing field. We advocated for a broader, fairer approach, and now flooring as a whole is being considered. To continue influencing these decisions effectively, we need a name that accurately reflects who we represent, and what we do.”

But the rebrand is not just about optics; it's about positioning the association to best collaborate with other industry stakeholders

and lead on sustainable flooring solutions.

Cathie envisions USFKA becoming the organisation responsible for managing an EPR scheme for the flooring industry, ensuring the sector has a voice in shaping its own future, rather than having regulations imposed upon it.

Transformation, collaboration, and change

With an estimated 400,000 tons of carpet and textile flooring waste generated annually in the UK, the need for scalable recycling solutions has never been greater. Cathie is determined to drive innovation by fostering partnerships with manufacturers, recyclers, and waste management companies.

She adds: “Recycling carpet and flooring is not just about avoiding landfill; it's about creating a viable industry around it. We need to invest in research, improve collection and sorting processes, and support businesses that are developing new manufacturing and recycling technologies. If we can turn textile and flooring waste into valuable new goods, and support the industry to increase eco-designed products, we make sustainability a commercial reality.”

She is also keen on improving data collection within the industry. “Understanding what waste is out there and where it goes

is crucial. By gathering accurate data, we can create smarter policies and drive investment in recycling and reuse infrastructure.”

The collaboration between UKSFA and the CFA marks a key partnership aimed at conducting baseline research on the UK's current take-back scheme landscape. This project will explore both the commercial and local authority operations, serving as a crucial first step in understanding the challenges and identifying opportunities for industry-wide change.

Industry-wide action

Under Cathie's leadership, UKSFA is shifting from being a facilitator of conversations to an

active driver of industry-wide change. The message to members and stakeholders is clear; transformation cannot happen in silos.

“We all talk about collaboration, but it has to start within our industry. If we strengthen both our internal and external relationships, we can present a united front to the Government and regulatory bodies. This is not just about compliance; it's about future-proofing our industry. Working together makes adaptation easier, minimises costs, and ensures sustainability is embedded in everything we do.”

Cathie acknowledges that change can be daunting, but remains optimistic about the road ahead. “Yes, there are challenges. Yes, there will be costs. But if we embrace this moment, we can lead the way in sustainable flooring solutions, setting an example for other industries to follow.

“I want to inspire people with the same enthusiasm and energy as I have – to do the right thing and explore all the possibilities. We can turn adversity into an opportunity.”

As UKSFA embarks on this new chapter, the focus remains on transformation, collaboration, and change. With Cathie at the helm, the association is not just reacting to industry shifts – it is shaping them.

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Sustainability and flooring installation training

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

*CFA and FITA training manager, **Shaun Wadsworth**, says that sustainability needs to be embedded in training programs at all levels, to ensure it becomes part of the culture of our industry. CFA and FITA are committed to making this happen.*



24

The UK flooring industry is undergoing a significant transformation as sustainability continues to be seen as a defining force within the sector.

As environmental concerns and regulatory pressures, such as the UK's Net Zero Strategy, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and new building regulations targeting carbon, reshape construction practices, the demand for sustainable flooring solutions will continue to increase. So, it makes sense that the industry must also rethink how it plans to train the next generation of flooring installers, embedding sustainability at every level.

Sustainability is no longer a niche consideration within flooring and wider construction and whilst this guide has been published as far back as 2011 the importance of sustainability has increased dramatically in that time within the day-to-day activity of the Contract Flooring Association (CFA) and its members.

Government, developers, and clients are demanding

eco-friendly flooring options, driving the need for installation methods to follow suit that reduce waste, lower carbon footprints, and prioritise recyclable materials. A closer look at areas like subfloor preparation and installation methods used in Europe may be beneficial, less reliance on fully adhered systems, more loose-lay or floating floors, more clean release systems and more knowledge at installer level on underfloor heating (UFH). Innovations such as adhesive-free flooring, advanced adhesives technologies and circular economy principles within manufacturing are setting new expectations. Flooring installers must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to meet these

demands.

Price will always matter, but will this shift mean that soon wholesale rewrites of the installation standards are required and thus training standards, apprenticeship materials etc.? And what about commercial settings and high traffic areas and the part wider construction and main contractors play? All something to consider.

Traditional flooring installation techniques rightly focused on the long-term integrity of the system, product durability and safety, but perhaps less so on environmental impact. However as that focus shifts and our understanding of the need to manage our planet more effectively grows, so must



“To drive meaningful change, the entire flooring sector – including manufacturers, suppliers, training bodies, and associations, must collaborate.”



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the systems and training delivered to support our products, be that for current or future installers. The focus needs to be on a range of areas but in particular understanding material innovation and how that affects installation, waste reduction techniques, environmentally friendly application methods and finishes, and probably most importantly – lifecycle considerations. Training installers needs to include the installation of products picked for their long-term sustainability, their maintenance and end-of-life disposal. Circularity is yet to be fully embedded in our sector and that must be a driver for installation and training going forward.

By incorporating these elements into training of any type whether that be apprenticeships, private training courses or manufacturer led courses, we can ensure that the installation of products picked for their sustainability features are also installed to help with that circular commitment.

Despite the clear benefits, the transition to sustainable training is not without challenges. The industry faces a large skills and labour gap, with an ageing workforce and limited new entrants, something the CFA have been addressing directly through its Future Fitter campaign since 2022. Many experienced installers are accustomed to traditional methods and may be resistant to change. To bridge this gap, those delivering or developing must:

- Develop engaging and accessible courses that appeal to both flooring professionals and newcomers.

- Provide first-hand experience with the latest sustainable materials.
- Align programs with sustainability standards, competency standards and formal qualifications ensuring that eco-conscious training becomes the industry norm.

To drive meaningful change, the entire flooring sector – including manufacturers, suppliers, training bodies, and associations, must collaborate. Manufacturers can lead the way by supporting their developed, innovative and sustainable materials with training providers and programs that provide correct product knowledge and practical demonstrations. Beginning the work from some common ground that still allows manufacturers to innovate, design and create beautiful products with USPs. But to ensure productivity, and control installation costs, we probably need to maintain some of that common ground in the re-imagining of installation with the CFA and its training arm FITA being the perfect vehicle to support.

Training providers also need to ensure that courses, apprenticeships and qualifications reflect the latest industry developments and align with current and future environmental regulations. A unified approach will accelerate progress and create a workforce capable of delivering on sustainability goals, something CFA aims to facilitate through knowledge sharing and continued signposting of UK industry-wide standards for sustainable practices.

CFA, through its training arm FITA and various working groups, has committed

to taking the necessary steps and lead by example, championing and supporting these green installation methods by ensuring they are represented in all aspects of the training and competency sectors. This will see development of future and current FITA courses and a proposal to all training providers and manufacturers providing training to do the same to evolve content and delivery in step with sustainability requirements.

CFA has also engaged in projects relating to circular production methods through the CISUFLO project over the past five years, working alongside partners in Europe to establish not only circular products but also the correct installation methods too. Although that project has now been completed, the lessons learnt, and products developed will inevitably impact installation methods for floorcoverings in the future and CFA actively played its part in supporting members and the wider sector.

The future of flooring installation is undeniably green. By embracing circularity, material innovation, digital tools, and forward-thinking education, the sector can future proof itself while playing a vital role in reducing environmental impact. Those who adapt early will not only meet regulatory demands but will also lead the industry into a more sustainable and profitable future, something CFA is keen to drive with the support of its members and the wider flooring industry.

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Flooring contractors can legitimately claim that their hands are to some extent tied when it comes to sustainability. They can only work with the products that are available from manufacturers and specified by architects or clients on each job. Nonetheless contractors are finding that, by collaborating and cooperating with industry partners, they can make a difference. We spoke to some leading contractors about how things are changing in the sector, while there are still many challenges ahead on the road to improved sustainability.

Shared commitment is critical to the success of circularity within the contract flooring sector. As Louise Walters, commercial director for Designer Contracts, the UK's largest flooring contractor explains here, working with customers, contractors, suppliers and staff is at the very heart of their drive towards Net Zero.

Collaboration and co-operation with industry colleagues – both external and internal – are essential for achieving sustainability goals.

Customers increasingly prioritise environmentally responsible practices, so companies must align their operations to meet these expectations. Partnering with suppliers who share a commitment to sustainable practices ensures that raw materials and resources are responsibly sourced. And contractors, as integral stakeholders, are key

to implementing sustainable practices on the ground. We also believe that our in-house colleagues have a vital role to play in the journey.

Designer Contracts works extensively across a range of sectors where customers look to their supply chain to share information and data, not only in terms of their own carbon performance, but in gathering information on procurement standards, materials selection, product design and the manufacturing process.

Our mutual customers expect us to help them make greener choices when it comes to flooring, and we need to think about how we can do this collectively. We all want carpet to remain a staple when it comes to flooring within domestic dwellings and how sustainable a product is – from cradle to grave – is vital to achieving this.



Recycling bales at Kettering CDC

As well as customers, we also work closely with Innovate Recycle, a recycling company which has invested heavily in state-of-the-art machinery/technology to develop a circular solution, producing plastic pellets from carpet waste for the plastics industry. According to Innovate, more than 500,000 tonnes of end-of-life carpet is produced in the UK each year, and, for the first time, there is now a way, at volume, to deconstruct carpet and enable the reuse of its constituent materials in a wide range of industrial supply chains.

To maximise the recyclability and/or reuse of carpet going forward relies on manufacturers aligning with an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) so that they are designing and manufacturing with this in mind.

We have high hopes that our partnership with Innovate will ultimately enable us to further improve our long-established and multi-award-winning carpet recycling scheme which has been recognised with some 15 different awards and commendations over the last 10 years.

The scheme has evolved significantly since we introduced it in 2015, and we now have a robust system that operates across our national regional network of warehouses. It is has taken a huge amount of time and effort to get to where we are and forms part of our drive for circularity, key to which is supplying high performance products which can be recycled effectively.

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journey saw us trial and roll out two new LVT takeback schemes nationally where the manufacturers provide a solution for recycling any LVT waste. The waste is returned and then either recycled back into the production process or sent on for repurposing into items such as traffic cones and bollards.

As a company we strive to have a sustainable supply chain and partner with suppliers and manufacturers committed to reducing waste and supporting a circular economy. We are committed to working with the industry to develop sustainability within flooring and look forward to the changes that we can make together.

One example of a sustainable product in our industry and included within our own portfolio is an underlay made from 85 percent recycled fibres (plastic bottles) which is an eco-friendly alternative to PU foam, felt and rubber underlay. Introduced back in 2019, the launch was the result of another close and long running partnership with Think Group. As a result, Designer Contracts has now diverted

over three million plastic bottles from landfill. Other recent new product introductions use 100% recycled polypropylene yarn or 100% recycled polyester.

Exploring new ways of saving waste and energy extends to our own people too, a good example being the success of our Sustainability Champions scheme. Introduced a year ago, it has cut our energy usage by more than 10%.

The in-house campaign to promote sustainability in the workplace, has saved the company some 63,737-kilowatt hours, with total energy usage slashed by 11.35%. Representatives from each region, warehouse and head office were given accountability for monitoring and recording energy usage and waste invoices to maximise the company's sustainability savings throughout the year.

This was an important new initiative for us in 2024 and supports our drive towards Net Zero. Thanks to the success of the first year, this is a scheme we plan to repeat in 2025 and beyond.

We have also updated our feature and benefit sheets to help customers understand how products we supply impact the environment. Any sustainable elements are highlighted with a fern icon, including whether the product has a certified EPD and any other green feature. Where EPDs have not been created, we have asked suppliers for further information to support what other environmental benefits there are. These include: the percentage of recycled content; if the product is made in the UK; if it is manufactured using low VOCs; if it is manufactured in a factory powered by wind turbines; if it has a Eurofins Indoor air quality certification or similar; or membership of the UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA), formerly Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK).

The quest for circularity is an ongoing and far-reaching process. But only by integrating sustainability into every step of their operations can companies drive industry-wide change and build a more sustainable future.

According to Tony Mathé, Director of Hillside Contracts and a former President of the CFA: "The cultural landscape has moved massively in the last ten years, turning sustainability into an active conversation across sites and a key area where collaboration is required."

"It is a leading concern for architects and surveyors, and is increasingly acknowledged by main contractors and manufacturers alike. Of course, we play our own part as a flooring contractor," he says.

"Most projects have skips and we encourage our floorlayers to fill recycling bags as provided by manufacturers, especially on small projects. Recofloor bags are a common sight, and there are a number of other takeback schemes too. Once full, these bags are easy enough to send off, making it just a step in our routine.

"As a result of these changes, there is less material going to landfill and more being recycled, which is a clearly positive trend. These numbers will only continue to improve as sustainable products and practices are normalised. Main contractors are also working to facilitate more recycling, no question about it.

"On the product side, looselay floorcoverings are an emerging trend, as more and more manufacturers and specifiers are looking at products that can be easily lifted and recycled at end-of-life. Though as a finishing trade cost remains a key challenge for specifications, since adhesive-free options reduce subfloor preparation, making flooring easy to install, they are often a cost and time saving material. We see this trend growing especially as looselay LVT is regularly specified over access floors, omitting the need for plywood.

"Looselay is not ideal for installations where heavy



use areas such as corridors require a stronger fix. The same styles of floorcovering products continue to be as popular as ever. It is therefore important that sustainability isn't just contained to a few niche products, but continues to be developed across products for any scenario.

"In general, stick-down flooring is easy enough to recycle. Contaminated waste is much harder, so it would be good to see new developments and innovations that could address this problem.

"It is sometimes my concern that sustainability on site is just a tick box exercise, but since everyone wants to play their part for the environment, I feel that we are getting better at taking a considered approach to sustainability across the supply chain. When you consider how much change there has been in just a decade, there is cause for optimism. Overall, I would say that sustainability progress is moving at about the right speed."



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Mats and Floors

Jonathan Wells, Contracts Manager at Leicester-based J&S Flooring, believes that, for all the talk about sustainability, there is still a very long way to go before the contract flooring industry can say it has really got to grips with this issue and is making a meaningful contribution to national sustainability goals.

Jonathan quotes the example of a recent project his company was involved in. This was a large university library where 4,500sqm of carpet tiles were to be replaced. J&S advised that a particular carpet tile from a major British manufacturer should be used, who undertook to take back all the uplifted flooring into their own recycling scheme, which would have avoided this large amount of carpet tiles going into landfill.

The client however chose a tile of a slightly different colour from another manufacturer, who did not operate such a scheme, resulting in all the uplifted carpet tiles going to landfill.

"This pattern is still repeated up and down the country many times unfortunately," says Jonathan Wells. "The amount of carpet tiles still going into landfill is shocking frankly, and quite surprising, given the amount of time we have been talking about recycling in this industry."

This does show that education is required at all levels from the flooring contractors through to the clients themselves.

"Ultimately it's down to the client of course,

when it comes to specifying a product," says Jonathan Wells. "We understand that they will require a particular look, but they sometimes need to be more aware of the implications of their decisions."

J&S Flooring was founded in 1976, so has seen the development of interest in recycling and sustainability right from the start. Jonathan Wells believes contractors are quite limited in what they can do. They normally do not have the space to store large quantities of uplifted flooring products or adhesive containers. They also often don't have the budget or the time to deal with this waste.

But what he thinks would make a difference would be if manufacturers step up and work together more closely on two fronts. Firstly they need to accelerate the adoption of recycled materials into their products and secondly they need to pool their resources and efforts into more effective recycling schemes, enabling companies to recycle uplifted products made by manufacturers other than themselves.

"This would be a fantastic thing," says Jonathan Wells. "Schemes such as Recofloor are great, but they are still too small. We need to find a way of adopting the principles behind Recofloor on a truly industry-wide basis. Regarding adhesives, at the moment even the largest distributors might only operate bins from a single adhesive manufacturer. It's the same with the latex smoothing compounds.

"A greater focus on plastics recycling would be very positive, such as for example a collaboration between manufacturers who use the same type of plastics from adhesive containers to smoothing compound liquid containers. This would enable the recycling of containers from any of the main manufacturers in one mixed recycle bin. Contractors throw away thousands of smoothing compound 5 litre liquid containers per year, for instance, not to mention large quantities of old adhesive buckets."

"Can manufacturers' schemes be extended? At the moment everything is very disjointed, which is holding us back. There has to be a workable and realistic way of bringing all this together, across different sectors – manufacturing, distributing and contracting.

"In the meantime I always tell my fitters to use the recycling bins, if available, but this needs to become more part of the industry culture, part of the training programmes that new entrants to our industry go through."

At the end of the day, as well as being the moral thing to do, improvement on sustainability is also a sales technique. The issue is set to stay top of the agenda, and contractors who can show that they are being proactive will be the ones who will be most successful in the battle for the sales of the future.





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At Veitchi Flooring, sustainability is not just a target – it's a core value integrated into every aspect of its operations. Achieving Gold Membership status with the Supply Chain Sustainability School and maintaining accreditation to the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System standard are key milestones that reflect Veitchi's commitment to continuous environmental improvement.

"Our sustainability journey gained real momentum in 2018," say group operations manager Colin Simpson and flooring contract manager Ed Murison. "This was when we made a strategic decision to embed measurable and impactful environmental practices across the business. Since then, we've taken deliberate steps – both on-site and off-site – to drive progress, reduce our environmental footprint, and contribute to a more sustainable construction industry."

"One of the first major changes came in 2019, when we transitioned to energy-efficient, battery-powered tools across our sites. This switch not only reduced carbon emissions, but also improved health and safety outcomes by lowering vibration exposure and eliminating trailing cables. At the same time, we upgraded 24 vehicles in our fleet to lower-emission models, reinforcing our commitment to cleaner transportation."

"On our larger projects, we've seen the greatest strides in sustainable practices, often in collaboration with tier 1 main



contractors who now consistently prioritise environmental performance and employ dedicated environmental managers. Mobile recycling bins are now a standard feature on these sites, improving waste segregation and promoting circular waste practices. While

implementing the same on smaller sites can be challenging due to logistical constraints, we are actively advocating for broader adoption of sustainable practices across all project sizes and contractor tiers."

In the meantime, Veitchi Flooring claims to



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Aberdeen FC's Cormack Park Training Facility

take full responsibility for its waste. It operates a Waste Carrier Licence, maintains waste collection infrastructure at all its premises, and currently achieves an impressive 97% landfill diversion by tonnage at its Cambuslang headquarters.

"Our commitment is best exemplified by our work on the Baird Family Hospital and ANCHOR Centre project," say Colin and Ed. "There, we installed over 23,000sqm of Polyflor vinyl and diverted approximately 2,300sqm of material from landfill. By returning 28 Recofloor bins – each with a

capacity of 1,100 litres – we saved 9 tonnes of vinyl from waste. Through our participation in the F. Ball Recycling Scheme, we also prevented the equivalent of 14,000 plastic bottles from entering the waste stream. This effort was recognised with the Recofloor 2025 Project of the Year Award.

"Sustainability at Veitchi Flooring goes beyond materials and recycling. During early design discussions for the Baird & ANCHOR project, our team proposed 20mm corner curves in hospital corridors – smaller than the standard 40mm – to reduce trolley

damage and extend flooring lifespan. We also substituted latex-based screeds with low-VOC, water-based alternatives, further minimising harmful emissions."

"Innovation continues across a range of projects. At Aberdeen FC's Cormack Park Training Facility, a facility opened by Sir Alex Ferguson in 2019, we laid loose-lay vinyl flooring throughout the £12 million centre. This method provided the durability required for high-traffic areas – especially those subject to studded footwear – while also offering ease of future uplift and reuse, aligning with circular economy principles."

"Our sustainability efforts extend to our own facilities. Our head office has recently installed photovoltaic solar panels and EV charging outlets, with other branches exploring similar upgrades. At our Stirling branch, a switch from single to double-glazed windows has improved energy efficiency, and designated Energy Officers across all sites actively monitor and optimise resource consumption.

"Sustainability is considered in every decision we make," says Colin. "It's about more than just compliance; it's a standing item in our team conversations and a constant driver for change. We've built a culture where anyone can contribute an idea to improve our environmental performance – and we act on it."

Veitchi Flooring Ltd look forward to continuing our progress and working alongside partners who share our vision for a greener future.



Aberdeen FC's Cormack Park Training Facility



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FLOORING
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For Westcotes Flooring Company Ltd, taking a leading approach to sustainability in its recycling services and fleet is a critical effort, says Carl Harper, managing director and immediate Past President of CFA.

Westcotes Flooring carefully considers sustainability across its operations, from product sourcing to waste management. Purchasing 'best practice' products that eliminates plastic packaging wherever possible and floorcovering material is recycled through recovery schemes. Since joining the Recofloor Vinyl Take-Back Scheme, Westcotes Flooring has recycled large volumes of vinyl

flooring this year, saving 5.24 tonnes of CO₂. Westcotes Flooring also won Highly Commended for Project of the Year and achieved a Bronze Award for waste collection at Recofloor Awards 2025.

In a recent project at Colchester Hospital, Westcotes Flooring diverted 86.18m³ using the Proplex Closed Loop Remanufacturing scheme, resulting in an atmospheric carbon saving (WtE) of 57 CO₂ or the equivalent of 2,846 trees, as well as recovered 2.50 tonnes of material using the Recofloor Vinyl Take-Back Scheme, saving a further 2.93 tonnes of CO₂. In addition, Westcotes Flooring uses the



Forbo Back to the Floor programme and the F. Ball Recycling Scheme, as well as donating offcuts to FITA for it to use for training purposes, helping to support the sector's training efforts.

Furthering its circular approach to floor installation, Westcotes Flooring is proud to use adhesive-free magnetic tab technology where possible for its carpet tile installations which covers only 4% of the floor, enabling quick and clean uplift of flooring with no adhesive contamination to either the floorcovering or subfloor. This means that the flooring can be either recycled or reused.

Reducing transport emissions has been



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Marlings Take Back Programme ensures uplifted carpet tiles are diverted from landfill and incineration, for use in social housing and charitable properties.

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*We ensure that no carpet tiles taken back through the Marlings Take Back scheme will ever go to landfill or incineration.**

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01

02

03

04



40

a key focus for Westcotes Flooring, helping to set the contractor apart. Westcotes Flooring demonstrates it has a strong commitment to sustainability within its fleet operations. The company is switching to hybrid and electric vehicles each time a new vehicle is required and has installed 5 charging ports across its 2 offices. Plus, it supports both car and van sharing wherever possible within the business. Westcotes Flooring takes notice of companies also working to develop environmentally friendly fleets, such as Instarmac's growing use of CNG (compressed natural gas) vehicles.

Despite this progress, Westcotes Flooring notes that there are continued challenges with getting main contractors to buy into sustainability. Though it is proactive in advocating for environmentally friendly decisions and offering sustainability advice, Westcotes Flooring frequently experiences pushbacks based on both cost

and the extra effort required to implement the schemes. There can also be difficulties with the contamination of waste, where other contractors are putting rubbish into its recycling bags.

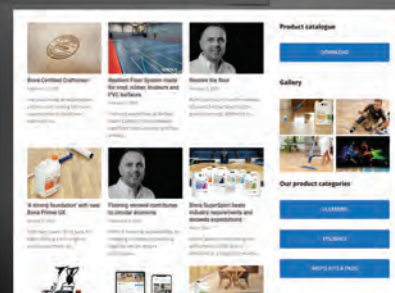
Yet, these problems seem to be less frequent among tier 1 contractors on larger projects. For instance where they have long-term maintenance contracts on the building, such as 20 years, main contractors are also more likely to make investments for installing flooring that is easier to maintain, lift and recycle, as they will directly see the benefit. As for its own installers, Westcotes Flooring ensures they know to minimise waste and make proper use of recycling bags. Rising trends, such as interlocking loose-lay tiles, adhesive free LVT and vinyl and many other products, continue to provide new methods and opportunities for Westcotes Flooring and other contractors to deliver sustainability principles in flooring projects.

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The challenge for flooring manufacturers is to achieve sustainability by maximising the use of recycled and recyclable materials as far as possible, while also maintaining durability, longevity and the required performance characteristics which the market requires. We talk to some leading manufacturers about how they are managing this balancing act, while in many cases working with partners in the recycling and reuse of their products.

The future of the flooring industry will depend on collaboration

By David Lever,
Altro's Sustainability Manager

In the starkest terms, there is no way we will achieve what the world needs without working together to achieve it, and that applies across all construction and manufacturing sectors.

Although there is a lot to be done, we do have some really good initiatives and collaborations already happening, one of the most successful being Recofloor. Established in 2009 following a WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) funded pilot scheme looking at how to increase the collection and recycling of vinyl flooring waste which involved all the UK vinyl flooring manufacturers.

When the trial came to an end, Altro and Polyflor committed to taking the scheme forward and to providing funding, agreeing that the best way to tackle sustainability was through collaboration. The outcome was the Recofloor initiative: a simple-to-use, national take-back scheme that makes the most of reverse logistics to minimise any additional CO₂ emissions.

Fifteen years on and the scheme continues to grow in popularity, and that's largely because it's a very well thought-through concept, and it resonates with main contractors as sustainability measures are planned in at the front end and not left to the last minute.

It is a scheme recognised for its innovation outside of the flooring industry too, picking up a number of global awards, and it has been replicated around the world with schemes such as Resiloop in Australia drawing on knowledge and experience from Recofloor in its development, and setting up with a number of flooring manufacturers around the table.

An openness and willingness to share is of course essential for collaboration to work. Starting from the viewpoint that sustainability within the industry is a 'must have', not a 'nice to have', at Altro we've shared best practice as we look to make a solid recycle supply chain for the future. However, there will be limits to the positive impact individual companies can have without policy being in place to back that up.

All things being equal, almost everyone would choose a sustainable option over a less sustainable option, but as we know, all things are not equal, and there is often a literal price to pay for making a more responsible choice.

Unfortunately, the first things to go when

a budget reduces are the things that cost more and aren't immediately visible, such as commitments to using recycling schemes. We see this as well in changes to specifications: an architect makes a sustainable choice, a main contractor may value engineer it, and even if the characteristics of that specification are protected all the way through, the contractor installing the product could make changes and the end user may not necessarily ever know.

So, policy, and enforcement of that policy, is essential – if a recycling scheme is non-negotiable, then it will get used, and that's something we already see in those isolated pockets where the client requires sustainability as a priority. Policy change requires collaboration and consultation with the industry, looking at cost-effectiveness, as well as what is realistically achievable to deliver.



Across our teams at Altro – specification consultants, business development consultants, main contractor consultants – everyone knows the importance of sustainability and has a responsibility to influence around that at every touch point. We've seen projects take 4 or 5 years to get from initial enquiry to specification made, with many different people involved along the way, so we all need to be on the same page.

More widely across the industry we need collaboration too. We should not be letting sustainability be the first thing to go, but that means everyone pulling in the same direction and talking about these key topics. Product longevity has a big part to play in sustainability – as we know, 'buy cheap, buy twice'. If everyone is working to the higher

standards required then there is less risk to specifications being lost to something less sustainable but significantly cheaper. It should not be about who gets there first, but that we all get there together.

With recycling becoming an ever more important part of the industry, there are some really pragmatic issues around identification of materials that until resolved will hold things back, and they will require collaboration and policy change too. After all, if you don't know what a material is, how do you know what to do with it at the end of life?

This is an area we can look to examples from other sectors – for example, the motor industry has a central database with all components in every vehicle logged, right through to the raw materials, chemical composition of plastics involved, recycling information and more, and everyone in the industry buys into it. When a vehicle is disposed of, this information is easily accessible so better decisions can be made with every part of it.

For flooring, there are practical challenges with this. With a 40m roll, where and how do you add identifiers? All the way across, and for the whole length? What about weld rods and other components? We will as an industry need collaboration to solve these conundrums for how we label and identify materials for disposal and recycling, so we know how to dispose of materials and what can be incorporated back into products.

If everything can be identified – through QR codes, labels, digital codes, whatever that may look like – then the right choices can be made. Or if there are detailed plans or a site book with the fine details of everything on that job that gets handed over and stays with a building for its entire life, then the owner can maintain that and know where to go when it comes to renovation or demolition. Disposal information is critical, and currently relies on someone to ask the right questions, when realistically, it needs legislation to make it happen.

What we can do right now as an industry is collaborate to share our knowledge and understanding. At Altro that's built into what we do, whether it's influencing the next generation of contractors through our training school, developing and promoting adhesive-free flooring options that reduce waste or promoting circular economy and awareness of sustainability.

www.altro.com/uk/sustainability/sustainability-report



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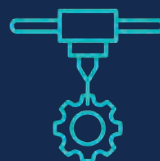
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Sustainability, durability and design excellence are key for Swedish hardened wood flooring manufacturer Bjelin

Woodura® technology, developed by Bjelin's sister company Vålinge Innovation, lies behind the Swedish company's hardened wood flooring range. The great idea of Woodura is that it is based on making more out of less. We spoke to Hannes Boman, Head of Design at Bjelin to find out how this design philosophy feeds into the company's mission to bring more sustainable wood flooring products to market and operate a more sustainable business.

If we consider how a traditional parquet product is made, the basic process involves sawing the individual lamellas, so first of all these are quite thick, and secondly from each lamella you get a lot of fine particles as a result of the sawing process. This is wasteful and, because you are working with a thicker lamella, you are getting less surface area out of the log in the end.

The principle of the Woodura technology is that you are slicing the lamellas, so there is no waste. The process allows you to use a really thin top layer, meaning you can get ten times more surface area out of the log, compared with a traditional parquet product.

"Both of these factors together allow you to make more out of less," says Hannes Boman.

Another factor is about ensuring that what you make lasts longer as well. That is the hardening process and is key to the Woodura technology.

"We are hardening the top layer so it gets three times harder than the traditional parquet product," says Hannes Boman. "This means it is very resistant to indentations and damage. We understand that if you buy a product which is made in a really environmentally friendly way, but it has to be changed after two or three years, then that is not good for the environment."

Consideration should also be given to the raw material itself. Bjelin works with FSC™-



certified wood from the Croatian forest, which is responsibly managed.

"FSC is a label from a recognised third party. They check how the forest is harvested and verify that it is sustainable. Our factories in Croatia are very close to the forest. No log is transported more than a few kilometres from the forest to the sawmills, and the basic principle is about ensuring that you have more growth in the forest than you actually take down, saving critical areas of the forest to maintain biological diversity. So it's about keeping the forest healthy."

The company also makes sure that it fully utilises all the parts of the log, using different gradings and formats, because this approach is crucial, if you want to use the whole log. Bjelin is known in the market for its large full plank formats, but in order to meet market demand and help use all of the log, it has added a number of smaller formats.

"We started with the XL and XXL formats," say Hannes Boman, "but now we have Large, Medium and Small, as well as Herringbone. This means that we can make use of a lot more of the log."

Bjelin also uses the parts of the log which are unusable as planks in its production processes.

"The bark mainly goes for the production of energy, which is used for heating our factories and also drying the wood," says Hannes Boman.

"Also you have to split the log in various sections to get the slicing cut and that does produce some sawdust. We use this in the powder, which goes underneath the veneer as part of the Woodura technology. In this way, waste products can be recycled."

If any waste that is produced can be used to make new products, that is the ideal solution. In fact the Woodura technology not only uses waste produced by Bjelin, but also waste material from other companies' production processes.

Some of the colours which the company develops, for example, are achieved by sourcing waste from cacao bean production, which is readily available and is also inexpensive, showing that being sustainable can be cost-effective as well.

Looking to the future, Bjelin is running trials on even thinner veneers than its current 0.6mm standard, which is already market leading in terms of its economical use of materials.

Bjelin firmly believes that sustainability and innovation go hand in hand. One of sister company Vålinge Innovation's new technologies, Nadura®, started as a recycling project.

Bjelin's aim is always to produce a more aesthetic product which is also more durable – this shows that innovation, design and sustainability go hand-in-hand at Bjelin.

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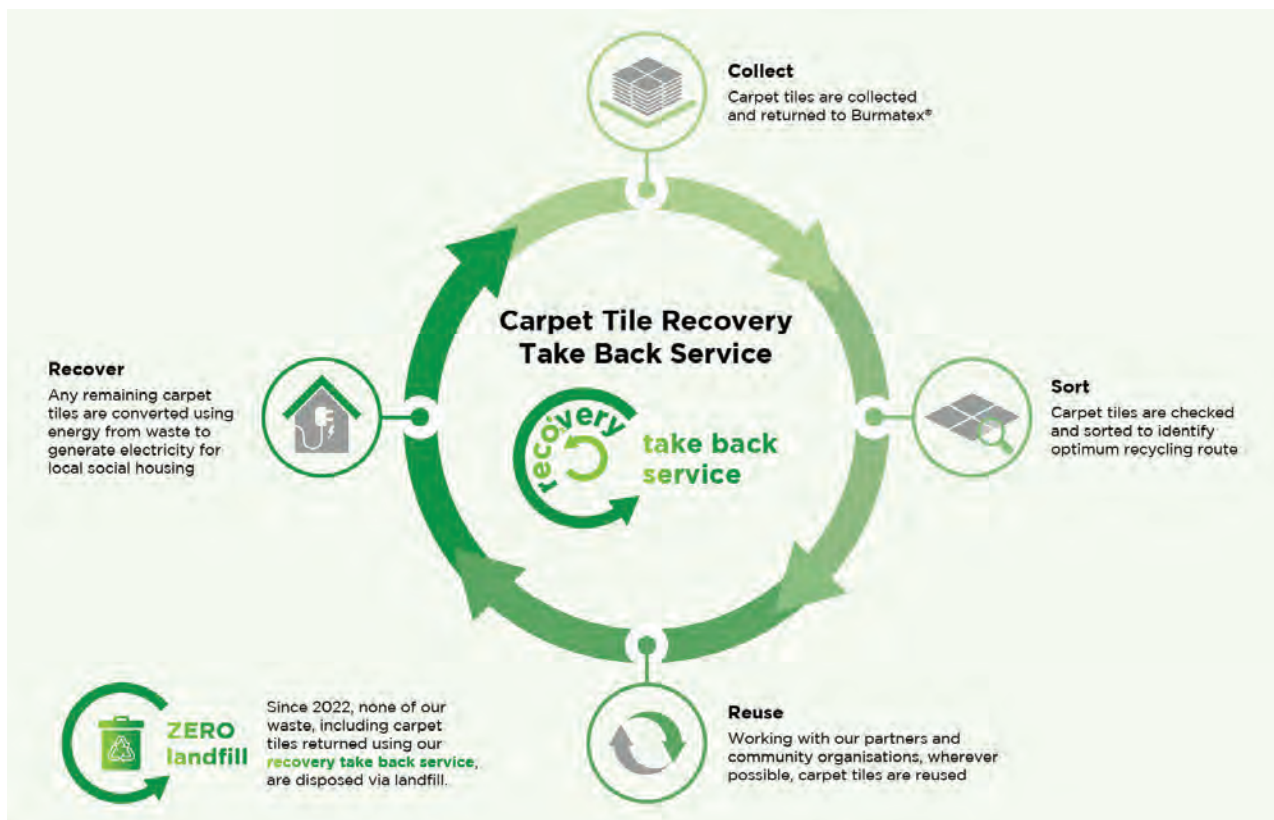
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Burmatex®: Driving sustainability through innovation and collaboration

Collaboration is one of Burmatex's® core values, alongside principles, agility, and excellence.

It plays a key role in how the company approaches sustainability through its eco2matters® programme. Through working closely with both internal teams and external partners, Burmatex® is focused on making carpet tiles a more sustainable flooring choice through focused development across several key areas.

Yarn Technology

Yarn is the single biggest contributor to the carbon footprint of a carpet tile, so in 2021 Burmatex® made a clear commitment: all new products would be made using low carbon yarn. Through close collaboration with suppliers and advances in material science, the company now uses a range of low carbon yarns – including one that's carbon negative – to help reduce the overall impact of its products.

In partnership with Universal Fibers®, Burmatex® was the first company to launch carbon neutral ranges using their Thrive® matter yarn, a recycled yarn certified to C2C Material Health Certificate™ Silver. Thrive® matter is recognised as the world's first carbon negative recycled yarn.

Carbon negative yarns not only eliminate the carbon associated with the yarn itself, but also help offset the remaining carbon in the carpet tile through measures taken at source.

Burmatex® is also now using EgoBalance®, a 100% recycled biogenic yarn from B.I.G, made from organic waste sourced from renewable materials.

Backing Systems

Backing systems can also play a significant role in reducing the overall carbon footprint of a carpet tile. For example, Burmatex® has developed a low carbon backing in collaboration with the University of Huddersfield. It incorporates locally sourced, recycled organic materials, including industrial waste that would otherwise have gone to landfill and uses 100% organic, non-vinyl polymer binders and fillers, and contains a minimum of 77% recycled content. The combination of recycled inputs and efficient production processes also means it requires less energy to manufacture, contributing further to carbon reduction.

Carbon Neutral Carpet Tiles

"On our journey to Net Zero we must find new ways of reducing our carbon emissions, to help tackle climate change, and reduce global warming," says John Doherty, Head of Marketing. "Independently verified products are key to achieving this."

As part of its carbon neutral strategy, Burmatex® believes that understanding the true carbon footprint of its products is essential. This is why they made a significant commitment to product-specific Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), rather than relying on generic or category-level data.

The company believes that independent third-party verification provides essential reassurance and transparency. This enables more informed and confident decision-making for customers, while allowing Burmatex® to take meaningful action to reduce emissions and introduce carbon neutral carpet tile

ranges.

All Burmatex® EPDs are available via the company's website and published on the International EPD System at www.environdec.com

Recovery Take Back Service

Burmatex® explains that it designs its products with the circular economy in mind – and its Recovery Take Back Service enables customers to play an active role in supporting the circular economy.

When it's time to refresh a floor, this service gives used carpet tiles a new lease of life. In partnership with others, the company aims to find a new home for tiles in good condition, such as supporting community organisations in need of low-cost flooring.

Where reuse isn't possible, tiles are instead used to generate energy for local housing, ensuring that nothing goes to landfill.

Investing in sustainable manufacturing

Continual investment in facilities helps ensure that manufacturers have the capacity and processes to meet the demand for sustainable floorcoverings. As Burmatex® is demonstrating, as part of its £5 million investment in its manufacturing facilities in Ossett, West Yorkshire – with completion of the full programme expected in 2025 – new facilities should focus on improving sustainability credentials by utilising energy more efficiently. Responsible manufacturing must be able to meet customer demand and be ready for future requirements.

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www.kenburn.co.uk

Reuse and recycling – we can't do it alone

Reuse and recycling are popular buzz words when it comes to sustainability but achieving them on the ground calls for a unified approach. Here, Donna Hannaway, Head of Marketing UK and Ireland at Forbo Flooring Systems explores how the industry needs to be working together if we are to achieve material circularity.

As manufacturers, we have an important role to play in assisting the wider flooring and interior design industries with greener specifications. We are responsible for investing, researching and developing innovative solutions, material sourcing, new production techniques and machinery, and alternative installation methods. At the heart of this is the rise of adhesive-free flooring solutions.

Renowned for reducing installation time by as much as 50%, adhesive-free solutions can also help to facilitate a more circular approach. As well as being quick to install, they are easy to uplift and remove, with the modular nature and lack of adhesive enabling a smoother recycling process.

That said, the true benefits of material circularity cannot be realised or achieved in isolation. There is a clear need for companies and organisations – both within the flooring industry and wider sectors – to collaborate. Whether it is through the implementation of reuse or recycling schemes, we need to close the loop, together.

Take recycling as an example. Presently, only 10-20% of the carpet tiles and vinyl produced worldwide are currently recyclable. While this is an obstacle for manufacturers to resolve, the actual process of recycling materials does require some element of collaboration and buy-in from the wider industry. 'Back to the Floor' schemes, like those which Forbo currently run, encourage customers to return unwanted samples and installation off-cuts, for recycling or reuse. While a hugely positive step forward for the industry and lessening the demand for



new, raw materials, it does need flooring contractors, installers and customers to also see the value and get involved.

Reuse is another core principle at the heart of material circularity. Given the market emphasis on manufacturing high-quality flooring solutions for commercial applications, each product can have a very long lifespan. Commercial buildings, whether that be an office or retail store, can be refurbished regularly, whether to adapt to changing needs, trends or different building occupiers. As a result, you will often find that the existing flooring is lifted up and removed, potentially with years of service life still left in it.

Rather than being disposed of in landfill, reusing the floor covering can help to reduce waste and contribute to a more circular economy. But where does the flooring go in this instance?

Here again, collaboration on an industry level is essential if reuse is to be achieved both efficiently and effectively. By working closely and partnering with local charities and organisations, we can ensure that the value of the flooring and the energy and resources put into its production is not wasted.

The Salvation Army Trading Company

(SATCoL) Take Back scheme is a great example of this in action, whereby surplus modular flooring, lifted from corporate refurbishment and renovation projects, can be donated. Distributed to the charity's furniture shops around the UK, the scheme provides local communities with easy access to affordable and high-quality flooring.

Originally launched in 2023, the Salvation Army reports a phenomenal success so far, with the large demand showing just how much need there is in the community. As well as the clear social value, helping to support the most vulnerable families and helping to improve their living conditions, the initiative is also great for the environment, providing a second life to flooring that may otherwise be sent to landfill.

As the largest charity owned textile collector in the UK, SATCoL diverts over 250 million items to good uses every year, including over 65,000 tonnes of textiles. The profits SATCoL raises are donated to The Salvation Army to continue to support the work they do throughout the UK.

At Forbo Flooring Systems, we're proud to have partnered with the Salvation Army charity, donating surplus carpet tiles. We also have numerous recycling schemes in place, with 364 tones of flooring recycled across various markets, as well as continuing to drive the implementation of economically viable take-back schemes, since not all materials can be infinitely recycled.

For us, collaboration is essential if the true value of these schemes are to be realised. The more organisations and charities we can engage with and the more customers we can get on board, the greater for the planet.

To learn more about Forbo and sustainability, please visit the below website:

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YEARS of INNOVATION

Taking steps towards a circular economy

By David Papworth, general manager, Junckers Ltd

It's no secret that we hold our network of contractors in the highest esteem – without their expertise, we know our flooring wouldn't achieve its full potential.

As a manufacturer, our long-established relationships with flooring professionals include both installers and maintenance contractors, and in the last few years, reclaimed flooring specialists. You might wonder why this is, surely we'd rather sell more new floors than reclaim those no longer needed? Well, no, I believe there's room for both.

I work for a company that has always been committed to working alongside nature in a responsible way – many of our sustainability measures have been in place for decades. Even so, we're always looking for new ways to do things better, and I think it's our collective responsibility, globally, to do so.

One of my company's key messages, and indeed one of the core strengths of its products, is longevity. We often talk about how our floors will last for decades if not centuries and when in the last few years we started seeing social media posts about our floors being reclaimed and reused, we thought there was a chance to facilitate the process to make it easier and more commonplace to salvage a floor when it was no longer needed.

We set up a Reuse Scheme to give as much flooring as possible a new lease of life. The scheme is two-pronged. Acting as liaison, with no financial benefit, we connect reclaimed flooring specialists with contractors replacing one of our floors. The floor is then expertly lifted, ready for the contractor to lay a new floor. The reclaimed floor is removed from site and readied for re-sale. And on the other side of the scheme, we also connect

customers looking for a reclaimed floor with specialist companies holding stock. As a result, thousands of square meters of flooring has now been reclaimed, reused and repurposed instead of ending up on landfill sites.

At our Danish head office and factory where all our floors are made, more initiatives to work towards a more circular economy are in place. Junckers Denmark offers the facility to lift floors from site, have them refinished in the factory (from where they come out as new) and then reinstalled. A local Council recently took advantage of the service for a large-scale refurbishment project of a housing development, saving not just money but the environment as well.



Working towards a circular economy and committing to act more sustainably means choosing renewable materials. The company I work for makes solid hardwood floors which are well-known for their long lifespan. They can be sanded and refinished many times and restored to as-new condition. They are also usually very straightforward to lift and salvage, which makes them a great resource. Reclaimed solid wood floors are in high

demand for both residential and commercial projects as more and more people look for ways to recycle honest, natural materials.

When the floor is installed in its new setting, it can be sanded and refinished with either an oil or a lacquer and there's a wide choice of colours and finishes available. The reclaimed floor can also be installed without being refinished, with marks and line markings if it used to be a sports floor, left intact. This option gives an entirely different look, completely individual with lots of interest. It's very popular in industrial-style interiors, where the worn and well-used look of a reclaimed floor is often the perfect backdrop.

And giving a wooden floor a new lease of life benefits the environment in more ways than one. Not only does it reduce landfill and contribute to a circular economy, it also keeps carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, a crucial element in the fight to combat climate change. As a tree grows, it absorbs CO² through a process known as photosynthesis. Wood continues to keep harmful CO² out of the atmosphere even when made into a product such as flooring. Wood is the only building material that has the natural ability to absorb carbon from the air and store it; a naturally renewable resource that does not produce waste or pollution.

By using recycled materials and/or contributing to the reuse of materials by salvaging you are effectively extending the lifespan of the material. I think we can do much more to maximise reuse, it's something all players in the flooring industry and the wider construction industry should explore and develop as a matter of urgency. My next steps are to try and involve many more contractors in our Reuse Scheme so that lifting and salvaging a floor that's being replaced becomes the norm. What's yours?





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How should the flooring industry collaborate on sustainability?

By Dale Diamond, UK and Europe Sustainability Lead at Karndean Designflooring

Sustainability has become a defining challenge for the flooring industry (like many others), demanding more than just individual company efforts. It requires a collective approach. While many businesses are making strides in reducing their environmental impact, fragmented initiatives can only go so far. A coordinated, industry-wide effort is essential to driving real, measurable change.

Open collaboration on key sustainability issues is vital to ensuring the future of the industry. As sustainability is increasingly seen not as a commercial advantage but as a shared responsibility, I am hopeful that collaboration will lead to meaningful progress.

The need for an industry-wide approach

The flooring sector plays a significant role in the built environment, which accounts for around a quarter of the UK's total greenhouse gas emissions. With government mandates such as the Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener setting ambitious targets, collaboration will be key to ensuring that the industry meets its responsibilities.

While some manufacturers promote their sustainability credentials, concerns about greenwashing have led to hesitancy in marketing legitimate progress. Greater transparency and shared standards could prevent misleading claims and build trust across the industry. By aligning on reporting frameworks, setting verifiable science-based targets, and working towards industry-wide recycling solutions, the sector can ensure its environmental efforts are both credible and impactful.

Standardising sustainability metrics

A major challenge in flooring sustainability is the lack of consistent measurement

criteria. Different manufacturers use varying methodologies to assess carbon footprints, recyclability, and lifecycle impacts, making it difficult for contractors, architects, and designers to make informed choices.

An industry-wide adoption of recognised reporting frameworks – such as the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) – would allow for fair comparisons and more informed decision-making. Karndean Designflooring, for example, has adopted EPDs that assess entire product ranges, providing reliable, independently verified data that customers can trust. If more manufacturers followed suit, the industry could create a clearer and more accountable sustainability landscape.

Creating a circular economy

One of the flooring industry's biggest sustainability challenges is end-of-life product disposal. Unlike materials such as wood or carpet, luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) are difficult to recycle due to their composite structure. While some businesses, including Karndean, are exploring ways to repurpose clean off-cuts into new products, there is currently no mainstream infrastructure to support large-scale, industry-wide recycling.

The industry needs to work together to develop a unified recycling scheme, similar to initiatives seen in other sectors such as packaging and electronics. An independent third party that oversees material take-back schemes, coordinates collection points, and ensures responsible processing would be a significant step toward a circular economy in flooring.

Combating greenwashing through accountability

Greenwashing remains a major issue in the construction and flooring industries, where vague or exaggerated claims can undermine genuine progress. While individual manufacturers can commit to transparency – such as Karndean signing the Anti-Greenwash Charter – accountability across the sector

is necessary to set clear standards for responsible marketing.

An independent industry watchdog could help regulate sustainability claims, ensuring that all manufacturers are held accountable to the same rigorous standards. This would protect customers from misleading information while fostering greater trust and collaboration within the industry.

Knowledge sharing and education

Sustainability is a complex and evolving topic, and ensuring that the entire supply chain understands best practices is crucial. A collaborative approach to education – through industry associations, CPD courses, and cross-company partnerships – could accelerate progress and drive innovation.

Karndean, for example, is launching courses to educate the industry on whole-life carbon emissions and climate change. Expanding initiatives like these across the sector would ensure that architects, designers, and installers are better equipped to choose and recommend genuinely sustainable flooring solutions.

A united path forward

While individual manufacturers can take significant steps towards sustainability, real progress will come from industry-wide collaboration. By working together to establish shared metrics, develop circular economy initiatives, combat greenwashing, and provide education, the flooring sector can drive meaningful change.

The industry has an opportunity to lead by example and prove that sustainability isn't just a competitive advantage – it's a shared responsibility. Now is the time to move beyond isolated efforts and take collective action to build a greener future for flooring.

For further information on the Karndean Evolve® Strategy and Sustainability Report 2023, please visit the below website.

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Going below the surface of sustainable flooring

Andrew Jackson, Business Development Director EMEA, Shaw Contract EMEA explores how a more holistic, collaborative approach to flooring sustainability can drive progress.

Over the years, flooring manufacturers have made considerable advances in improving the sustainability of their products and manufacturing operations.

However, it is well recognised that true sustainability in flooring goes beyond just improving product design – it must consider the total lifecycle of the product.

Driving circular economy thinking is paramount. We must move past a “cradle-to-gate” mindset - focused solely on production – to a “cradle-to-grave” or, ideally, “cradle-to-cradle” approach, placing equal importance on a product’s end-of-life as its beginning.

Achieving this shift demands a change in mindset to think outside of the manufacturing company alone. It requires a broader, collective effort across the supply chain, with the entire industry embracing its responsibility as product custodians of flooring materials throughout their lifecycle.

Thinking Beyond the Gate

Shaw Contract has been actively engaged in Cradle to Cradle design for more than 20 years, introducing the first Cradle to Cradle Certified® flooring product in 1999. This approach encompasses five ambitions, from material health to product circularity, carbon management, water stewardship and social fairness. At its core, it requires us to commit to designing all our products with end-of-life in mind.

In addition to certifications like Cradle to Cradle, upcoming regulations such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) are set to hold manufacturers increasingly responsible for the long-term environmental impact of their products. EPR shifts the cost and responsibility of collecting, managing, and recycling products to the producer.

Driving change such as this demands strong industry collaboration – it is not the responsibility of one set of organisations alone. Whilst we play a key part as manufacturers, we also need building owners and specifiers to drive change “from the top”, specifying materials and processes that support sustainability.

Trade associations have a key role to play here too, connecting stakeholders across the supply chain, acting as a forum for best practice sharing and, most importantly, driving action.

Giving Flooring a Second Life

Central to the sustainability discussion is the circular economy, focusing on reducing waste and maximising material reuse.

Manufacturer take-back schemes like Shaw Contract’s free-of-charge re[TURN]® reclamation programme enable used flooring to be returned to source, with manufacturers, installers and clients working together to extend its life in multiple ways:

- **Residential Reuse:** Partnerships with charities and social housing projects can give used but serviceable flooring a valuable second life. Shaw Contract is an official partner of SATCoL



(The Salvation Army Trading Company Ltd), which redistributes used flooring to Housing Associations, Local Authorities and vulnerable communities.

- **Commercial Reuse:** Reuse of materials from one commercial project to another is being increasingly explored, highlighting the importance of seamless collaboration across the supply chain. There are now several online platforms designed to help trade used materials, linking material donors with potential receivers. Digital Product Passports (DPP) support this exchange, detailing the content, environmental impact and recyclability of all materials within a building, enabling effective reuse or recycling. To further facilitate reuse, Shaw Contract has introduced an industry-leading second location warranty, ensuring that performance and quality are maintained even after initial installation.
- **Closed Loop Recycling:** Manufacturers offering closed loop recycling schemes enable flooring material at the end of its useful life to be recycled back into raw materials for new flooring products.

Going Below the Surface

Sustainability must extend beyond the flooring itself to include the methods used for installation. Traditional wet adhesive-based installation processes can contaminate both the flooring and sub-floor, making reuse and recycling more difficult.

Adhesive-free installation methods, such as IOBAC MagTabs® and Tab-It®, provide clean and easy removal, enabling flooring to be reused or recycled while protecting the sub-floor asset underneath from needing to be cleaned before the next installation. They are used and/or approved by 13 major flooring manufacturers of carpet tile, Luxury Vinyl Tile and woven vinyl tile, including Shaw Contract EMEA.

Promoting these modern methods of installation requires collaboration between manufacturers, contractors and designers to ensure they are understood, adopted and specified alongside the floor covering.

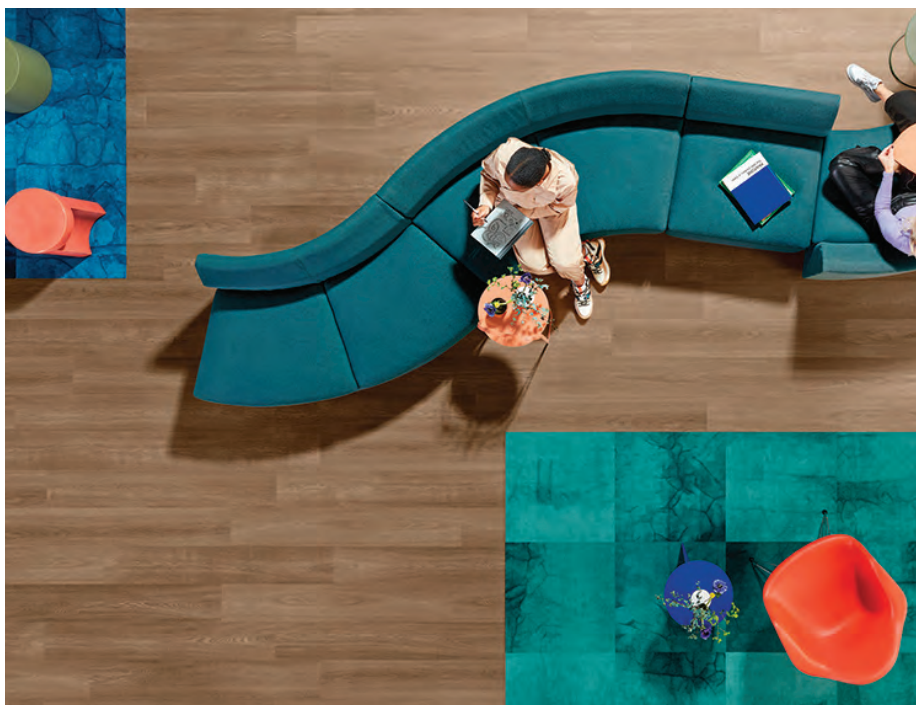
The Road Ahead

Achieving meaningful sustainability in flooring requires a holistic approach that integrates product design, installation methods and end-of-life strategies, all underpinned by robust collaboration across the supply chain.

We all have a part to play. Manufacturers must lead by designing with end-of-life and circularity in mind. Designers and specifiers should prioritise materials and installation systems that facilitate reuse and recycling. Trade associations and industry groups must provide platforms for sharing knowledge, setting standards and connecting stakeholders across the value chain.

As the flooring industry continues to unite around sustainability, I am hopeful that we can create lasting environmental and social benefits, paving the way for a more responsible future.

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The value of circular economy and collaboration

By Ross Dight, Tarkett's Technical & Sustainability Director (UK&I)

The power of collaboration

In the journey towards a sustainable future, collaboration is not just a buzzword – it's a necessity. Tarkett's ReStart® program exemplifies this principle by demonstrating how partnerships can drive impactful change in the flooring industry. This innovative take-back and recycling initiative is designed to close the loop on waste, preserve natural resources, and reduce carbon emissions. However, the takeback success hinges on the collective efforts of various stakeholders, from manufacturers and installers to customers and waste management partners.

What does it mean for us to be sustainable?

Tarkett's sustainability approach is centred on a circular model, creating a positive impact for both people and the planet. Tarkett is committed to changing the game with Circular Economy and has implemented an eco-innovation strategy based on Cradle to Cradle® principles, fully aligned with a Tarkett Human-Conscious Design™ approach.

The strategy focuses on four key pillars:

- **Reducing waste:** Through initiatives like the ReStart® take-back and recycling program, Tarkett has diverted over 119,000 tons of flooring from landfills since 2010. By 2030, the commitment is to have at least 30% of raw materials sourced from recycled content.
- **Lowering emissions:** Tarkett has significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions from factories by approximately 50% since 2010 and plans to cut emissions across their entire value chain by 30% by 2030.
- **Enhancing wellbeing:** Prioritising designing flooring that improves indoor air quality, reduces noise, and enhances comfort, ensuring that environmental responsibility does not compromise user health or satisfaction.
- **Transparency and accountability:** Tarkett sets ambitious sustainability goals, seeks third-party certifications, and collaborates with



industry associations and NGOs to ensure measurable progress.

The commitment to sustainability is deeply integrated into operations, from product design to recycling, aligning with principles of a collaborative circular economy.

The role of collaboration

Engaging stakeholders across the value chain

Takeback programs thrive on the active participation of everyone involved in the lifecycle of flooring products. Manufacturers play a crucial role by designing materials that are easier to recycle, while installers ensure that post-installation offcuts are collected and sorted properly. Customers, too, are vital contributors, as their commitment to returning used flooring ensures that these materials are diverted from landfills.

Streamlining logistics and operations

Effective collaboration with waste management and logistics partners is essential for the program's operational success. These partners help collect, transport, and process the materials, ensuring that they are recycled into valuable new products. By working together, companies can overcome logistical challenges and make recycling as seamless as possible for all participants.

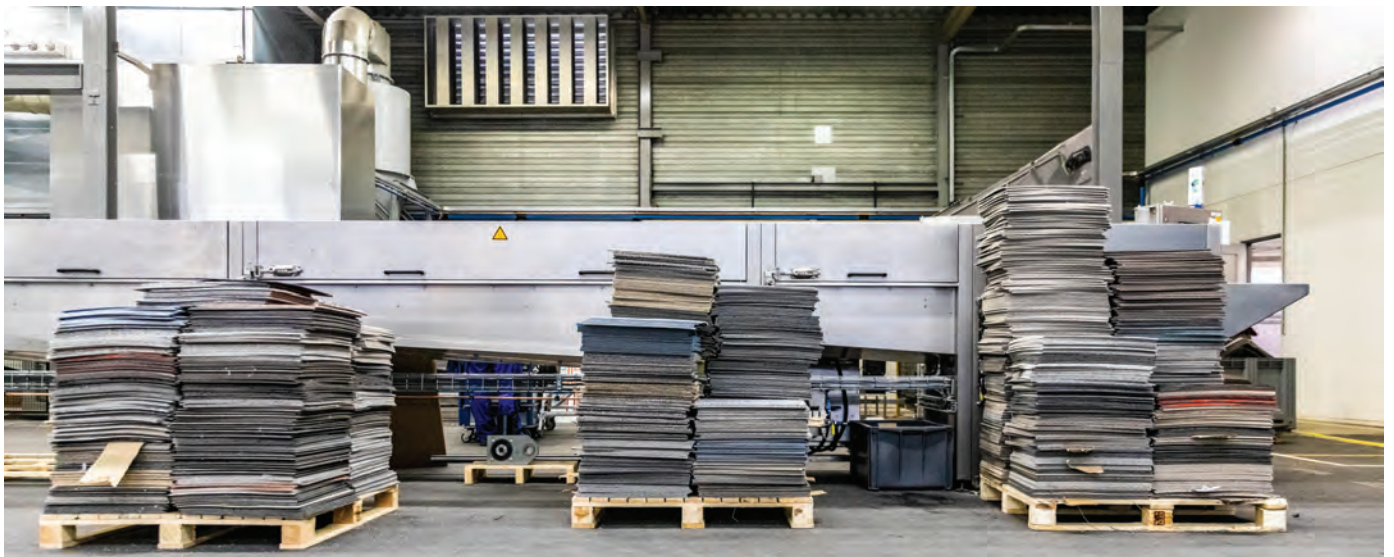
Promoting awareness and education

Collaboration extends beyond logistics to include education and advocacy. Tarkett works closely with its customers and partners to raise awareness about the environmental benefits of recycling and the ease of participating in the ReStart® program. This shared understanding fosters a culture of sustainability and encourages more organisations to join the initiative.

Why collaboration matters

The success of the ReStart® program and takeback systems underscores the importance of a collaborative approach to sustainability. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, Tarkett has created a model that not only reduces waste but also sets a benchmark for the industry. This collective effort demonstrates that achieving a circular economy is not the responsibility of a single entity but a shared mission that requires teamwork, innovation, and commitment.

In conclusion, Tarkett's ReStart® program is a testament to the power of collaboration in driving meaningful change. By working together, we can transform waste into resources, reduce our environmental footprint, and build a more sustainable future for generations to come. So, whether you're a manufacturer, installer, or customer, your role in this journey is invaluable. Let's make every step matter.



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Strategic partnerships, collaboration and increasing focus on EPDs – these are some of the key focuses in the adhesives sector. This is a sector which throws up very significant challenges when it comes to recycling. While most flooring products require some type of adhesive to fix them to the substrate, removing it at end of life presents particular challenges. But it is a problem that adhesives manufacturers are working together to overcome with increasing success.

'How could (or should) industry be collaborating with regard to sustainability in flooring?'

The UK has set ambitious greenhouse gas emissions targets, to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, in comparison to 1990 levels. In July 2024, the Climate Change Committee assessed the progress towards these targets, concluding that the UK is off track for achieving its net zero ambitions.

Whilst the flooring industry has made progress towards enabling a circular economy, collaboration is key to accelerating this. This is because the challenges to achieving these targets are complex and require collective commitment to be addressed effectively. Through creating partnerships, embracing the expertise and resources of others, and aligning best practice, the transition to sustainable practices can be accelerated and sustainable solutions can be scaled more effectively. To understand how collaboration can be implemented, we review how Ball & Young, part of the Vita Group, works together in waste management, how companies should engage with industry associations and collaborate through extended producer responsibility (EPR) and Digital Product Passports (DPP).

Ball & Young, and more widely the Vita Group, have set ambitious targets to achieve zero waste to landfill by 2040. Contributing to progress towards achieving this, Ball & Young's manufacturing processes take unwanted flexible polyurethane foam trim and use it for carpet underlay, diverting it from landfill. To ensure access to reliable quantities of excess foam cuts, Ball & Young collaborates with other operational businesses internal to the Vita Group, as well as external

downstream customers, to purchase excess trim produced.

Collaborating through this 'take back scheme' also generates economic and environmental benefits. By selling trim back to Ball & Young, the customer is spared the organisation and fee of disposal, creating economic opportunity for both Ball & Young and the trim supplier. It also provides a responsible outlet for a material that would otherwise be considered waste. Recycling trim at Ball & Young prevents ~20Kt of trim foam going to landfill each year, reducing the production of potent greenhouse gas emissions and negative land use. Foam's durability and possibilities to recycle and refurbish mean that when handled responsibly in line with the waste hierarchy, there are opportunities to extend its life and drive the circular economy. Aligning company goals and collaborating with stakeholders helps create the economic viability required to enable this circular economy model. Engaging with stakeholders in the value chain to innovate and explore environmental, social and economic opportunities, should be encouraged to accelerate this progress.

Collaboration beyond the value chain can also support industry progress. Industry associations enable progress towards common goals through knowledge sharing, highlighting best practice and networking. Associations such as the United Kingdom Sustainable Flooring Alliance, formerly Carpet Recycling UK, allow companies within the flooring and waste sectors to develop viable solutions to the problem of waste generation, through fostering collaboration. Collaboration is facilitated through networking with industry experts, partaking in working groups, regulatory lobbying and research and development opportunities. This aids

the education of employees and provides opportunities to collaborate with key stakeholders to enact change. Therefore, engaging with associations, including of course the Contract Flooring Association, is crucial to highlight the value of sustainability within the sector and encourage action through knowledge sharing.

Critical to enabling the circular economy is finding solutions for products at end of life (EoL). The landscape of sustainability legislation has changed, implementing mechanisms that enable product EoL management. EPR schemes extend the producers' financial and operational responsibility for products to EoL and are currently being implemented across the continent for products including household textiles. With their success and legislative drive, their implementation is set to expand. Similarly, DPP is another imminent requirement for products being supplied across Europe. This mandatory mechanism will require the disclosure of information relating to a product's performance, material, material origins, EoL capabilities and lifecycle impact.

Both mechanisms will assist responsible EoL management, by creating financial incentive to ensure that products can be dismantled and recycled or repurposed at EoL (EPR) and giving the consumer the comparative insight into products' EoL management options (DPP). However, as implementing them effectively requires data collection, robust waste management processes and alignment of multiple stakeholders, internal and external collaboration is necessary. To design products that can be dismantled and recycled or repurposed at EoL, internal collaboration across functions, such as sustainability, innovation and procurement, is required. However, to explore the opportunities for responsible EoL product management, external collaboration with customers, government agencies and recycling facilities is also required. Without collaborating, the understanding that segregation enables materials like foam to be recycled and reprocessed, is not captured and opportunities to expand the industry's circular economy capabilities, are missed.

The role of collaboration in integrating sustainable and circular practices into the flooring industry is not limited to the examples discussed. However, these discussions offer an overview of why collaboration both internally to companies and externally throughout the value chain, is essential to making progress.



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A pathway to sustainability

Yuliya Nam-Wright, Head of Sustainability at Bostik UK, describes how in an era where sustainability is no longer optional but essential, industries are under increasing pressure to innovate and collaborate in ways that drive meaningful environmental change.

The flooring industry, with its unique challenges and opportunities, is perfectly poised to lead the way through collective action. Collaboration in this sector is not just about sharing best practices but involves creating systems and frameworks that address sustainability holistically - from production to installation, and eventually, to disposal.

Below, we explore some critical areas where industry collaboration could transform sustainability efforts in the flooring industry.

Promoting transparency

Transparency is particularly critical in demonstrating compliance with green building standards like LEED or BREEAM. Publishing verified environmental data, such as Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) fosters trust between manufacturers, customers, and regulatory bodies.

EPDs provide manufacturers with insights into their products' environmental hotspots, enabling targeted efforts to reduce emissions, waste, or resource consumption.

For example, an EPD might reveal that a flooring adhesive has a significant carbon footprint due to its chemical formulation, prompting innovation toward bio-based alternatives.

EPDs also include data on recyclability and end-of-life disposal options, helping to identify products that align with circular economy principles.

They ensure that stakeholders in the flooring industry can prioritise materials and products designed for reuse or recycling, reducing waste and conserving resources.

With EPDs, consumers and specifiers can make choices based on verified environmental performance, creating demand for more

sustainable products.

For example, flooring contractors might select adhesives with EPDs indicating low VOC emissions and high recyclability to align with client sustainability goals.

By providing critical, standardised insights into a product's environmental impact, EPDs empower the flooring industry to make data-driven decisions, foster innovation, and accelerate the transition toward sustainability.



Embracing innovation

Packaging plays a critical role in the flooring industry, not just for protecting products during transportation but also in determining the overall environmental footprint. Over the past decade, the industry has made strides to innovate and reduce packaging waste, aligning with sustainability goals.

Adhesive buckets are now often made with PCR plastics, reducing reliance on virgin materials, while many smoothing compounds are being introduced as one-part products in favour of 'bag and bottle'.

The striving towards sustainability goes beyond packaging, with companies also developing low-carbon adhesives and smoothing compounds that reduce environmental impact while maintaining performance. These products use alternative binders, bio-based polymers, and lightweight formulations to minimise carbon emissions during production and installation.

'Reversible' adhesives

Adhesives are designed to form strong bonds between floor coverings and subfloors, making it difficult to separate these layers at the end of a product's lifecycle. Traditional adhesives often leave residues on both surfaces, contaminating the flooring material and rendering it unsuitable for recycling.

Removing adhesive contamination requires additional processing steps, such as mechanical scraping, chemical treatment, or thermal cleaning. This can increase the cost and energy use of recycling and limits the economic viability of recycling flooring materials on a large scale.

'Reversible' adhesives aim to be a promising solution, allowing for easier removal of floor coverings at the end of life without damaging the materials. They promote easy installation and removal of floorcoverings such as vinyl and LVT flooring with no residue, even years later, allowing the flooring to be recycled at the end of its life. Once removed, the goal is that reversible adhesives leave behind a subfloor that requires next to no preparation, meaning renovation times and carbon footprint is significantly reduced.

A collaborative effort

Sustainability in flooring is a challenge that no single company can tackle alone. The industry has a long history of developing installation standards through collaborative efforts. There's no reason why this existing model can't be extended to sustainability by incorporating guidelines for sustainable installation practices, backed-up by training programmes to educate installers about the importance of proper product selection and material handling.

By aligning goals, pooling resources, and embracing innovation, stakeholders across resources and the supply chain can ensure that flooring not only improves the aesthetic appeal of spaces, but also supports a healthier, more sustainable world.

Return Reward Scheme

by Paul Snelling



• FLOORING SALES LTD •

The Return Reward Scheme has been set up in the UK by Flooring Sales Ltd. Supported by Junckers Ltd, our aim is to help lessen the number of plastic tubs going into landfill. The scheme encourages our customers to return all used Junckers lacquers tubs and Taurus adhesive tubs; in return they will receive a payment per item returned.

Flooring Sales have created an inhouse system allowing us to responsibly clean the returned tubs. This involves removing the product labels and any remaining residue. The tubs are then stored before being baled and sent off to a plastic recycling plant in the UK to have a final clean, and granulated to be used again.

We have seen a constant growth in the scheme especially on social media with more and more of our customers understanding the importance of what happens to the plastic tubs once they have finished using them. Some choose to return the tubs after every job while others will wait to store a larger amount before returning them to us. The tubs don't need to be completely empty or in perfect condition, but we do ask for the lids to be left on if possible.

For more information, please scan the bellow code or visit our web site:

www.flooringsales.co.uk/return-reward-scheme



"We're proud to be part of Flooring Sales's brilliant initiative to encourage recycling in our industry. In taking responsibility for waste products and making sure they're repurposed, reused, and carefully disposed of, we can all do our bit to care for the environment. Even the small gesture of dropping off a few cans for recycling counts towards making a difference – keep up the good work!"

David Papworth, General manager, Junckers Ltd

Strategic partnerships promoting sustainability

We spoke to Hannah Wowk, Sustainability and Quality Manager, Kerakoll UK Ltd. about the partnerships Kerakoll is forming to help drive forward its work on sustainability.

There are very few people who would deny the need to act to help improve the impact that the construction industry has on the environment. According to the UK Green Building Council, cement production alone is responsible for 8% of global carbon emissions. It may seem very difficult for one company to make a huge difference to this but working together we can all contribute to turning the situation around.

One of the ways to do this is by carefully picking strategic partners for your supply chain and other operators allowing you to work together on initiatives that impact sustainability and the circular economy.

To make a difference, these strategic partnerships need to be formed for the medium to long term, allowing everyone to invest time and effort into developing production and logistics solutions that can have a positive effect on the sector.

At Kerakoll, these partnerships can be for up to 30 years. To give one example, the transport of raw materials is one of the main contributors of CO2 emissions in the manufacturing supply chain. The development of intermodal transport using road, rail and maritime shipping, in conjunction with our Italian and UK suppliers has significantly reduced these emissions, by 30% in the UK alone, as well as ensuring faster delivery

times. It is important to continue to work with the partners to review and refine the strategy over time to identify further ways of improving, rather than treating it as a one-off exercise.

Partnerships with research institutions can also play a big role in improving the sustainability of products and business practices. The choice of research partner obviously depends on the aim of the project. In the UK, we picked the University of Sheffield's Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) to help assess the efficiency of the machines at the Kerakoll UK plant, with a view to minimising waste. Running parallel to this, AMRC is helping us to design our new UK plant in such a way as to reduce the environmental impact and maximise the potential social impact for staff and the local community.

An area which also works well for us is partnering with various universities proposing research projects for graduate students working on their theses. The students spend between 2 and 6 months at the company and are supported with tests on their research projects. These partnerships allow our researchers to work with people at the cutting edge of research into sustainable products, developing new formulas and finding alternative materials.

Another way to collaborate and find potential partners is to become part of a network of companies. B Corp is one such network, as companies that commit to the certification process are also committed to a



process of continuous improvement in ESG issues, allowing you to be sure that you are working with a company that has the same values and aims as you.

An example from Italy is CO2alizione which is a platform for companies committed to working towards carbon neutrality. This platform offers the chance to participate in workshops on topics such as strategies for decarbonisation, green logistics, procurement and packaging, as well as forge links with other businesses working towards the same ends.

Making sustainability central to your business strategy is a huge challenge that has to be faced especially in the construction industry. Working with carefully chosen partners will facilitate this process and allow your company to overcome the challenge.



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The importance of EPDs for Mapei in the construction industry

By William Fleming, Sustainability and Environmental Manager, Mapei UK Ltd

As sustainability becomes an increasingly central focus in the construction industry, Mapei continues to lead the way with eco-friendly practices and innovative solutions. One key tool in supporting this commitment is the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD), which provides transparent, third-party verified data on the environmental impact of products.

For Mapei, EPDs play a crucial role in demonstrating our dedication to reducing our environmental footprint, while also empowering the construction industry to make more informed, sustainable choices. Here's why EPD are vital to both Mapei and the wider construction sector:

Commitment to transparency and sustainable practices

At Mapei, transparency is a cornerstone of our sustainability efforts. We don't just provide EPD for our products, we also integrate responsible practices throughout our operations. For instance, we actively segregate waste in our manufacturing processes, ensuring that materials are either reused or recycled to reduce landfill impact. Furthermore, we generate 10% of our electricity from solar energy, significantly lowering our carbon footprint. We also use recycled plastic packaging for many of our products, supporting a circular economy. By openly sharing these efforts through EPD, we ensure that architects, engineers and other professionals can rely on accurate, independent data when selecting materials that align with sustainability goals

Supporting green building certifications

Our products play a vital role in helping buildings meet key green certifications, such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method). Many of these certifications require detailed environmental data about the products used in construction. Through our EPD, we provide the necessary documentation to meet these requirements, making it easier for construction teams to achieve their sustainability goals. By incorporating certified products, builders can confidently pursue higher levels of environmental performance in their projects.

Promoting Responsible Material Selection

Material selection is one of the most impactful decisions in construction, and we are dedicated to helping our customers choose responsibly. Using EPD, we offer clear, verifiable data on the environmental impact of our products, allowing construction professionals to make informed choices. In addition, we ensure that our supply chain meets the same sustainability standards by conducting regular supplier audits. These audits assess the environmental practices of suppliers to ensure alignment with our



commitment to reducing environmental impact. With these efforts, we empower our customers to select materials that contribute to sustainable, high-performance buildings.

Driving innovation and continuous improvement

Innovation is at the heart of our sustainability strategy. We inject substantial amounts into research and development (R&D) to continuously improve our products and processes. In fact, we dedicate 5% of our turnover to R&D, with a focus on developing more sustainable materials and refining production methods. This commitment to innovation ensures that we remain at the forefront of environmental performance, constantly seeking new ways to reduce the carbon footprint of our products. By leveraging insights gained from EPD and ongoing R&D efforts, we can push the boundaries of sustainability, helping the construction industry meet the growing demand for eco-friendly solutions.

Improving building performance and efficiency

The environmental benefits of using products with EPD extend well beyond the construction phase. Buildings are responsible for a large proportion of global energy consumption and carbon emissions, and the materials used during construction can have a lasting impact on a building's energy efficiency. By choosing products with verified EPD, construction teams can select materials that optimise building performance and reduce long-term environmental impact. Our sustainable solutions contribute to creating energy-efficient, low-carbon buildings that not only benefit the environment but also improve operational efficiency over the building's lifespan.

Meeting market demand for sustainable products

Sustainability is no longer just a trend—

it's a market demand. Both consumers and investors are increasingly seeking environmentally responsible products that support green building initiatives. Our commitment to sustainability, demonstrated through our EPD, helps attract customers who prioritise eco-friendly choices. Buildings constructed with our sustainable materials are not only more attractive to investors but also hold greater value in today's green-conscious marketplace. By incorporating our EPD-certified products, developers and contractors can meet the rising demand for sustainable buildings and position themselves as leaders in the green building sector.

Conclusion

EPD are a powerful tool for us at Mapei in our ongoing efforts to promote sustainability within the construction industry. Through transparent, verified data, we empower construction professionals to make informed, eco-conscious decisions about the materials they use. With a commitment to innovation, responsible sourcing, and ongoing improvement, we continue to lead the way in developing high-performance products that contribute to a greener, more sustainable built environment. By choosing EPD-certified products, the construction industry not only meets today's sustainability demands but also paves the way for a more environmentally responsible future.

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Reshaping the contract flooring sector: a collaborative journey of innovation

The global manufacturing sector is responsible for one-fifth of the world's carbon emissions and consumes 54% of the world's energy sources. Additionally, 45% of the CO2 footprint in Europe comes from manufacturing and construction of durable goods. These figures highlight the urgent need for a sustainability transformation across all industries, including the flooring sector.

In a world facing climate change, biodiversity loss and social inequalities, we believe our mission has never been more critical. These challenges call for more sustainable practices - for a transformation to reshape industry.

Driving sustainable transformation in manufacturing

No single company, sector, or stakeholder can achieve this transformation alone. Instead, collaboration, ecosystem thinking, and innovative circularity strategies are the catalysts that will drive industries toward a more sustainable future. We believe the best way to contribute to a more sustainable future is by supporting our customers and stakeholders in their sustainability efforts. We see this as a shared journey where we are dedicated to providing our expertise.

The SHAPE ecosystem, initiated by Mirka in collaboration with Business Finland, is a pioneering initiative in Finland dedicated to drive the green transition in the manufacturing industry. Its uniqueness lies in its comprehensive approach, focusing on

extending product and material life cycles through enhanced circularity and sustainable material solutions. By piloting new business concepts in repair, refurbishment, and remanufacturing, and optimising data-driven sustainable processes, SHAPE fosters co-innovation and cross-sector knowledge sharing. This collaborative framework enables the creation of groundbreaking circular solutions and scalable sustainable business models, decreasing the carbon footprint of the manufacturing industry.

Circularity is the most effective way to reduce the carbon footprint of products and manufacturing processes. Circularity challenges the traditional take-make-dispose model and replaces it with a regenerative approach. In the flooring industry, circular strategies can take many forms, including refurbishment and reuse, where instead of replacing worn-out floors, walls, or furniture, refurbishment techniques restore their quality, prolong their lifespan, and reduce material waste. Material innovation is also key, with the development of surface finishing solutions and coatings that are recyclable, biodegradable, or derived from renewable sources we can minimize environmental impact. These principles lie at the heart of the SHAPE ecosystem.

The net zero by 2050 target will require 275 trillion euros in asset investments, all needing surface finishing. The remanufacturing business is expected to grow significantly, reaching 90 billion euros in the European Union by 2030. This growth

reflects the increasing demand for sustainable solutions and the economic benefits of extending product lifecycles.

From linear to circular

Traditionally, our industry has followed a linear model, where many goods are classified as disposables. But by implementing circular design principles from the very beginning of product development, we can regenerate resources by systematically eliminating waste, selecting smarter raw materials, and considering the entire product lifecycle. This ensures that materials remain in use for as long as possible, reducing environmental impact. By integrating circularity from the design phase, we can achieve what was once thought impossible.

An opportunity for business growth

For those ready to embrace the shared journey, this transformation presents great opportunities—where sustainable alternatives and initiatives are not just costs but strategic business opportunities. It's a space where purpose and profit meet, proving that environmental responsibility and economic success can go hand in hand.

In an era where sustainability is no longer optional but imperative, the green transformation of industries must be a shared journey. We see an urgent need to reshape the industry, lead by example and inspire meaningful change.

YouTube link: [Join SHAPE: Pioneering Sustainable Innovation Together](#)



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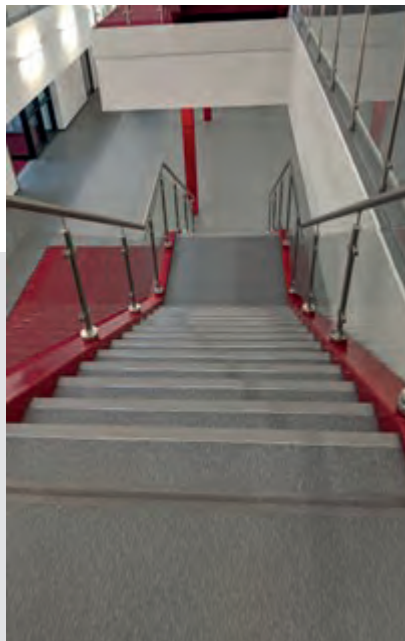
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Collaboration is key to progress on sustainability

According to Matthew Brown, Managing Director of UZIN UTZ UK Ltd, the requirement to collaborate between manufacturers and across sectors is becoming increasingly clear as the way forward on sustainability.

Matthew Brown says that many manufacturers have tended to be reluctant to collaborate on sustainability because they view their own efforts in this area as a USP for their product offer. But that is changing, and more and more people are realising that collaboration is a good thing and that it can help us tackle the key issues around sustainability in our industry, such as waste of all types.

"I have suggested that we should have more of a collaborative approach on this, not necessarily just for our benefit as a company, but for the benefit of the industry as a whole," says Matthew Brown. "I think the industry sometimes needs to recognise that it must take a less commercial standpoint, but should work together to solve this problem."

Matthew Brown explains that, although in Holland the company operates a take-back scheme, it does not manufacture in the UK but sells through wholesalers, so unless they have some form of take-back scheme, it is quite tricky to put into practice. A couple of the leading wholesalers have had trial schemes, but it really requires all wholesalers to collaborate with their suppliers and support the wider flooring industry with the recycling of floor coverings and packaging.

"Collaboration would be key to making this work," he says. "The whole supply chain needs to collaborate. This means proactively trying to resolve a situation before it becomes a problem."

"Legislation drives change quicker than anything else, but the only person who is ever going to pay for that is the end-user. Despite greater awareness, we still need more proactivity to drive things forward and avoid the requirement for legislation where possible. This will hit the industry financially, costing everyone money and inflating prices because manufacturers can't absorb all the costs."

Regarding more sustainable new product development, UZIN has been working across Europe to develop products containing larger proportions of renewable raw materials.

Another interesting area is the development of release agents for flooring applications. Although an adhesive is used to adhere the flooring to the substrate, a release primer can be used, which will release the floor covering, leaving no residue on the floor itself, making it easier to recycle.

Although adhesive-free flooring is an option in some cases, certain types of flooring have to be fully adhered and there is no way around that. Dry-back LVT, for example, has to be stuck down because of the thermal cycling of the product and because it is unstable in that respect. Also, where you have high-load wheeled traffic, adhesive-free flooring generally doesn't work because of the movement of the material, causing it to become unstable. So there are circumstances



where adhesive-free flooring is not the ideal option for the end-user.

However, sometimes customers may need to fully adhere flooring while also having the ability to remove it. Therefore another possibility is dry adhesive tapes. These work very well in areas like retail flooring, where the end-user needs to avoid the downtime, dust and disturbance involved with changing or upgrading a floor finish. The solvent-free tape leaves no residue on the substrate or the flooring.

An example in the commercial market where this technology is particularly useful is where retailers have shop-in-shop concession areas. These quite often have a different type of floor covering compared to the rest of the store. By using a tape system, a new floor covering can be installed without removing the floor that's already in place. If the end-user wants to refresh an area, they can pull it up, and it leaves no residue on the substrate. A new floor can then be installed.

Looking back over the last year, Matthew Brown says EPR has been an interesting development. The industry has had to think more about packaging waste and work with DEFRA on how it is managed. There has been a lot of lobbying to encourage DEFRA to realise that flooring businesses are B2B, and because of the way the product is distributed, the waste does not end up in the domestic waste stream. Distributors manage their waste through commercial waste streams.

"In trying to change DEFRA's mind, I think we have made some headway, which benefits the industry as a whole," says Matthew Brown.

"These regulations can mean hundreds of thousands of extra costs for businesses without necessarily achieving what the Government wants to achieve. This is an ongoing situation – if we have managed to delay full EPR, I'm sure it will come back in a few years."

"This is a perfect example of why we need to be more proactive and collaborative. We need to consider how we develop a take-back scheme, how we recycle our waste, how we manage all these aspects and develop a clear scheme within the industry. We need to look

at things like legacy waste, what happens to a building when we take it down, where the waste material goes, what happens with the packaging and what happens with the offcuts from new installations."

EPR is now common throughout Europe, although one of the problems is that the schemes are different and lack consistency in different countries.

Something else the UK market has to look forward to is the full adoption of EPDs.

"Most of our products have them for the European market, including Ireland," says Matthew Brown. "But it is yet to arrive in the UK in full force. It will, and architects, specifiers and building owners will be increasingly looking for these. In reality when they are looking at the sustainability credentials of their projects, smoothing compounds and adhesives are not top of the list. There are easier ways for architects to achieve their environmental points on a building than worrying about adhesives. For the time being LEED and BREEAM are the standards that architects are most interested in and there is not yet as great an awareness on EPDs."

Finally, like all businesses, UZIN UTZ has been looking at the sustainability of its manufacturing operations. It has switched to running its business on sustainable energy, driven by the fact that it is the right thing to do and also the fact that the cost of energy has rapidly escalated in recent years.

"Both of UZIN UTZ's buildings in the UK use sustainable energy sources, with solar panels on the roof and vehicle fleets which are either hybrid or fully electric. We have managed to reduce our carbon footprint by over 25% over the last five years. Our main factory in Holland is carbon neutral and, by moving one of our facilities from Poland to France, we have saved 300 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year due to reduced transport impact."

"These are among the things that we have been working on. Our competitors have been doing similar things, of course, because they want to have a greener footprint – and that bodes well for the future of our industry."

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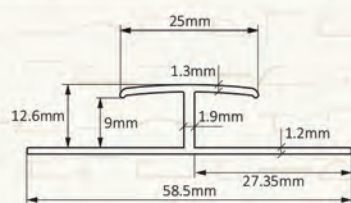
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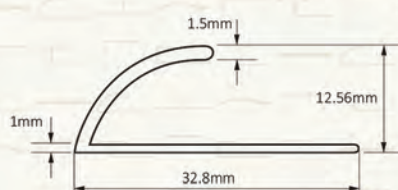
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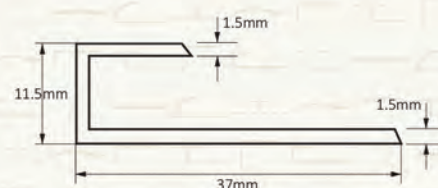
DUAL EDGE

Profile for carpet to carpet.



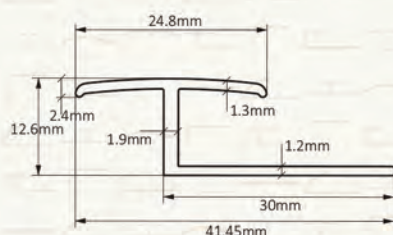
SINGLE EDGE

Profile for carpet to resilient flooring.



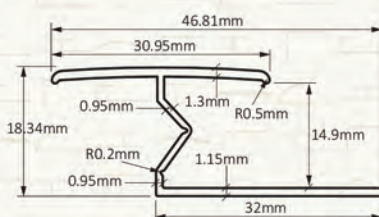
SQUARE EDGE

Profile that provides a neat finish for carpet to stone or ceramic floors.



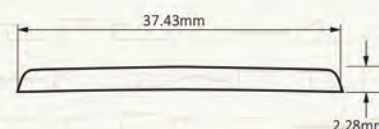
Z BAR

Profile for carpet to wooden / ceramic floor.



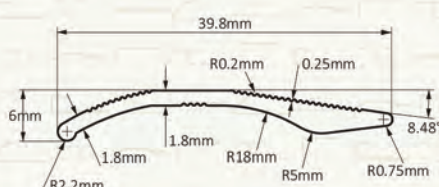
SQUASH Z BAR

Compressible 16mm Z Bar with self adhesive tape on the hard flooring side.



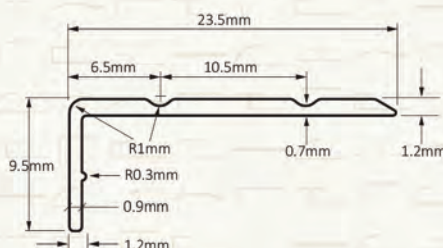
COVER PLATE

Self adhesive cover plate.



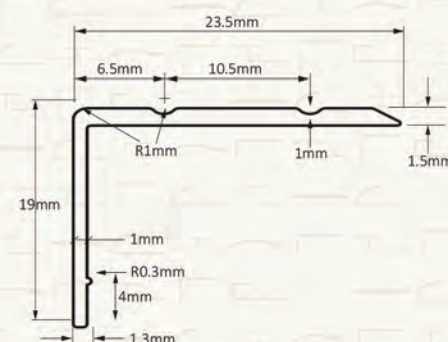
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A view from another industry

THE TILING SECTOR

TTA Sustainability Working Groups leads the collaborative effort for a sustainable tiling sector

70

The Tile Association (TTA) is the UK trade association for the whole of the tiling industry – representing manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers, tiling contractors and independent tile fixers. Its activity is based around three pillars which aim to 1) raise tiling standards, 2) improve the value of membership and 3) promote the benefits of tiles.

The built environment contributes 40% to the UK's carbon emissions and therefore there is a big responsibility to reduce carbon throughout the construction industry. Though the tiling industry plays a small role in this larger picture, The Tile Association (TTA)

nonetheless believes it is an important one and sees collaboration as the cornerstone to its sector's success.

In 2022, The Tile Association established a working group to develop a coordinated industry response to help member companies on their individual sustainability journeys and provide leadership for the tiling sector. This set out TTA's vision to "take a leading role in achieving sustainability in the tiling sector, helping our members and the wider industry play its part in achieving Net Zero by 2050". The group is chaired by TTA Board Director David Kong with representation from across the sector – including tile distributors,

retailers, importers, contractors, adhesive manufacturers and logistics providers.

TTA is keen to demonstrate the sustainability benefits of tiles and tiling companies and has provided digital resources for members to show their sustainability

commitment, available on request. As a result, TTA allows members to set a positive example and declare how they are part of the collaborative network striving to make the tiling industry a more sustainable place. It has also identified 41 good reasons to choose tiles as they are durable, recyclable and have effective thermal mass properties as well as a reference service life of 60 years.

TTA's Sustainability Working Group is available to answer TTA members' sustainability questions, as businesses are increasingly required to understand and prepare for new rules, regulations and taxes.

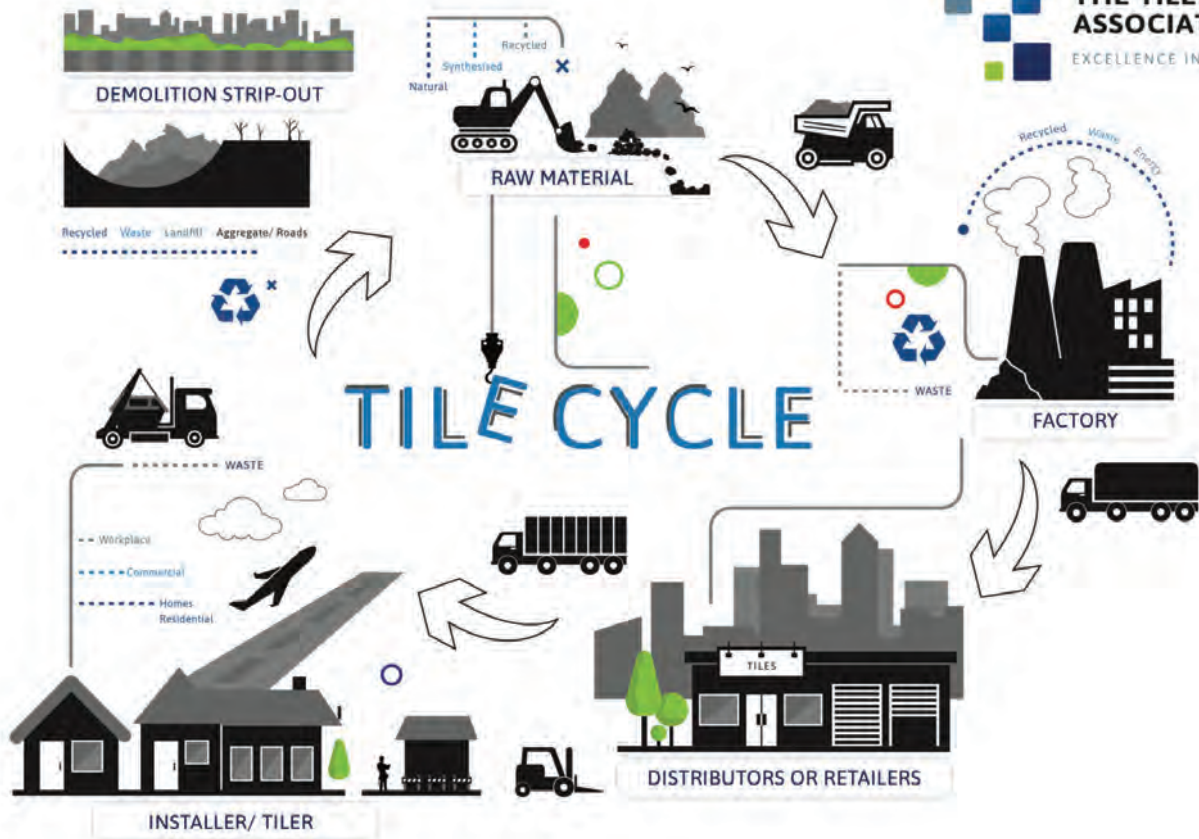


David Kong



**WE SUPPORT TTA'S
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITMENT**

“TTA's vision is to... “take a leading role in achieving sustainability in the tiling sector, helping our members and the wider industry play its part in achieving Net Zero by 2050”



TTA also hosts a 'Sustainability' section on its website with key information on sustainability in the tiling sector as well as advice on 'Ways to Be More Sustainable' across key areas such as energy, manufacturing and transportation. This guidance is especially important given the typically high energy requirements for tile manufacturing and large amount of tile imports to the UK.

With regular meetings, TTA's Sustainability Working Group continuously reviews how to take sustainability even further. To guide this effort, it reached out to members via a focused qualitative survey of independent tiler fixers and contractors and asked questions covering installation waste, product and material usage, office and warehouse energy use, packaging waste, transport & logistics and business miles and fuel. The results revealed that all contributors were aware of the key subjects but more progress was required for companies to measure and evaluate their carbon footprint, and by doing so, develop improvements. Nonetheless, all companies surveyed were keen to find ways to improve.

As an industry leading authority, TTA and its Sustainability Working Group continues to research and report on sustainability developments for the tiling sector. Its advice piece fronted the brand new launch of The Guide to Sustainable Tiling in 2024 by Tile and Stone Journal (TSJ). Other updates can be found across TSJ, Tilezine plus TTA's

website and social media.

A highlight of the industry's annual calendar, TTA Awards celebrates excellence and innovation across wall and floor tiling and champions sustainability through a dedicated category for the Best Environmental Initiative. On 10th May 2024, the Best Environmental Initiative Award Winner Nicholls & Clarke Group Ltd stood out for their exceptional sustainability efforts, shortlisted alongside the

worthy finalists in this category Mapei (UK) Ltd and Topps Group Ltd.

TTA Awards 2025 took place on Friday 16th May at Hilton Birmingham Metropole and has announced a new Best Environmental Initiative Award Winner for 2025. Visit www.tiles.org.uk/tta-awards/ to find out who won.

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Best Environmental Initiative TTA Award Winner 2024 - Nicholls & Clarke Group Ltd

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CPA Sustainability Briefing Documents

A comprehensive resource for the construction industry

The Construction Products Association (CPA) continues to carry out great work on sustainability, and their website at www.constructionproducts.org.uk contains many useful resources to help you in your work with partners to improve the sustainability performance of your own businesses.

Earlier this year the CPA joined [RetroNetZero RS&IN](#), a collaborative network aiming to unlock the adoption of sustainable innovation in domestic retrofit. RetroNetZero RS&IN is an Innovate UK-funded project now in its implementation phase, having successfully completed its discovery phase in 2024. The Network sets out to explore the regulatory

challenges to the deployment of products in domestic retrofit, which it identifies as preventing potential new solutions from contributing to the rapid upscaling of retrofit, needed for the UK to meet its net zero carbon targets.

In February the CPA hosted a webinar on this topic, and it seems likely that the delivery of innovation for Net Zero in the retrofit context is set to be a topic of growing importance in the coming years.

The CPA has also been actively involved in lobbying regarding Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Working alongside the Contract Flooring Association and other key players, the CPA represents the industry through

ongoing discussions about EPR for packaging.

For the benefit of those concerned about this topic, the Environment Agency published a regulatory position statement (RPS) in February which can be viewed [here](#).

The most recently-published Sustainability Briefing Documents from the CPA cover the topic of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) and are fairly technical in nature, but may nonetheless be useful for those who wish to understand a little more about how EPDs work and specifically how they can be compared.

■ EPD - Uncertainty & Comparability between EPD – Uncertainty, November 2024

<https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/publications/sustainability/epd-uncertainty-comparability-between-epd-uncertainty/>

■ EPD - Uncertainty & Comparability between EPD – Comparability, August 2024

<https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/publications/sustainability/uncertainty-comparability-between-epd-comparability/>

■ Treatment of Biogenic Carbon Content in EPDs, March 2024

<https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/decarbonisation-and-net-zero/treatment-of-biogenic-carbon-content-of-construction-products-in-environmental-product-declarations-epd/>

■ I'm a manufacturer – how do I go about getting an EPD? March 2024

<https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/sustainability-measurement-and-reporting/i-m-a-manufacturer-how-do-i-go-about-getting-an-epd/>

■ Types of Environmental Product Declaration and their Advantages and Disadvantages, February 2024

<https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/sustainability-measurement-and-reporting/types-of-environmental-product-declaration-and-their-advantages-and-disadvantages/>

Aside from EPDs, other Sustainability Briefing Documents published during 2024 covered the following topics:

■ What is meant by the construction product lifecycle, February 2024

<https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/sustainability-measurement-and-reporting/what-is-meant-by-the-construction-product-life-cycle/>

■ What is upfront carbon? March 2024

<https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/decarbonisation-and-net-zero/what-is-upfront-carbon/>

Earlier documents include:

■ How much waste is produced by the construction sector? August 2022

<https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/resource-efficiency-zero-avoidable-waste-and-the-circular-economy/how-much-waste-is-produced-by-the-construction-sector/>

■ New Plastic Packaging Tax, April 2022

<https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/resource-efficiency-zero-avoidable-waste-and-the-circular-economy/new-plastic-tax-april-2022/>

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NBS Sustainability Webinars

Connecting construction information, working towards a better and more sustainable industry.

For over 50 years, NBS has helped architects produce their specifications and connect them with manufacturers. It aims to help the industry build safer, more sustainable buildings that make a positive impact on the future of the built environment and make it easy to do so. NBS is part of Hubexo, a global company which provides cutting-edge data, insights, and software solutions to the construction industry.

NBS has a host of sustainability webinars that provide key information on how to approach, navigate and deliver sustainable design. To see the latest sustainability webinars, visit the following link: www.thenbs.com/knowledge/sustainability or click below on the selected webinar.

WEBINAR

Delivering Sustainable Outcomes

15 November 2024

The built environment is responsible for around 39% of all global emissions, according to the latest intergovernmental panel on climate change. Construction professionals are therefore acutely aware of the need to work together to meet Net Zero goals. In this webinar we explain the impact of both regulations and an increasing awareness of sustainability on construction projects, using research from our 2024 Sustainable Futures Report.

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WEBINAR

Friday 15 November 11:00 AM

WEBINAR

Navigating a Sustainable Future:

Chris Hines

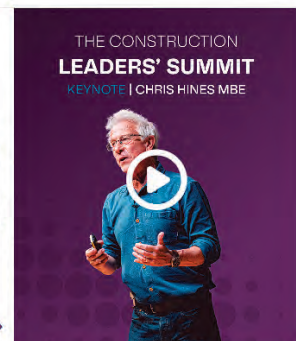
21 October 2024

Watch Chris Hines MBE, owner of A Grain of Sand and former Director of Sustainability for The Eden Project, deliver the keynote speech on sustainability at the NBS Construction Leaders' Summit 2024. Chris draws upon 30 years of experience working and campaigning for the environment to address how the construction industry can deliver more sustainable and regenerative development. Available for you to watch in full, now.

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THE CONSTRUCTION LEADERS' SUMMIT

KEYNOTE | CHRIS HINES MBE



WEBINAR

Sustainable Futures Report 2024

08 July 2024

Delve into the findings of the recently published Sustainable Futures Report 2024. This comprehensive report, created by NBS in association with the Sustainable Energy Association, Glenigan, and RIBA, offers a thorough assessment of sustainability within the UK construction industry. Priorities and perspectives of construction professionals, and addresses crucial aspects of sustainability, including achieving sustainable outcomes, overcoming barriers, the importance of specification and project information, and the future of sustainability policies.

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SUSTAINABLE FUTURES REPORT

Insights and Strategies for the UK Construction Industry

WEBINAR

Specifying Sustainable Outcomes

13 March 2024

Join our next webinar, "Specifying Sustainable Outcomes," designed for architects and construction professionals looking to create more sustainable projects. During the webinar, James Fiske, CEO of the Building Cost Information Service (BCIS), will demonstrate the cost, carbon, and lifecycle data that BCIS, as a partner, are enabling NBS to deliver to customers. This data is included in the new Early-Stage Specification library from NBS, which enables specifiers to align their design decisions with budget constraints and sustainability goals.

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NBS and BCIS

WEBINAR

SPECIFYING SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES

13th March at 11 am (GMT)



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VECTORWORKS

Over the past year, one of NBS' highlights has been the publication of the Sustainable Futures Report 2024. This comprehensive report, created by NBS in association with the Sustainable Energy Association, Glenigan, and RIBA, was designed to offer a thorough assessment of sustainability within the UK construction industry. Hundreds of participants were surveyed to form the results.

The Sustainable Futures Report includes several focuses: Sustainable Outcomes and Net Zero, Barriers to Achieving Sustainability, Role of Specification and Project Information, Policy and the Future for Sustainability.

KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- **70% of construction projects** now incorporate sustainability targets.
- **43% of industry professionals** report successfully achieving sustainability goals, up from a third in 2022.
- **A 13% increase** in net-zero projects compared to the previous year's report.

- **64% of professionals** have worked on a net-zero project in the past year, a significant rise from 49% in 2022.
- **16% growth** in the number of organisations measuring their carbon footprint, with 70% now tracking emissions.
- **14% rise** in firms setting carbon reduction goals, with 76% now doing so, compared to 62% previously.
- **53% of companies** have adopted carbon offsetting strategies, up from 38% in 2021.

Dr. Lee Jones, Head of Sustainability at Hubexo, said: "These are welcome figures and show that, whilst much more must be done, the sector is progressively aiming for a sustainable future.

"Going forward, I would like to see legislation around net zero building practices going further, covering embodied carbon as well as operational efficiency. For the industry to truly achieve sustainable outcomes, it needs the government to take a stronger lead, supporting with policy and incentives."

[Click here to download the Sustainable Futures Report 2024.](#)



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So you want to know about Sustainability?

There are plenty of organisations offering good information and advice about sustainability and recycling or for more in-depth consultancy services — should you wish to accurately measure your actions with a view to attaining an environmental accreditation. We've listed a selection of the more high profile ones.

Action Sustainability

Action Sustainability aims to lead and inspire sustainable supply chain management. It provides specialist business advice, training, and practical tools to help deliver your sustainability objectives, including identifying why sustainability is important to your organisation; link your strategic goals to an effective sustainable procurement strategy; implement your strategy throughout your procurement team and supply chain and put in place measurement, evaluation and assurance mechanisms to ensure your approach is embedded in everyday business practices and provides tangible benefits to your organisation.

0207 697 1977 • www.actionsustainability.com

The Carbon Trust

The Carbon Trust is an independent, expert partner of leading organisations around the world, helping them contribute to and benefit from a more sustainable future through carbon reduction, resource efficiency strategies and commercialising low carbon technologies.

020 7170 7000 • www.carbontrust.com

Centre for Sustainable Energy

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) helps people and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors meet the twin challenges of rising energy costs and climate change. It shares knowledge and practical experience to empower people and organisations to change the way they think and act about energy. It achieves this by giving advice, managing innovative energy projects, training others to act, and undertaking research and policy analysis.

0117 934 1400 • www.cse.org.uk

Energy Saving Trust

The Energy Saving Trust is a non-profit organisation, funded both by government and the private sector. It is one of the UK's leading organisations set up to address the damaging effects of climate change and has offices in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Its aim is to cut emissions of carbon dioxide by promoting the sustainable and efficient use of energy.

020 7222 0101 • www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is an executive non-departmental public body responsible to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Its principal aims are to protect and improve the environment, and to promote sustainable development. It is responsible for areas including regulation of major industry, waste regulation, and contaminated land. It also helps small businesses comply with environmental legislation, and provides business sector advice.

0370 850 6506 • www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Green Mark

Green Mark is a tailored environmental certification scheme, which aims to improve the environmental performance of businesses by identifying cost savings and helping them develop an environmental management system. It also helps businesses comply with environmental legislation, gain a competitive advantage, enhance opportunities and work towards international environmental accreditations such as ISO 14001 and EMAS.

0208 1507 231 • www.greenmark.co.uk

Natural Capital Partners

Natural Capital Partners is a consultancy based organisation that design solutions to businesses looking to reduce their environmental impacts. The company offers consultancy about renewable energy, carbon emissions measurement and offsetting, water stewardship, building supply chain resilience and the protection of biodiversity.

020 7833 6000 • www.carbonneutral.com

WRAP

A not-for-profit company that helps businesses recycle more and waste less by driving best practice in resource efficiency; facilitating business-to-business networks to find local markets for waste materials including food, wood and packaging waste, textiles and electrical goods and providing technical, marketing and business support to SME resource management businesses to grow the UK's capacity for recycling priority materials.

01295 819900 • www.wrap.org.uk

Further help can be sought from the following organisations:

Finance and Support for Businesses

Help and advice on finding government-backed support and finance for business, including grants, finance and loans, business support, for example, mentoring, consultancy and funding for small and medium-sized businesses and start-ups.

www.gov.uk/business-finance-support-finder

Department for International Trade

DTI works with UK based businesses to assist in international markets, and encourage the best overseas companies to look to the UK as their global partner of choice.

020 7215 5000

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-trade

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Alliance for Sustainable Building Products (ASBP)

A cross-sector, not-for-profit organisation, comprising building product manufacturers and distributors, specifiers, designers, contractors, public interest and sustainability organisations, academics and other building practitioners. It aims to accelerate the transition to a high performance, healthy, low carbon built environment by championing the increased understanding and use of building products that meet demonstrably high standards of sustainability.

020 3559 7238
www.asbp.org.uk

American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC)

AHEC is the trade association for the US hardwood industry, representing US hardwood exporters and product trade associations. It runs a programme promoting American hardwoods in over 50 export markets. AHEC Europe (in London) provides promotional assistance and technical information on American hardwoods.

020 7626 4111
www.ahec.org

Association for Environment Conscious Building

AECB is a network of individuals and companies with a common aim of promoting sustainable building. It brings together builders, architects, designers, manufacturers, housing associations and local authorities, to develop, share and promote best practice in environmentally sustainable building.

0845 4569773
www.aecb.net

Axion Recycling

Axion Recycling has four divisions and was formed to develop and operate innovative processing solutions to recover value from waste resources. Axion Polymers produces high grade polymer compounds for reuse in new products and equipment. Axion Consulting develops and operates innovative processing solutions for recycling waste materials. Axion Consulting works with a wide range of clients from government agencies such as WRAP and DEFRA, to local authorities and commercial companies.

Axion Engineering's expertise lies in designing and project managing new recycling plants and plant modifications for third parties; while Axion Energy commercialises innovative technologies to convert waste biomass into biofuels.

0161 426 7731
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British Carpet Technical Centre (BCTC)

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0113 259 1999
www.bttg.co.uk

British Electrical Technical and Allied Manufacturers Association (BEAMA)

BEAMA is the leading trade association representing manufacturers of electrical infrastructure products and systems from transmission through distribution to the environmental systems and services in the built environment. It works with its members to ensure their interests are well-represented in the relevant political, regulatory and standardisation issues at UK, EU and international levels.

020 7793 3000
www.beama.org.uk

BPF Recycling Group

The representative body for UK plastic recyclers. Formerly an independent, but affiliated organisation, the 'BPF Recycling Council' became the BPF Recycling Group in 2011 and is now a stand-alone membership group within the British Plastics Federation.

020 7457 5000
www.bpf.co.uk/recycling

British Standards Institution

BSI is the business standards company that helps organisations all over the world make excellence a habit. For more than a century we have been challenging mediocrity and complacency to help embed excellence into the way people and products work. That means showing businesses how to improve performance, reduce risk and achieve sustainable growth. As a global leader in helping organisations improve, our clients range from high profile brands to small, local companies in 172 countries worldwide.

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Build UK

Provides a strong collective voice for the contracting supply chain in construction. We bring together 25 of the industry's largest main contractors and 41 leading trade associations representing more than 11,500 specialist contractors. We also have 6 client members.

Build UK focuses on key industry issues that can deliver change and enable the contracting supply chain to improve the efficiency and delivery of construction projects to the benefit of the industry's clients. Providing influential and dynamic leadership, Build UK ensures a joined up approach from the supply chain, making us the 'go to' representative organisation for industry stakeholders.

Build UK was created as a result of a merger between the National Specialist Contractors' Council (NSCC) and UK Contractors Group (UKCG) in 2015.

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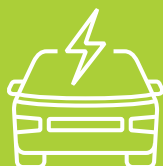
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Centre for Sustainable Design (CfSD)

CfSD was established in 1995 at what is now the University for the Creative Arts (UCA). The Centre has led and participated in a range of high quality research projects and has organised more than a hundred conferences, workshops and training courses focused on sustainable innovation and product sustainability. CfSD is recognised worldwide for its knowledge and expertise, having worked closely with business, policy making and research communities for two decades.

01252 892772
www.cfsd.org.uk

Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM)

Chartered Institution of Waste Management is the professional body that represents waste professionals working in the sustainable waste and resource management sectors worldwide. CIWM sets the professional standards for the industry and has various grades of membership determined by education, qualification and experience.

01604 620426
www.ciwm.co.uk

ConfindustriaCeramica: Tiles of Italy

Formerly known as Assopiastrelle, Confindustria Ceramica is the trade association representing Italian manufacturers and exporters of ceramic tiles. It is a major source of information for this important industrial sector in Italy.

www.confindustriaceramica.it

Construction Products Association (CPA)

Construction Products Association is the umbrella body that represents manufacturers and suppliers of construction products, components and fittings. Everyone who belongs to one of the 43 trade association members, including the CFA, is a member of the CPA. The CPA is working with its members to deliver the products and materials that will deliver a sustainable built environment.

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www.constructionproducts.org.uk

Contract Flooring Association (CFA)

The CFA's membership consists of a significant proportion of the UK's commercial flooring market and includes companies from across the supply chain including contractors, manufacturers, distributors and consultants.

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0115 941 1126
www.cfa.org.uk

Contract Flooring Journal (CFJ)

The official magazine of the Contract Flooring Association, CFJ is the UK's leading flooring title, renowned for its editorial independence, extensive news coverage, in-depth features and authoritative technical articles.

01892 752400
www.contractflooringjournal.co.uk

Cork Industry Federation

Cork Industry Federation is an association of companies involved in the importation, manufacture and distribution of cork products in the UK and for export. The Federation seeks to uphold quality standards within the industry and to promote the use of cork in its many different applications. The CIF has recently created an educational website: www.planetcork.org

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Environmental Services Association (ESA)

ESA collects the waste produced by households and businesses across the UK, treats this waste, and turns a large percentage into new resources and energy for the nation. The ESA works on behalf of members to support and promote the waste and resource management industry. ESA works with governments and regulators to bring about a sustainable system of waste and resource management for the UK. Ten years ago, over 75% of Britain's waste went to landfill, compared to well under 50% today.

020 7824 8882
www.esauk.org

European Federation of the Parquet Industry (FEP)

FEP unites Europe's national parquet federations, parquet manufacturers and suppliers to the industry. It represents and defends the interests of the European parquet industries. The primary goal of FEP is to strengthen and improve the position of wood flooring against other floorcovering products, as well as to enhance the prosperity and stature of the European parquet manufacturing industry.

www.parquet.net

European Producers of Laminate Flooring (EPLF)

Representing the major European laminate flooring manufacturers, the EPLF[®] is an international platform for the exchange of ideas and experience between producers of laminate flooring and their supplier industries. The focus of the Association's work revolves around research, development, the introduction of standards, representation at international trade fairs, evaluation of statistical data and active press office and public relations work. EPLF also runs a consumer-focused site: www.mylaminate.eu/en that promotes the benefits of laminate flooring to homeowners.

www.eplf.com

European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute (ERFMI)

ERFMI represents the interests of the resilient flooring industry in negotiations with governments, public bodies, trade associations, NGOs and similar bodies in the European market; and promotes international standards, specifications and classification systems, and their adoption.

www.erfmi.com

Taking action on climate change

LEAVE IT TO US



We can all agree that recycled materials have a positive impact on saving the world's natural resources and flooring is no exception when it comes to reducing climate change – but how can we be sure that our post-installation or used flooring doesn't end up in landfill or incineration?

Our hassle-free flooring take-back and recycling programme **ReStart** will take it all away for recycling, we will even take away old carpet tiles.

Linoleum and vinyl off-cuts from installation? We'll take those.

Your old click or loose-lay vinyl flooring? Don't worry, we'll take that too.

We'll even take away old carpet tiles made by other manufacturers. That's just how we roll. We've also developed pioneering technology that cleans and recycles old Homogeneous Vinyl and Linoleum flooring.

The materials we recycle are well above industry standards and if there are any materials we can't make use of, we know someone that can. It's why we partner with other industries to make sure that wherever possible, nothing goes to waste.

www.tarkett.co.uk | E: uksales@tarkett.com | T: 0800 328 2115



 **Tarkett**

FeRFA (The Resin Flooring Association)

FeRFA, the Resin Flooring Association, represents the major product manufacturers, specialist contractors and surface preparation companies, raw material suppliers and specialist service providers within the UK Resin Flooring Industry. As the association dedicated to seamless resin flooring for over 40 years, FeRFA leads the way in providing advice, guidance and training support.

07484 075254
www.ferfa.org.uk

Flooring Industry Training Association (FITA)

Co-founded by the CFA and the NICF to provide training for the floor covering industry. The Association is an independent, not-for-profit organisation setup by industry, for industry. FITA has two specialist training centres at Loughborough and Kirkcaldy with fully equipped practical and lecture areas.

0115 950 6836
www.fita.co.uk

Good Homes Alliance

Good Homes Alliance is a group of housing developers, building professionals and other industry supporters whose aim is to transform the UK housing sector to ensure it creates and maintains good homes for all. We define what makes a good home and help our members build and monitor good homes that are sustainable in the broadest sense.

0203 559 7236
www.goodhomes.org.uk

Kenburn Waste Management

With more than 30 years' track record in the waste management industry, Kenburn says it's built a reputation as one of the UK's leading suppliers of waste compactors and balers. Since 1987 it says it's installed more than 4,000 machines and counts many household names among its customer base. It says it will help you manage your waste and stop wasting money.

01727 844988
www.kenburn.co.uk

Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)

LARAC represents local government recycling officers. It provides an information and networking service and helps to develop and disseminate good practice among members. LARAC are also advocates: making the voice of waste practitioners heard and ensuring these views are taken into account when decisions are taken, regulations made and laws passed.

01982 382 650
www.larac.org.uk

Lucideon

Lucideon is an international, independent materials technology company that applies its materials expertise in ceramics, metals and polymers to a range of sectors including healthcare, construction, ceramics, aerospace, nuclear and power generation. Lucideon is the new name for the companies formerly known as Ceram in the UK and M+P Labs in the US.

01785 331874
www.lucideon.com

Malaysian Timber Council

Established in 1992 to promote the Malaysian timber trade and develop the market for timber products globally.

www.mtc.com.my

National Carpet Cleaners Association (NCCA)

The NCCA is the only nationally recognised trade association dedicated to the cleaning of carpets, hard flooring and soft furnishings. NCCA membership comprises fully insured companies and professionally trained technicians that follow a Code of Practice and are recommended for a full range of services related to the carpet and upholstery cleaning industry.

01562 547754
www.ncca.co.uk

National Institute of Carpet and Floorlayers (NICF)

The NICF is the home of professionals in the domestic flooring trade. It is a highly respected organisation within the domestic flooring industry and is active in promoting the skilled floorlayer. The Institute provides advice and resources to help make running a business as simple, profitable and stress-free as possible.

0115 958 3077
www.nicfltd.org.uk

Recovinyl

Recovinyl is an initiative by the European PVC value-chain aimed at facilitating PVC waste collection and recycling under the Voluntary Commitments of Vinyl 2010 and now VinylPlus®. Established in 2003 by Vinyl 2010, PRE (European recyclers association) and EUPC (European converters association) to advance the sustainable development of the PVC industry by improving production processes, minimise emissions, develop recycling technology and boost the collection and recycling of waste.

www.recovinyl.com

SATRA

SATRA is an independent research and testing organisation established in the UK in 1919. It has technical facilities in Europe and China serving customers throughout the world. As well as testing products and components to European and international standards across a wide range of industry sectors, SATRA develops, manufactures and sells test equipment.

01536 410000
www.satra.co.uk

Ska Rating

Ska rating is an environmental assessment tool for sustainable fit-outs developed by RICS. It helps organisations achieve more sustainable fit-outs and provides a clear benchmark for the performance of fit-outs against each other and the rest of the industry.

024 7686 8555
www.rics.org

Spanish Ceramic Tile Manufacturers' Association (ASCER)

With approximately 135 members, ASCER includes and represents practically all Spain's ceramic tile manufacturers.

www.ascer.es

Professional flooring for the performing arts



Jacob's Pillow – Ballet USA

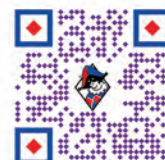
Harlequin is the global leader in the manufacture, supply and installation of performing arts floors and studio equipment. Established as the industry choice for architects, building contractors and the world's most prestigious dance and performing arts companies and schools.

Harlequin works closely with partners, customers and suppliers to ensure that we have, and continue to develop, sustainable practices, products and services. For more information visit our website.

enquiries@harlequinfloors.com **+44 (0) 1892 514 888**



HARLEQUIN
www.harlequinfloors.com



Stone Federation of Great Britain

The Stone Federation is the official trade association for the natural stone industry. The Federation coordinates all construction products, aspects of the industry and provides specifiers and users with a first point of contact for information, advice and guidance in sourcing an appropriate material and a reliable service. The Federation represents employers, liaises with government on legal affairs, health and safety, technical standards, craftsmanship, training and education. It aims to provide a one-stop shop for product information, technical guidance and advice on specifying and working with stone.

01303 856123
www.stonefed.org.uk

The Stocklists

The Stocklists is often referred to as the 'bible' of the flooring business, aimed at wholesalers and retailers. We're proud to have built a busy publication that keeps the industry informed every day online and each month in print with all the innovations, product launches, industry news and appointments.

01892 752400
www.thestocklists.com

The Tile Association (TTA)

TTA is an umbrella organisation that represents the whole of the UK wall and floor tile industry. It aims to promote professionalism and technical standards in the tiling industry and to provide technical support to both members and their customers.

0300 3658453
www.tiles.org.uk

Tile and Stone Journal (TSJ)

The official magazine of The Tile Association, TSJ is the UK's leading magazine for the ceramic tile and dimensional stone industry. It is read by retailers, contractors, distributors, manufacturers and agents and has won international awards for its highly respected editorial coverage.

01892 752400
www.tileandstonejournal.com

Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA)

TRADA is an internationally recognised centre of excellence on the specification and use of timber and wood products. Membership encompasses companies and individuals from around the world and across the entire wood supply chain.

01495 569 745
www.bmtrada.com

Town and Country Planning Association

Founded by Sir Ebenezer Howard in 1899 to promote the idea of the Garden City, the TCPA is Britain's oldest charity concerned with planning, housing and the environment. It campaigns for the reform of the UK's planning system to make it more responsive to people's needs and aspirations and to promote sustainable development.

020 7930 8903
www.tcpa.org.uk

UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA)

The UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA) is a trade body and former Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK) that focuses on promoting sustainability and circular economy principles within the UK flooring industry. They work with members, industry stakeholders, and government to drive positive change and reduce the environmental impact of flooring.

0161 440 8325
www.carpetrecyclinguk.com

UK Green Building Council

The UK Green Building Council is a charity and membership organisation which campaigns for a sustainable built environment. UK-GBC has a diverse membership of more than 400 organisations spanning the entire built environment. The majority are from the private sector, but it also has public and third sector members. It works to inspire best practice and leadership, influence government and policy, and impact its members' sustainability performance.

020 7580 0623
www.ukgbc.org

Usable Buildings Trust

The Usable Buildings Trust is a UK educational charity, dedicated to improving the performance of buildings in use. It tries to understand how buildings actually work in practice, and create a feedback loop from in-use performance to improved delivery by the organisations that can make a difference.

www.usablebuildings.co.uk

Wood Recyclers Association (WRA)

The WRA is the official trade association for the wood recycling sector and promotes the UK's wood recycling industry at home and abroad. WRA aims to provide representation to government and other regulatory authorities for the wood recycling sector; provide advice and guidance to the sector; enable member companies to maximise business and commercial opportunities and enable the exchange of information between members.

0330 325 0490
www.woodrecyclers.org

WWF

The mission of WWF is to improve the management of the world's production forests by using the purchasing power and influence of UK businesses.

01483 426444
www.wwf.org.uk

Waste Resources and Action Programme (WRAP)

WRAP works in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to help businesses and individuals reap the benefits of reducing waste, develop sustainable products and use resources in an efficient way.

01295 819900
www.wrap.org.uk



ACTIONS NOT WORDS.

POWERING PRODUCTION FROM SOLAR
SINCE 2011



TOVER[®]
Your formula

TOVER.COM

REUSE MEMBERS:

Circular Building Solutions

Address: The Old Coach House, 83a Victoria Road, Farnborough GU14 7PP

Contact: Ian Spreadborough, Director
07703 132494

ian@circularbuildingsolutions.co.uk
www.circularbuildingsolutions.co.uk

Emmaus Suffolk Ltd

Offers: Emmaus Suffolk is a charity working with vulnerable, socially isolated or long-term unemployed people and those at risk of homelessness. They source carpet and carpet tiles that can be stocked in their shop at affordable prices to help people in the area struggling to obtain quality flooring.

Area: Suffolk

Address: The Dales, 216 Dales Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 4JY

Contact: Claire Staddon, Chief Executive
01483 225627

execlead@emmaussuffolk.org.uk
www.emmaus.org.uk/suffolk

Envirocycle London Ltd

Activity: Carpet tiles reuse program.

Acceptance Criteria: Carpet tiles, no off cuts.

Collection Service Available? Yes

Volumes accepted: No minimum quantity.

Pricing: Prices based on quality, distance and volume.

Area: London, Home Counties and Essex

Address: 54 Leatherhead Road, Ashstead, KT21 2SY

Contact: Tony Spreckley, Company Director
07549 448123

info@envirocyclelondon.co.uk
www.envirocyclelondon.com

Reuse Network Ltd

Activity: Reducing poverty, cutting waste and tackling social exclusion through reuse.

Collection Service Available? Acts as a representative for a network of reuse centres, so do not collect items themselves. However, their network of reuse centres is always looking out for good quality flooring that you no longer need. Please contact and be put in touch with your nearest reuse centre who may be able to collect items for donation.

Area: We work nationally so our members can act locally.

Address: 48-54 West Street, Bristol, BS2 0BL

Contact: Hannah Jordan, Chief Operations Officer
0800 085 8339

hannah.jordan@reuse-network.org.uk
www.reuse-network.org.uk

Salvation Army Trading Company Ltd

Offers: Sales of surplus and graded carpet tiles and broadloom carpet rolls from commercial sources.

Area: Nationwide.

Address: 3 Simplicity Lane, Harlow, Essex, CM17 9JZ

Contact: Richard Shea, Service Development Manager
0808 141 5890

richard.shea@satcol.org
www.satcol.org

Spruce Carpets

Activity: Reuse of carpet tiles, loose broadloom carpet and domestic vinyl floorcovering

Acceptance Criteria: Dry palletised tiles, loose broadloom and domestic vinyl floorcovering.

Collection Service Available? Yes

Volumes accepted: 0.86 - 13 tonnes (2-30 pallets).

Pricing: Prices based on quality, distance and volume.

Area: Scotland

Address: 308 Broomloan Road, Glasgow, G51 2JQ

Contact: Austin Hardie, CEO
0141 425 1555

austin@sprucecarpets.org.uk
www.sprucecarpets.org.uk

Uplyfted

Activity: Through specialist cleaning and rigorous quality processes at our UK facility, we renew carpet tiles for reuse, creating tangible social and environmental value at scale.

Acceptance Criteria: Any carpet tile product, palletised, including off-cuts.

Collection Service Available? Yes

Volumes accepted: Any amount.

Pricing: Freight charge only.

Area: Nationwide.

Address: 2 Kelvinside, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 7JY

Contact: Agustina Memoli, Co-Founder & Commercial Director
07385 713127

agustina.memoli@uplyfted.co.uk
www.uplyfted.co.uk

RECYCLE MEMBERS:

Anglo Recycling Technology Ltd (Growfelt)

Activity: Reprocessing of post-industrial/post-installation carpet and felt underlay waste. This includes roll ends, remnants, wool waste and other textile wastes including synthetics and sample books.

Acceptance Criteria: Dry, palletised, baled or bulk bags

Collection Service Available? Yes

Volumes accepted: 1-20 tonnes

Pricing: For closed loop product recycling/sales, no gate fee but transportation at cost. For recycling only, £75/t for non-members + transport at cost, no gate fee for Carpet Recycling members.

Area: UK Mainland, N. Ireland, Belgium, Holland, Northern France.

Address: Tong Lane, Rochdale, OL12 8BG

Contact: Andy Hall, Managing Director
01706 853513

andy@anglore recycling.com

www.anglore recycling.com



Circom Fibres Ltd

Activity: Collection, recycling and recovery of all types mixed carpet wastes, mattresses and sofas

Acceptance Criteria: Wet or dry ex waste transfer station, ex HWRC, palletised, baled or loose.

Collection Service Available? Yes

Volumes accepted: Minimum of 1 tonne.

Pricing: Prices based on quality, distance and volume.

Area: National.

Address: Unit 2 Blackburn Road, Longford, Coventry, CV6 6LQ

Contact: Richard Allsopp, Director/Owner
024 7610 0189

richard.allsopp@circom.co.uk

www.circom.co.uk

Countrystyle Recycling

Activity: Collection, recycling and recovery of all types of mixed carpet wastes.

Acceptance Criteria: Wet or dry ex waste transfer station, ex HWRC, palletised, baled or loose.

Collection Service Available? Yes

Volumes accepted: 1-25 tonnes.

Pricing: Prices based on quality, distance and volume.

Area: London and South-East England.

Address: Ridham Dock Road, Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME9 8SR

Contact: Becky Byrne, Commercial Director.
01233 554974

becky.byrne@countrystylerecycling.co.uk

www.countrystylerecycling.co.uk

Hamilton Waste and Recycling Ltd

Activity: Processing all carpet waste including broadloom and carpet tiles.

Acceptance Criteria: Dry, wet, ex waste transfer station, ex HWRC, palletised, baled or loose-minimal surface moisture and no heavy soiling.

Volumes accepted: No upper limit/huge capacity.

Pricing: Price is volume linked.

Area: Scotland/Nationwide.

Address: Smeaton Recycling Centre, Carberry, Musselburgh, Midlothian, EH21 8PZ

Contact: Ken Chrystal, Site Manager.
0131 665 2173

kenchrystal@hamiltonwaste.com

www.hamiltonwaste.com

RECYCLE MEMBERS:

Innovate Recycle Ltd

Activity: Recycle: We will work with customer aware carpet manufacturers and retailers, and with environmentally focused local authorities to gather and recycle end-of-life post-consumer domestic and industrial carpet.

Reuse: Our Polypropylene, when repurposed provides exceptional qualities of strength and recyclability that will provide a strong marketable end of line product that can be continually repurposed to manufacture components across a wide range of industries. We will also reclaim calcium carbonate for reuse in industry.

Acceptance Criteria: We'd love to hear from you. If you think you might have a use for our recaptured polypropylene or calcium carbonate; or if you are a local authority or carpet business looking for a better solution for all that waste carpet; or you're simply interested in what we are trying to achieve and would like to find out more, drop us a line and we'll respond as soon as we can.

Address: Unit 2 Lodge Way, Lodge Farm Industrial Estate, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN5 7US

Contact: Joe Ecclestone, CEO & Founder.

0800 254 5640

joe@innovaterecycle.co.uk

www.innovaterecycle.co.uk



John Cotton Group

Activity: Collection and recycling of clean, post-manufacture TUFTED PP only carpet offcuts.

Acceptance Criteria: Clean, dry, sorted into bales only.

Collection Service Available? Yes

Volumes accepted: 2,000 to 20,000 kg.

Pricing: Pricing based on quality, distance and volume.

Area: UK Mainland

Address: Nunbrook Mills, Huddersfield Road, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, WF14 0EH

Contact: Joe Greenwood, Purchasing Manager.

01924 483214

jgreenwood@johnncotton.co.uk

www.jcr-recycling.co.uk

Tarkett

Activity: ReStart programme offers collection and recycling of bitumen backed tiles for fibre reprocessing and bitumen for roadstone/roofing.

Acceptance Criteria: Dry palletised tiles, any manufacturer, part or full tiles.

Collection Service Available? Yes.

Volumes accepted: No minimum or maximum.

Pricing: On request.

Area: Nationwide.

Address: Tarkett Ltd, 4th Floor, Connect 38, 1 Dover Place, Ashford, TN23 1FB.

Contact: James Bagdadi, Technical Services.

01233 746020

james.bagdadi@tarkett.com

www.tarkett.com

Melrose Interiors Ltd

Activity: Reuse and repurposing of sorted pre-consumer carpet rolls and roll ends for retail.

Acceptance Criteria: Sorted, clean and dry, loose rolls. Must be pre-consumer.

Collection Service Available? Yes.

Volumes accepted: By agreement.

Pricing: Prices based on quality, distance and volume.

Area: Nationwide.

Address: Park View Mills, Wibsey Park Avenue, Wibsey, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD6 3QA.

Contact: 01274 491277

sales@melroseinteriors.co.uk

www.melroseinteriors.co.uk

Waste to Energy BV

Activity: Collecting and processing carpet waste (post-consumer and production).

Acceptance Criteria: Wet and dry, ex-waste transfer station ex HWRC, palletised, baled and loose.

Volumes accepted: 15-10,000 tonnes

Pricing: Pricing based on quality, distance and volume.

Area: Nationwide including Ireland.

Address: Riddererf 10, PT NIJKERK, 3861

Contact: Peter Van Verseveld, Director.

+31 342 462824

peter@waste-to-energy.nl

www.waste-to-energy.nl

Unbleached luxury.

Look after our planet
and your carpets



Scan me
with your phone
to learn more



2.8 - 3.0 TOG
BS4745



44 - 47 dB
BS EN ISO 10140-3 Impact Sound



**Low VOC and
Formaldehyde**



BS14499:2015

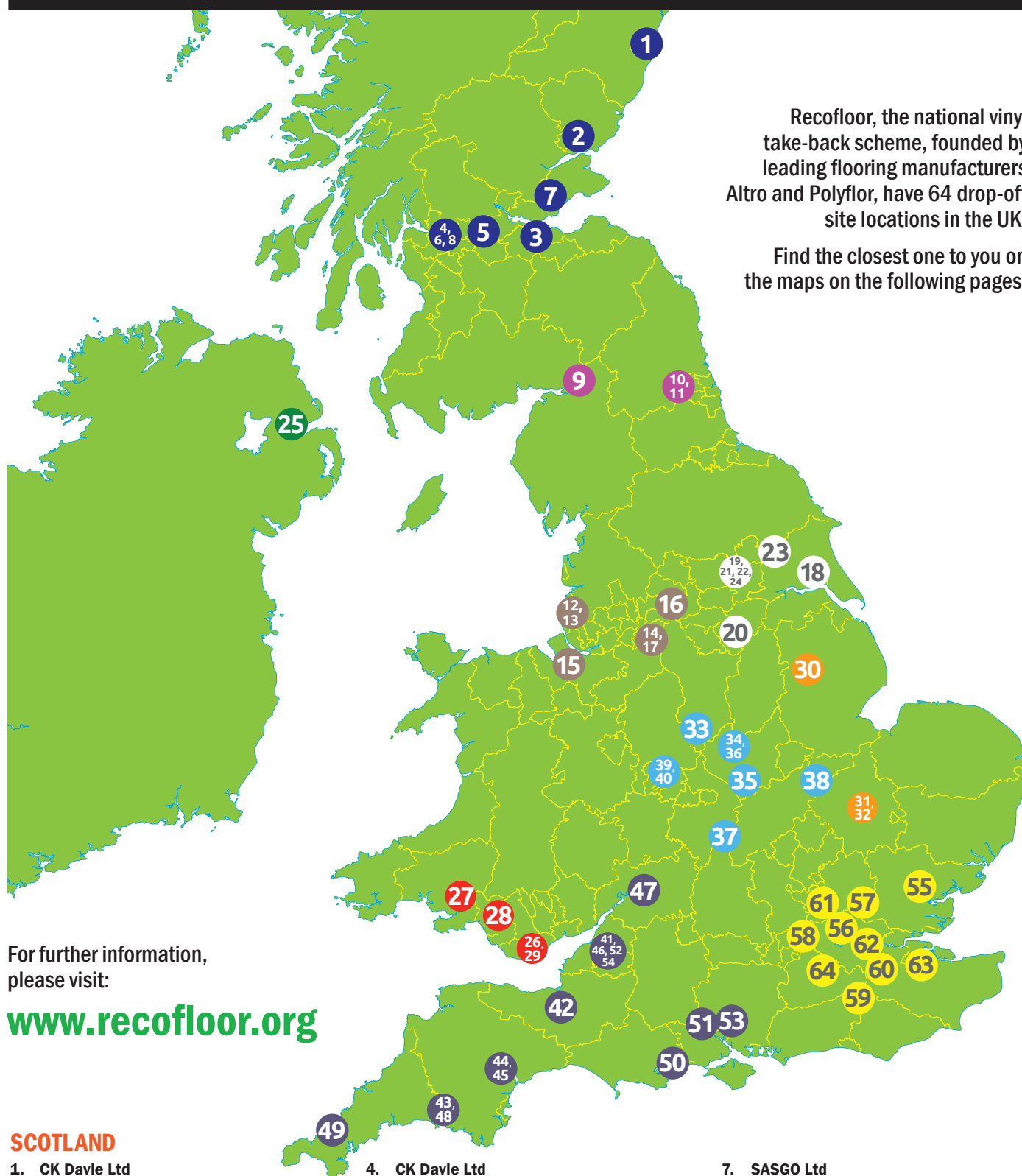
Recommended End Use Classification: **L/U - Luxury use, domestic/contract**



DROP-OFF POINTS FOR WASTE VINYL FLOORING

Recofloor, the national vinyl take-back scheme, founded by leading flooring manufacturers Altro and Polyflor, have 64 drop-off site locations in the UK.

Find the closest one to you on the maps on the following pages.



For further information,
please visit:

www.recofloor.org

SCOTLAND

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. CK Davie Ltd
Denmore Place, Denmore Industrial Estate, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8JS | 4. CK Davie Ltd
Unit 209, 1 Baird Avenue, Hillington West, Hillington Industrial Estate, Glasgow G52 4JG | 7. SASGO Ltd
Unit 14, Faraday Rd, Glenrothes, Fife KY6 2RU |
| 2. CK Davie Ltd
Unit 1c, Dunsinane Industrial Estate, Kilspindie Road, Dundee DD2 3JP | 5. Headlam Scotland
McNeil Drive, Eurocentral, North Lanarkshire, Glasgow ML1 4YF | 8. TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring
231 Maclellan Street, Kinning Parkway Estate, Glasgow G41 1RR |
| 3. CK Davie Ltd
Unit 12, A1 Industrial Estate, 230-232 Sir Harry Lauder Road Edinburgh EH15 2QA | 6. Jeden Ltd
84 Fifty Pitches Road, Cardonald Business Park Glasgow G51 4EB | |

NORTH

- 9. **Mercado**
Unit 12b, Kingston Trade Park,
Gearshill Road, Carlisle CA3 0ET
- 10. **Mercado**
Unit 7, Second Avenue, Team Valley
Trading Est, Gateshead NE11 0ND
- 11. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Unit 6, Queensway North, Team Valley
Industrial Estate, Gateshead NE11 0SZ

NORTH WEST

- 12. **Flooring Supply Centre**
Unit 1, Dunningbridge Rd,
Netherton, Liverpool L30 6TA
- 13. **Lee Floorstok**
24-32 Greenland Street,
Liverpool L1 0BS
- 14. **Lee Floorstok**
Unit B1 The Dresser Centre, Whitworth
Street, Manchester, M11 2NE
- 15. **Pennine Flooring Supplies**
Unit 6 Rector's Lane Industrial Estate,
Sandycroft, Chester CH5 2DH
- 16. **Pennine Flooring Supplies**
Unit 1, Junction 19 Business Park,
Green Lane, Heywood OL10 1NB
- 17. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
James Nasmyth Way, Green Lane,
Eccles, Manchester M30 0SF

YORKSHIRE

- 18. **Birch Distribution**
Rotterdam Road, Sutton Fields
Industrial Estate, Hull HU7 0XD
- 19. **Birch Distribution**
Unit 11 South Leeds Business Park,
Hudswell Road, Leeds LS10 1AG
- 20. **Birch Distribution**
318 Coleford Road, Darnall,
Sheffield S9 5PH
- 21. **Mercado**
Thornes Farm Way, Thornes Farm
Business Park, Leeds LS9 0PS
- 22. **Mercado**
Treefield Industrial Estate, Gelderd
Road, Gilderstone, Morley,
Leeds LS27 7JU
- 23. **Mercado**
Unit 2 Seafire Close, Clifton Moor
Industrial Estate, York YO30 4UU
- 24. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Unit 4, Logic Way, Skelton Moor Way,
Leeds LS15 0BF

IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

- 25. **Provincial Floorcoverings Ltd**
Unit 1 York Retail Park, 1 York Road,
Belfast BT15 3GU

WALES

- 26. **Mercado**
Units 8-10 Llandough Trading Estate,
Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8RR

- 27. **Mercado**
Unit 6 Viking Way, Winch Wen
Industrial Estate, Winch Wen,
Swansea SA1 7DA
- 28. **Mercado**
Horsefair Road, Waterton Industrial
Estate, Bridgend CF31 3YN
- 29. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Unit 6 Charnwood Park, Clos Marion,
Cardiff CF10 4LJ

EAST

- 30. **Mercado**
2 Turnstone Road, Vincent Court, Teal
Park, Lincoln LN6 3AD
- 31. **STS Flooring**
Unit 4 Links Industrial Park, Trafalgar
Way, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB23 8UD
- 32. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Unit 14, Bar Hill Trading Estate,
Trafalgar Way, Cambridge CB23 8SQ

MIDLANDS

- 33. **Concept Flooring Supplies**
1 Dartmouth Road, Junction Industrial
Estate, Smethwick B66 1AX
- 34. **Floormart**
39 Carlisle Street, Leicester,
Leicester LE3 6AH
- 35. **Mercado**
Unit 7, Kingfield Road Trade Park
Coventry CV1 4DW
- 36. **Mercado**
Unit 7, 1 Chiswick Road, Freemans
Common Industrial Estate,
Leicester LE2 7SX
- 37. **Mercado**
3 Weddell Way, Brackmills Ind Estate
Northampton NN4 7HS
- 38. **Mercado**
Unit A2, Hampton Business Park,
Club Way, Peterborough PE7 8JA
- 39. **Mercado**
Gorsey Lane, Coleshill,
Birmingham B46 1JU
- 40. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Emerald Point, Bell Heath Way,
Birmingham B32 3BZ

SOUTH AND SOUTH WEST

- 41. **Mercado**
Unit 2 Newbridge Trading Estate,
St Phillips, Bristol BS4 4AX
- 42. **Mercado**
Unit 14 Crown Close Way, Crown Ind
Estate, Taunton, Somerset TA2 8RX
- 43. **Mercado**
North Road, Lee Mill Industrial Estate,
Ivybridge, Plymouth PL21 9GN
- 44. **Mercado**
Hennock Trade Park, Unit 4 Marsh
Barton Rd, Marsh Barton,
Exeter, Devon EX2 8YX
- 45. **Beach Bros**
Western Road, St. Thomas,
Exeter EX4 1EQ

- 46. **BL Flooring Supplies**
Unit 5A Gattton Road, St. Werburghs,
Bristol BS2 9SH
- 47. **BL Flooring Supplies**
Unit 1, Centurian Industrial Centre,
Empire Way, Gloucester GL2 5HY
- 48. **Christal Supplies**
Laira Bridge Boatyard, The Ride,
Plymstock, Plymouth PL9 7JD
- 49. **Fitwell Flooring**
Unit 16 Cardrew Industrial Estate,
Redruth, Cornwall TR15 1SS
- 50. **Nutland Carpets**
39 Cowley Road, Nuffield Trading
Estate, Poole, Dorset BH17 0UJ
- 51. **Nutland Carpets**
Renown Close Industrial Estate,
Chandlers Ford, Hampshire SO53 4HZ
- 52. **Mercado**
Lysander Road, Cribbs Causeway,
Bristol BS10 7UB
- 53. **Mercado**
Units 10-11, M3 Trade Park,
Manor Way, Eastleigh, Southampton,
Hampshire SO50 9YA
- 54. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Units D-E Riverside Business Park,
St. Annes Road, St Annes Park,
Bristol BS4 4ED

SOUTH EAST AND LONDON

- 55. **Mercado**
Unit 9, Atholl Road, Dukes Park
Industrial Estate, Chelmsford,
Essex CM2 6TB
- 56. **Mercado**
77-79 Garman Road, Tottenham,
London N17 0UN
- 57. **Courtney Flooring Supplies Ltd**
Unit 11, Optima Business Park,
Pindar Rd, Hoddesdon,
Hertfordshire EN11 0DY
- 58. **SASGO Ltd**
Sutton Court, Sutton Lane,
Nr Heathrow, Langley SL3 8AR
- 59. **Signature Me Ltd**
Unit C, Charlwoods Business Centre,
East Grinstead RH19 2HH
- 60. **STS Flooring**
Units 5-6 Orpington Trade Centre,
Murray Road, Orpington, Kent BR5 3SS
- 61. **STS Flooring**
6 Spring Park, Spring Way,
Hemel Hempstead HP2 7ER
- 62. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Stanhope Road, Camberley GU15 3BW
- 63. **TradeChoice Carpet and Flooring**
Unit 7/8, Revenge Road, Lordswood
Industrial Estate, Chatham,
Kent ME5 8UD
- 64. **Volante**
50 Cox Lane, Chessington KT9 1TW

BUYERS' GUIDE

How the flooring industry is embracing sustainability

Flooring enterprises, encompassing contractors, manufacturers, and distributors, are now actively implementing fresh sustainable endeavours

** The following information is provided by players in the flooring industry as part of our paid-for editorial strategy. As such, information may be superficially harmonised to fit our style guide but the essential information has not been changed. Companies have been asked to provide the most accurate information with respect to facts, figures, and sustainable initiatives.*

WOCA

Sustainability is in our nature

WE came to be because of one of nature's most important resources - wood. It's therefore important to us to help preserve the nature that surrounds us all. With that in mind our goal is always to produce environmentally friendly products based on natural raw materials instead of chemicals.

Focusing on natural raw materials is part of our nature. That means the components we mix for oils, soaps, lacquer etc, if possible, must be extracted naturally and afterwards must have as tiny an effect on the environment as possible.

It's an ongoing process to search for alternatives. To us it is an everyday effort to search and strive for the most environmentally and indoor climate friendly products.

Environmentally friendly quality: In our R&D department and laboratory we have enormous focus on how we can make high quality and environmentally friendly products coexist. Because we can never completely avoid waste, when wooden products are treated, or we empty our bucket after washing the floor.

But when it is at all possible not to have a negative effect on the environment, there is really nothing to discuss, we take that road.

A forest floor with no footprints: Basically, it's a cycle. With our love for wood and its preservation, maintenance, and refining, we are obligated to do our utmost to ensure that the new trees have the best growth conditions.

It's just as important to us, that you can breathe freely indoors as well as outdoors when treating your wooden products. Limiting the amount of chemicals in our production and replacing it with natural products whenever possible, has been a natural part of our corporation since we were founded in 1969.

Sustainability right under the skin: It's in our

nature to stay ahead of the game. At WOCA Denmark A/S sustainability is no buzzword. Sustainability is the foundation on which we were created. Because of that we have a constant ambition to stay ahead. Ahead so we're always able to deliver products of the highest quality, without leaving clumsy, environmentally disturbing footprints on the forest floor.

We respect the fact the wood is still alive and beating even when it has been felled, installed as a floor in your home and continues to breathe as the humidity changes, the temperature rises and falls, and we provide it with various treatments.

That means the components we mix for oils, soaps, lacquer etc, if possible, must be extracted naturally and afterwards must have as tiny an effect on the environment as possible.

Our journey all started with a piece of driftwood on a beach in North Jutland and since then we have not looked back. With pure passion for wood and with respect for nature's resources, we are driven to develop products that strengthen, nurture and protect the wood from the influences of the environment.

Care is in our nature: Beautiful wood and great craftsmanship is at the core of our company's DNA. How we use, maintain, protect, and refine the wood was and still is the most important part of our continuous success.

For many years, wooden stairs, flooring, and furniture were the focus of the product line, however, over time, maintenance, oil, lacquer,



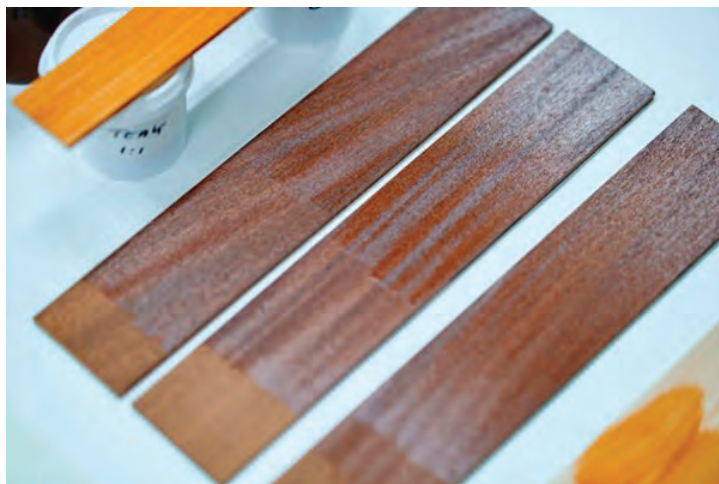
It's important to help preserve the nature that surrounds us all

and cleaning became part of the business. In 2004 we became an independent company, specialized in environmentally friendly wood care under the name WOCA Denmark A/S. WOCA naturally stands for Wood Care.

Made in Denmark: Today we have a wide range of products for care, maintenance and protection of both stone, textile, non-wood and wooden surfaces, for indoor as well as outdoor. At the same time, we deliver tailor-made solutions within color, finish and look to the furniture and flooring industry etc.

All our work and production take place in Lunderskov, Denmark and we take great pride in being a recognised, Danish brand exporting to more than 60 countries worldwide.

www.wocadenmark.com





WOCA EARNES
FIBA APPROVAL

Master the fast break!



**WOCA Denmark is now a provider of
FIBA-Approved Equipment - Competition Level 1 -
for basketball courts.**

This recognition highlights WOCA Denmark's commitment to quality and performance, ensuring that its products meet the highest international standards set by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



Master Care



Master Cleaner



Master TS-2K Lacquer

www.wocadenmark.com

Technical support: Adrian Rash • National Sales Manager – UK & Ireland • Phone +44 7502 404331 • Email: ara@wocadenmark.com



UZIN

UZIN's commitment to sustainability: innovating for a greener future

AT UZIN, sustainability is the cornerstone of our corporate philosophy. Over the past two

decades, we have dedicated ourselves to developing products that are not only high-performing but also environmentally responsible.

Our commitment to sustainability is evident in our extensive range of solvent-free and EC1

PLUS certified products, which protect both the health of users and the environment. By reducing harmful emissions, we ensure that our products contribute to healthier indoor air quality, aligning with the growing demand for sustainable building practices.

Aligned with our sustainability objectives, we are excited to introduce two ground-breaking adhesives with EC1 PLUS recognition. UZIN KE 2428 NEW is a multi-purpose adhesive for sheet vinyl, linoleum, and carpets. Meanwhile, UZIN UZ 54 provides a solvent-free solution for commercial carpet installations.

The EC1 Plus accolade certifies that these adhesives emit extremely low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), making them perfect for sustainable building initiatives such as LEED and BREEAM.

These adhesives are a testament to our commitment to combining traditional performance with contemporary sustainability practices. UZIN KE 2428 NEW and UZIN UZ 54 adhesives integrate the characteristics of traditional adhesives with state-of-the-art, solvent-free technology.

With exceptional grab, superior thread formation, and outstanding bond strength, these adhesives are engineered to perform. Both adhesives are ideal for those who value a perfect balance of traditional performance and forward-thinking responsibility.

As we move forward, UZIN remains committed to leading the industry in sustainability. Our innovative products, rooted in tradition, are developed to meet the needs of today while preserving the environment for future generations.

As we continue to innovate and expand our product range, we invite our partners and customers to join us on this journey towards a more sustainable and responsible flooring industry. Together, we can make a significant impact on the environment and contribute to a healthier planet.

www.uzin.co.uk





THE FLOOR BELONGS TO YOU.

INNOVATIVE ADHESIVES INSPIRED BY TRADITION

COMBINING EXCELLENT GRAB AND SUPERIOR
BOND STRENGTH WITH EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE
AND LOW EMISSION TECHNOLOGY



Scan the
QR code
for more
information

UZIN UTZ®

CARPET RECYCLING UK
Repurposing textile flooring



**UK SUSTAINABLE
FLOORING
ALLIANCE**

UKSFA

Carpet Recycling UK rebrands as the UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA)

TRADE body, Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK), has begun its official transition to the UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA).

Marked as an important milestone in its journey towards helping create a more sustainable flooring industry, the rebrand is a 'strategic step', according to CEO of UKSFA, Cathie Clarke.

Clarke explains: 'This change will better represent our commitment to the wider flooring sector - which still very much encompasses carpets and textile flooring, but also resilient flooring such as vinyl and LVT.'

'Our new name reflects our broader focus and strengthens our position as the leading voice for sustainable flooring solutions. UKSFA will continue to drive innovation, and champion innovative and scalable sustainable end-of life solutions, working closely with entire supply chains to reduce the thousands of tonnes of flooring waste generated annually in the UK.'

The UKSFA rebrand comes at a pivotal time, as it will help position the trade body further as the voice of the sector, and help prepare members for the upcoming legislation such as the European EcoDesign for Sustainable Products (ESPR),

Construction Product Regulation (CPR) and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

These policies will reshape manufacturing practices and waste management by shifting the financial and logistical responsibility for end-of-life product disposal onto manufacturers and distributors.

Continues Clarke: 'This rebrand is not just a name change - it marks a fundamental moment in our mission to influence policy, shape the future of responsible flooring sustainability and ensure the industry takes charge of its own environmental impact.'

'We're committed to transformation, collaboration, and delivering real sustainable solutions for the flooring sector.'

The new branding will be transferred across other channels such as LinkedIn and the website. UKSFA exhibited at the INDX National Flooring Show (13-14 May) to promote www.takemyflooring.co.uk (formerly www.recyclemycarpet.co.uk) under the UKSFA brand.

info@uksustainableflooringalliance.com

cathie@uk-sfa.com

www.carpetrecyclinguk.com



Cathie Clarke

NATURAL RENEWABLE SUSTAINABLE WOOD FINISHES THAT LAST!



Sunflower Oil, widely recognised for its use as a frying oil in food and as an emollient in cosmetic formulations, is a non-volatile oil extracted from sunflower seeds. When blended with other ingredients in an Osmo product, sunflower oil aids in penetrating the wood grain, contributing to the microporous, breathable finish of the product.



Soya Oil, extracted from soybean seeds, is a drying oil used in oil paints, printing inks, and Osmo oils. It hardens when exposed to air, creating a flexible, transparent, and waterproof solid. With proper formulation, it provides a wood finish that offers enhanced resistance to water, liquids, and spills.



Thistle Oil, often praised in cosmetics for its rich source of omega essential fatty acids, thistle oil is a valuable ingredient in Osmo products as well. Unlike conventional varnishes that form a film, thistle oil interacts with the wood. Its lightweight properties enable it to penetrate deeply into the wood grain, resulting in a microporous finish that resists flaking, peeling, or blistering.

Osmo is continually committed to sustainability and looking after the parts of the planet it directly affects, and beyond, by creating high quality, environmentally friendly products, using responsibly sourced and certified wood, and meeting the highest regulations and standards.

Throughout 60+ years (since 1964), the foundation of Osmo self-developed, wood finishes has been based upon purified and refined natural renewable resources.

By using carefully harvested natural oils and hard waxes, Osmo is proud to call its products vegan. Osmo harnesses all the goodness of nature, without using ingredients from any animals, such as beeswax for example.



WWW.OSMOUK.COM



THINK GROUP

Think Group's innovative Eco-Step underlay revolutionises the housing sector

YORKSHIRE-based textile manufacturer Think Group launched an 8mm Eco-Step variant to its SpringBond® underlay range at the Harrogate Flooring Show at the end of 2024 to improve accessibility to their products and meet industry specification requirements.

Since then, the product has gained popularity among housebuilders and has won various awards for its strong focus on sustainability and innovation.

The 8mm Eco-Step underlay from Think Group enhances the firm's flagship SpringBond® product lineup, offering superior benefits to end-users, particularly in new housing developments. Developed to meet 8mm industry specifications, this sustainable alternative to standard PU foam underlay is 100% chemical-free, precision-engineered, and free from lumps and bumps. With its durability and comfort outperforming traditional PU, Eco-Step is already gaining significant traction in the housebuilding sector and is on its way to being nationally specified by one of the top 5 housebuilders, with others on the verge of making the switch within its first 12 months.

Other environmental credentials include the

product being manufactured using 180 recycled plastic bottles per roll of underlay.

Eco-Step also benefits from Think Group's 'twice recycled' process, which uses waste from the manufacturing process of other SpringBond® products to create the 8mm Eco-Step underlay.

On average, 1,000 plastic bottles are saved from landfill in an average-size three-bedroom house when using SpringBond®.

Working with the UK's largest flooring contractor, Designer Contracts, Think Group has helped divert 4.5 million bottles from landfill, including 2 million through housebuilder Bellway Homes.. Since its launch, the firm's flagship SpringBond® underlay, made from 85% recycled content, including plastic bottles, has helped divert over 60million plastic bottles from the world's oceans.

Enhancing its sustainability credentials further, Eco-Step won the Sustainability Award at the Harrogate Flooring Show. Additionally, Think Group received the National Flooring Innovation Award in the 'Underlay and Accessories' category, recognising the product's innovation and impact in the UK flooring industry.

Danny Shortall, Group Sales Director,

comments on Eco-Step: 'We have listened to what the housing market has asked for, and we're proud to have developed a product that balances comfort, innovative manufacturing, and affordability in response to industry needs. We aim to provide an accessible price point for those looking to avoid using standard PU foam underlay.'

'Our 8mm Eco-Step is the ideal product for those needing to meet industry standards or requiring an entry-level sustainable underlay alternative. On the other hand, our 9mm and 11mm ranges continue to provide enhanced levels of comfort and performance and are the ideal solution for commercial spaces or luxury environments.

'In the near future, we'll be working with a leading provider of innovative residential construction, regeneration and retrofit solutions, where they'll be using Eco-Step as their standard underlay. We look forward to sharing more soon!'

Discover more about Think Group's SpringBond® range here:

www.textfelt.co.uk/springbond-underlay
www.thinkgroupuk.uk





SPRING BOND®
ECO-STEP
 HIGH PERFORMANCE UNDERLAY

Twice Recycled High Performance Underlay



HIGH PERFORMANCE ECO UNDERLAY

Sustainability that actually performs

100%
CONSISTENCY

0%
LUMPS & BUMPS



**We're putting our foot down on
plastic bottle pollution,**

Could you?

Designed for every carpeted area in the home, Eco-Step combines exceptional underfoot comfort with long-lasting resilience and superior acoustic insulation. Made using recycled plastic bottles, it offers a sustainable alternative to PU foam - without compromising on performance or consistency. From bedrooms to living spaces, Eco-Step delivers a high-quality finish that supports your environmental goals and enhances the value of every property.

Did you know, the average 3 bedroom house saves 1,000 plastic bottles from landfill using SpringBond!



**100%
Recyclable**



**Virtually No
VOC's**



Hypoallergenic



**Sound
Reduction**



**Naturally Flame
Resistant**



**Chemical
Free**



**Moisture, Mildew
& Rot Repellent**



Up to 2.2 tog

YOUR NEXT STEP!

01274 905411

springbond.co.uk



BONA

Bona leads the way in eco-friendly flooring solutions

FOR flooring contractors seeking to pair craftsmanship with sustainability, Bona has become the industry benchmark for innovation and environmental responsibility. With over a century of expertise, this family-owned, global business sets itself apart with a focus on superior-quality products, eco-conscious practices, and a forward-thinking approach to flooring solutions.

Why sustainability matters in flooring

The flooring industry has long faced challenges regarding environmental impact, including waste management and energy consumption.

Bona addresses these issues head-on, aiming to lead the transformation towards a more sustainable sector. Their approach focuses on extending the lifecycle of flooring materials through renovation rather than replacement, saving resources and significantly reducing carbon footprints.

For example, refinishing a resilient floor through Bona's solutions can achieve up to 90% reductions in energy use and CO2 emissions compared to replacing the floor entirely. These results demonstrate Bona's deep commitment to sustainable practices without compromising performance.

Bona's Eco-Conscious Innovations

Bona's product portfolio exemplifies its dedication to sustainability. Renowned for its cutting-edge technologies, the company consistently raises the bar in flooring solutions. Here are some standout innovations:

Bona Mega EVO: A waterborne wood floor finish with advanced self-crosslinking technology. With VOC levels under 3% and an EC1PLUS certification, it sets the gold standard for safety and environmental responsibility. This means better air quality for contractors and floor owners alike.

Bona Dust Containment System: Designed to protect contractors by drastically reducing airborne dust during sanding, this system supports safer and healthier working environments.

Green Certifications:

U.S. EPA Safer Choice Partner: Recognising Bona's leadership in developing safer chemical products.



EMICODE® EC1PLUS Certification: Bona's primers and finishes meet the highest standards for low VOC content, reflecting their commitment to indoor environmental quality.

GREENGUARD & Green Seal certifications validate Bona's low-emission, environmentally-friendly product qualities further.

Key Benefits for Flooring Contractors

Choosing Bona isn't just environmentally conscious; it's also smart for business. Here's what contractors stand to gain:

Superior Performance

Every product is rigorously tested and backed by third-party certifications. This ensures you deliver high-quality results your clients can depend on.

Innovative Solutions for Health & Safety

With systems like the Bona Dust Containment System, contractors can prioritise their health without sacrificing efficiency. Ergonomic and dust-free systems improve both working conditions and project outcomes.

Customised Training & Support

Through the Bona Certified Craftsman Programme, contractors receive expert guidance on utilising Bona's solutions safely and effectively. This not only enhances expertise but also builds trust with customers by highlighting your credibility.

Eco-Friendly Reputation

More homeowners and commercial clients are seeking sustainable solutions. By using Bona, contractors position themselves as leaders in

delivering environmentally responsible flooring projects.

Sustainability as a business advantage

Bona's sustainability-driven approach doesn't just benefit the planet; it creates opportunities for contractors to build stronger businesses. The global push for environmentally friendly practices, reflected in new EU sustainability regulations and changing consumer preferences, makes eco-conscious construction the new industry standard.

By aligning with Bona, contractors signal to their customers that they care about more than the immediate project. They reflect a commitment to long-term value, reduced environmental impact, and creating healthier spaces.

Looking forward

Bona's vision to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 underpins every aspect of its operations. Their continued investment in renewable energy, innovative materials, and sustainable supply chain practices cements their position as the frontrunner in eco-friendly flooring solutions.

For contractors seeking not just products, but partners committed to a sustainable future, Bona offers world-class solutions that meet the needs of today while preparing for the demands of tomorrow. With Bona, you're not just restoring floors; you're building a legacy of quality and care.

Get started with Bona today

Ready to make your projects eco-friendlier and more efficient? Discover how Bona can help you elevate your craft while supporting a healthier planet. Explore our range of professional flooring solutions and training programmes designed specifically for forward-thinking contractors.

Visit www.bona.com to learn more or get in touch today to see how our products and systems can enhance your projects. Together, we can lead the flooring industry towards a more sustainable future.

www.bona.com





Before
After



Extend the life of your resilient floors – the Bona way!

Recoat – don't replace!

Introducing the Bona Resilient System, effective care and maintenance for resilient floors. The unique program gives you the power to clean, rejuvenate and recoat floors saving the time and costs of traditional floor replacement.

- Deep clean and recoat system
- Transform tired flooring
- 50% saving against cost of replacement
- Completed with minimal downtime
- Change colour, add design features
- No need to dispose of old floor

Bona Ltd
Tel 01908 525150
info.uk@bona.com
bona.com



Bona®

SHAW CONTRACT

People and planet: Shaw Contract's commitment to sustainability

At Shaw Contract, we create solutions that positively impact people and the planet. As a global leader in carpet tile and resilient flooring, in 2025 Shaw Contract celebrate 40 years of operations in EMEA, delivering commercial flooring solutions across the UK, Continental Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

People together, planet forever

Our 'People Together, Planet Forever' sustainability pledge highlights that people and planet are fundamentally connected. Our material health, carbon reduction, circularity and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) goals are underpinned by a strong call to action - 'Neutral is Not Enough'.

'Neutral is Not Enough' highlights our belief that simply maintaining a neutral stance on climate change is not enough - to make a real change, we must all take strong, positive action to reduce carbon, create healthier spaces and drive a circular future.

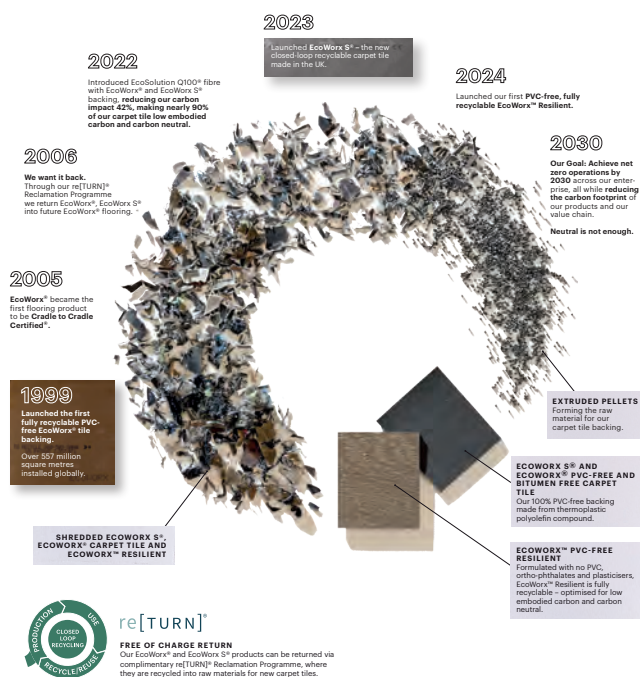
Playing our part, we have already reduced our operational footprint by 57% since 2010, with our most recent new product and partner developments strongly contributing to decreasing this further, as outlined below.

Locally manufactured, globally supported

Globally headquartered in the US, we are one of only a few suppliers manufacturing carpet tiles in the UK. Our carbon-neutral manufacturing facility in Sanquhar, Scotland, produces around 120,000 sqm of carpet tiles per week, running entirely on renewable electricity whilst supporting the local economy.

As a vertically integrated carpet manufacturer, we globally produce our own EcoSolution Q100™ fibre, a high performance 100% recycled content nylon fibre, giving us full control over product quality and sustainability. With approximately 700 tonnes of yarn in stock in the UK, we have the capacity to manufacture 1.25 million sqm of carpet tile - the equivalent of 168 football pitches.

ECOWORX® LIFECYCLE:
THE ANSWER TO THE INDUSTRY'S NEED FOR
PVC-FREE RESILIENT PRODUCT.



A legacy of sustainable innovation

With nearly 90% of our portfolio Cradle to Cradle Certified®, we have a 25-year long legacy of advancing product circularity and investing in material health.

In 1999, we set a new industry standard with our EcoWorx® carpet tile backing, the world's first fully recyclable, PVC- and bitumen-free carpet tile backing. It proved that carpet tiles could be PVC-free without sacrificing performance and was the first flooring product globally to achieve Cradle to Cradle Certified® status. To date, over 560 million sqm of EcoWorx® has been installed worldwide.

Building on this legacy, in 2023 we introduced EcoWorx S®, a closed-loop recyclable carpet tile made in the UK. Now, leveraging the same proven chemistry, we have recently launched PVC-free EcoWorx™ Resilient Flooring, bringing the same benefits to resilient flooring.

Free from plasticisers, PVC, stabilisers, Orthophthalate and chlorine, EcoWorx™ Resilient delivers a PVC-free, fully-recyclable alternative to Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) without compromising on performance, durability or aesthetics.

re[TURN]® Reclamation Programme – We Want it Back

Eliminating waste is central to our Cradle-to-Cradle certification and sustainability commitment.

Our free-of-charge re[TURN]® Reclamation Programme ensures that all Shaw Contract EcoWorx® products, including EcoWorx™ Resilient, can be returned and closed-loop recycled back into more EcoWorx® carpet tile, reducing waste and reliance on virgin raw materials.

As part of the programme, we collect used EcoWorx® products free-of-charge and transport them to our manufacturing facilities in Scotland. There, the material goes through an initial shredding process where it is chopped into small pieces with any metal content

removed using magnets. It then undergoes additional shredding before being pushed through extruders and compressed into pellets, creating raw materials for the next generation of EcoWorx® carpet tile.

Since 2006, Shaw Contract has recovered and recycled more than 450,000 tonnes of post-consumer carpet.

Giving flooring a second life

In June 2024, we expanded our re[TURN]® Reclamation Programme through an official partnership with the Salvation Army Trading Company (SATCoL), creating the largest reuse network for carpet tiles.

With over 40 donation centres across the UK, SATCoL ensures that used carpet tiles are sorted, graded and made available to Housing Associations and Local Authorities, providing much-needed flooring to vulnerable communities.

Our UK-made TaskWorx® and ComfortWorx® carpet tiles go directly into this network for reuse. The programme also extends beyond products manufactured by Shaw Contract, with any non-PVC backed brand of carpet tile able to be reused, offering a cost-effective, sustainable alternative to landfill disposal.

Modern methods of installation

To further support circularity, we promote adhesive-free installation methods such as IOBAC MagTabs® and Tab-It®. These reversible fixings enable flooring to be cleanly uplifted without damage or adhesive residue, making reuse and recycling easier, whilst protecting sub-floor assets.

In an industry-first, we have introduced a second location warranty, confirming product performance and quality even after initial installation, provided it is installed adhesive-free with IOBAC.

Looking ahead

As we celebrate 40 years in EMEA, our commitment to design, performance and sustainability is stronger than ever. Committed to net zero operations by 2030 and through continuous innovation and collaboration, we strive to create flooring solutions that positively impact people and planet for a healthier, more sustainable future.

To register a project for the re[TURN]® Reclamation Programme, please email infouk@shawcontract.com or call 020 7961 4120.

Shaw Contract products are available to view in the Shaw Contract showroom, 33 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DX.

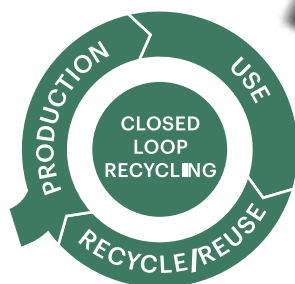
020 7961 4120

infouk@shawcontract.com

www.shawcontract.com/en-gb



Closing the loop



re[TURN][®]

We want it back!

Free of charge re[TURN][®]

Through our free-of-charge re[TURN][®] Programme, used EcoWorx[®] and EcoWorx S[®] carpet tiles can be returned and closed-loop recycled back into new carpet tile, to start its journey all over again:

- ✓ Keeps millions of pounds of carpet out of landfills
- ✓ Reduces virgin raw material usage
- ✓ Lowers embodied carbon footprints

Together, we're creating a smarter, more sustainable future.



Contact your local Account Manager
UK Customer Service: 0207 442 5755



infouk@shawcontract.com



www.shawcontract.com



ShawContract[®]



PERI UK

A sustainable partnership

PETER Clifton, Timber & Plywood Sales & Support Executive at PERI UK, highlights the importance of knowing the origin of your timber and plywood and explains why PERI FLOOR is a sustainable choice for plywood subfloors:

All government contracts, along with most management contracts, now require suppliers to be certified to FSC® or PEFC chain of custody standards for timber products. Beyond these requirements, an increasing number of clients are seeking environmentally sustainable timber products.

As awareness of FSC® and PEFC certification grows, clients are increasingly demanding certification across the entire supply chain — including manufacturers, importers, distributors, and installers/sub-contractors. As a supplier of timber and wood-based panel products, we are committed to providing our customers with responsibly sourced products across all areas of our business.

Sustainability is central to our environmental management practices. We are dedicated to identifying, managing, and continually improving key environmental aspects to support our sustainability goals. Each year, we review and update these aspects to ensure ongoing progress.

Supporting Responsible Sourcing

Our support for responsibly managed forests is demonstrated through the implementation and management of a certified Chain of Custody (CoC) procedure. This ensures full compliance with the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

We conduct internal and external audits regularly throughout our CoC process to ensure our timber and wood-based panel products are FSC® and PEFC certified.

Our wood-based and flooring product experts are highly skilled and dedicated to maintaining a thorough process that aligns with British Standards and CFA standards.

We place great importance on partnering with supply chain partners who share our commitment. By doing so, we ensure our products and services consistently align with our brand values and environmental responsibilities.

Where does our flooring grade plywood come from?

PERI FLOOR is manufactured in Indonesia, by PT Sumber Mas Indah Plywood, using Meranti/Mersawa veneers sourced from FSC® certified plantations and other controlled sources, helping protect tropical rainforests and promoting environmental sustainability.

By prioritising responsible wood procurement, efficient water and waste management, as well as reducing waste through recycling and proper disposal methods, PT Sumber Mas Indah Plywood demonstrates its commitment to sustainability and protecting the planet for future generations.

Maximal Wood Processing Policy & SVLK

By adopting a philosophy known as 'Wood-wise,' PT Sumber Mas Indah Plywood aims to maximise the efficient use of roundwood while minimising waste during production. Every piece of wood is carefully utilised, ensuring no chips go unused.

This approach not only enhances the ecological benefits of wood as a raw material but also improves its carbon storage capabilities. The company recognises that even non-recoverable wood residues can serve a purpose, such as being repurposed into renewable energy sources like wood pellets.

SVLK certification further strengthens PT Sumber Mas Indah Plywood's commitment to climate action and environmental sustainability, promoting sustainable practices, both within its own operations and across the wider industry.

www.peri.ltd.uk



PERI FLOOR is a sustainable choice for plywood subfloors



We make a
**conscious
choice**
when
sourcing
our products



www.peri.ltd.uk

Our factory sources veneers from
FSC® certified plantations and
other controlled sources, helping
protect tropical rainforests.

When choosing plywood
underlay, take a closer look
at where it comes from.



PERI FLOOR



**SUSTAINABLE
FLOORING
STARTS HERE**

Get in touch for more information on
PERI FLOOR or to discuss your project.

01277 582 017
flooring@peri.ltd.uk



The mark of
responsible forestry



CIRCULAR BUILDING SOLUTIONS

The future of flooring: driving circularity through adhesive-free installation

CIRCULAR Building Solutions Ltd specialise in modular and reversible commercial interior solutions that promote material reuse, protect building assets and reduce waste, embodied carbon and costs. Here, they explore the crucial role that adhesive-free installation plays in driving flooring circularity.

Carpet Recycling UK (CRUK) recorded circa 462,000 tonnes of carpet and textile flooring waste disposed of in the UK in 2021. Whilst around 80% was diverted from landfill, only a small fraction was reused, with the vast majority going for energy from waste recovery, recycling or incineration.

Many flooring manufacturers have made significant advancements in developing sustainable, recyclable floor coverings with low carbon footprints and offering material take-back schemes for reuse or recycling. However, a vital part of the sustainability puzzle often gets overlooked.

The key to keeping materials at their highest value and developing a truly circular flooring solution often lies in its installation method.

Futureproofing flooring

Traditional adhesive-based installation methods such as tackifiers, spray and contact adhesives are designed to be semi-permanent, rather than reversible, fixings. When a floor covering is uplifted, it is often contaminated by not only adhesive residue but also some of the subfloor to which it was adhered. It cannot be easily reused or recycled, rendering it a single-use material.

Additionally, the sub-floor asset, often the highest embodied carbon element of the flooring system, is also damaged, and must be made good before the next installation, adding remedial costs for landlords and tenants in between leases.

And in the case of concrete sub-floors, further cementitious screeds may be needed to rectify the surface, introducing additional embodied carbon into the building.

The rise of adhesive-free installation

Adhesive-free flooring installation addresses these challenges by enabling floor coverings to be affixed securely throughout the life of the installation, yet cleanly and easily uplifted, ready to be reused elsewhere.

This reversible fixing mechanism extends product lifecycles, vastly improving flooring circularity and making flooring manufacturers' take-back schemes easier to implement.

With a growing focus on designing for

disassembly, specifiers are increasingly choosing adhesive-free installation alongside their selected floor coverings, with projects across UK, Europe, Australia and US becoming more commonplace.

Leading developers and clients are taking notice. Developer Landsec prefers mechanical rather than chemically fixed methods for flooring within its Material Brief, whilst Google stipulates 'pressure-sensitive corner tape, tiles or dots that allow for easy removal and replacement' in its global procurement guidelines.

Sustainability accreditations such as BREEAM and LEED recognise waste reduction and material reuse with additional credits, making adhesive-free an attractive option for architects and their clients.

Making specification even easier, IOBAC's adhesive-free Tab-it® and MagTabs® solutions have been proven in the installation of carpet tiles, +4mm Luxury Vinyl Tiles and woven vinyl tiles from 13 leading manufacturers including Shaw Contract EMEA, Forbo, Burmatex, Tarkett, Desso, Bolon, Ege Carpets and Milliken.

And in a first for the industry, Shaw Contract EMEA have gone one step further by offering a 15-year warranty when their product is installed using IOBAC, including the re-installation of flooring in a second location - a huge leap forward in facilitating flooring reuse.

Cutting carbon and cost

The ability to reuse both flooring and subfloors offers significant savings in embodied carbon and costs.

Independent whole life embodied carbon modelling demonstrates that adhesive-free installation can lead to up to 80% carbon savings due to material reuse, whilst whole life cost comparisons calculate adhesive-free installation to be 40% less than traditional methods thanks to maintenance savings.

Tackifier adhesive costing around £0.50 to £0.80 per sqm can render raised access floors worth between £60 to 90 per sqm for light/medium grade and £90 to 120 per sqm for heavy grade duty unusable (cost data from Gleeds). Removing adhesive residue, often requiring solvent-based cleaning, can add an additional £9 to £15 per sqm in costs.

Beyond this, adhesive-free installation brings efficiency benefits for contractors. A simple, intuitive dry-laid method, minimal preparation material and steps are required with no mess. Multiple trades can work around each other more easily during installation and flooring can be trafficked immediately with no cure time needed. This means installs are completed as quickly as possible, with minimal disruption.

All VOCs associated with adhesives are eliminated for improved Indoor Air Quality for both contractors and occupants.

Making flooring reuse reality

As sustainability continues to shape the flooring industry, specifications are evolving, and adhesive-free installation is increasingly becoming standard practice. Forward-thinking flooring contractors are adopting this approach - not only to meet client expectations but also to gain a competitive advantage in an industry that is rapidly shifting toward circularity.

By embracing adhesive-free installation, the industry can unlock a more sustainable, cost-effective and future-ready approach to flooring, ensuring materials retain their value and contribute to a truly circular economy.

Circular Building Solutions run regular CPD sessions for specifiers and training sessions for flooring contractors, demonstrating best practice use of reversible installation solutions.

info@circularbuildingsolutions
www.circularbuildingsolutions.co.uk



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THE CONDOR GROUP

The Condor Group accelerates to a sustainable future

By reducing emissions, reusing materials, and recycling products for circular development, the Condor Group is right on track in achieving their sustainability vision 'On a Roll to Zero Emission'.

With all eyes on conserving the planet and making the world a better place for today's and future generations. With that in mind, Condor Group connects with stakeholders for circular developments and optimizes their production facilities to continue 'Covering the world' in a sustainable manner.

A closer step towards circularity with Alloa

Our sustainable production is a huge step towards a sustainable future, but in the end, the products have to be more sustainable as well. That is why the Condor Group commissioned its R&D department years ago to develop circular products. With the arrival of our Alloa (All Over Again) brand, this dream has become reality. Artificial grass expert Condor Grass was the first with Alloa Pura 100, a fully recyclable artificial grass. But Condor Cartex, the automotive supplier of the Condor Group, soon followed with their fully recyclable car mats. Today, Condor Cartex is already able to use up to 50% recycled content in its Alloa car mats and a 100% recycled product is under development. That product will fully close the loop, which is a major step towards circular development in the automotive industry.

On the way to 100% circular carpets

The next step? Use all this knowledge and developments towards circularity for the benefit of residential carpets. And last year, with the introduction of the Alloa Carpets collection from our member Edel Carpets the time was ripe. Our first fully recyclable carpets were born.

It follows a long line of sustainable products, starting over a decade ago with our collaboration with Econyl to numerous steps with recycled raw materials to this fully recyclable product. It brings us ever closer to producing a recyclable carpet from 100% recycled raw materials. Our ultimate goal!



Silky



Madagascar

#Tide: Recycled content with extra social impact

Our latest collaboration is with the Swiss company #tide, which collects, recycles and granulates ocean-bound plastic. This partnership ensures not only cleaner coastlines and oceans, but also a lot of local impact. For instance, collectors, often local fishermen, get a fair wage for the plastic collected, the waste is recycled locally and #tide helps local communities collect normal waste. So, we prevent new plastic pollution. And it all combines into fantastic products, like our four luxury broadloom collections from Condor Carpets, four unique Alloa woven collections at Inter carpet, five flat field ranges at VEBE (carpet and dirt-trapping mats) and an artificial grass product for Padel (sports).

Continuing in covering the world, circular

In short; the Condor Group is right on track in becoming even more sustainable. Striving to achieve 'Zero Emission' with tens of thousands of solar panels, its eco-brand Alloa, countless products with recycled content and continuous optimization of their facilities.

Condor Group speeds to a circular future to make the world better and healthier for current and future generations. That is how Condor Group will keep 'Covering the world', but in a sustainable and more circular way.

www.condor-group.eu



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High-quality carpet for the finest homes, offices and hotels, made by craftsmen in our state-of-the-art factories. We have been creating, producing and supplying innovative top quality Dutch products worldwide since 1992, offered at internationally competitive prices. With our innovative products we are determined to reduce our carbon footprint to zero.

Join us "on a roll to zero emission". Read more at our website! »



ARDEX GROUP UK

ARDEX Group UK achieves gold standard for carbon reduction

As a leading company in the construction chemicals industry, ARDEX is strongly committed to sustainable building solutions and a more responsible world.

From reducing our CO2 emissions and replacing finite raw materials with circular solutions over diversity and equality to ethical business practices and local sourcing – sustainability at ARDEX means tackling environmental, social and corporate governance issues.

The Group, through its UK brands including BAL and ARDEX, has a core objective to reduce its impact on the environment in an evolving marketplace through sustainable sourcing of materials, recycling, and waste reduction.

Ultimately, the Group's aim is to be Carbon Neutral by 2045 through a series of initiatives. (Carbon Neutral for Scope-1 & 2 by 2030.)

A significant step towards carbon neutrality was recently achieved as ARDEX UK and Building Adhesives Ltd (part of the ARDEX Group) have both achieved gold certification for five years of continuous CO2 reduction.

The ARDEX Group UK first achieved ISO 14064:1 (otherwise known as CEMARS) for the quantifying and reporting of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and removals in 2019

Building Adhesives Ltd in Stoke-on-Trent and ARDEX UK, based in Haverhill, were the first companies in the global ARDEX Group to achieve this standard and were the first companies in the tiling and flooring sectors to be reporting their GHG emissions through this internationally recognized standard.

To achieve this internationally recognized standard, BAL and ARDEX UK worked with Achilles (an independent consultancy) to accurately measure their GHG emissions and create positive strategies to manage and continually reduce impacts.

Achilles' Carbon Reduce (powered by Toitu) scheme highlights the necessary data required which is then measured, monitored and calculated under the ISO 14064:1 scheme. Following successful completion and assessment, executive reports are produced for independent verification.

To ensure that BAL and ARDEX are meeting this international standard, annual audits are carried out by Achilles to verify that both companies can prove they are reducing their CO2 emissions.

Recent audits by Achilles at both Stoke and Haverhill plants confirmed an annual reduction for the 5th year in a row from their base reporting in 2019, ensuring that both sites achieved the Gold Certificate for being 5 Year Certified under the scheme.

The most recent audit confirmed an 11% reduction in Scope 1 & 2 CO2 emissions at Building Adhesives Ltd in Stoke, and a 17% reduction at ARDEX UK in Haverhill using the programme 5 year rolling average



methodology.

Scope 1 & 2 Co2 emissions relate to direct GHG emissions an organisation controls, and indirect GHG emissions from purchasing energy.

Paul Vickers, UK Procurement Manager and UK sustainability champion, said: 'Achieving this gold standard from Achilles is a significant step in our road to Scope 1 & 2 carbon neutrality by 2030.

'Recent audits have confirmed that we have made significant progress towards our targets, helped by recent initiatives to reduce our emissions including; the installation of solar panels at both ARDEX and BAL, switching to 100% renewable energy sources, installing energy-efficient LED lighting in our warehouses, promoting the use of electric company vehicles and installation of EV charging points and converting diesel forklifts to electric.

'Other emission reduction measures are also continuing including using reducing waste, increasing the use of recycled raw materials in our products and reducing emissions for company-wide freight distribution to our customers.'

Products and Packaging

All ARDEX Group products come with a 10-Year Group Warranty – this reduces lifetime build costs due to longer guaranteed product lifetime

The Group aims to reduce product waste for end users through longer working times and high-yield and lower cement consumption materials are a core part of their new product development programme.

The ARDEX Group UK have increased the use of recycled raw materials – including 6.7% of all raw materials used by BAL.

New products are developed with high content of recycled materials – including new BAL Micromax3 ECO Grout with more than 25% recycled raw material, while 100% of all cement used in its products are sourced from the UK or EU.

ARDEX Group has made a conscious effort to reduce the use of 'virgin' plastics in its products.

62% of all plastic buckets and bottles across the UK group are now produced using PCR (Post-Consumer Recycled plastics). 62% buckets by volume at BAL and 100% by volume bottles at ARDEX UK.

The ARDEX Group operate a close loop pallet return policy with key customers, this equates to 17% of total pallet requirements for BAL, while 99% of pallets used in deliveries are recycled secondhand pallets.

Certification

The ARDEX Group UK hold EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations) on all its products – to report on the environmental impacts of its products in an ultra-transparent way.

The Group are working towards full EN standard approval with BREEAM with products previously tested to LEED protocols.

Meanwhile, its core products have EMICODE Approval with remaining products in the process of EMICODE Approval. This allows consumers and installers to compare and evaluate the emission characteristics of our products.

New products are developed to reach EC1 Plus designation – the best rating for low emissions.

Accreditation

The ARDEX Group in the UK is accredited with internationally recognised environmental standards including:



ARDEX UK - Haverhill



BSI ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management – this is a standard that the ARDEX Group uses to enhance its environmental management programme. Building Adhesives recently completed a recertification audit and didn't receive any non-conformances - successfully retained their accreditation for a further 3 years.

BSI ISO 14064-1: 2006 Greenhouse Gas Verification. ARDEX is one of the first manufacturers in the industry to achieve ISO 14064:1 (otherwise known as CEMARS) for the quantifying and reporting of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and removals. To achieve this internationally recognized standard, ARDEX UK worked with Achilles (an independent consultancy) to accurately measure its GHG emissions and create positive strategies to manage and continually reduce impacts.

Carbon Neutral 2045

The ARDEX Group UK have a number of initiatives that we are looking to implement as we look to hit our target of being Carbon Neutral by 2045.

This includes:

- Working with logistics partners on zero c02 emissions for in bound and out bound freight
- Formulation adjustments to reduce share of c02 intensive raw materials
- Replacing all virgin plastic materials by 2035 and potentially introducing bio-degradable packaging
- New product development with carbon neutral alternatives
- Introducing bulk deliveries for contractors
- In addition to its in-house sustainability program, the UK group also supports external environmental groups with BAL's charitable partnership with Cool Earth – a charity which works alongside rainforest communities to halt deforestation and its impacts on climate change.

Cool Earth supports local and indigenous knowledge to develop innovative ways to address threats to the forest while making communities stronger and more resilient.

Building Adhesives, through its BAL brand, are committed to saving over 80 acres of endangered rainforest in the Peruvian Amazon every year.

With the ARDEX Group UK, you're Building Tomorrow.

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Unilin Flooring specialises in the production of laminate, wood and vinyl floors for housing and commercial interiors

UNILIN

Vinyl floors with certified pre-consumer recycled content

UNILIN Flooring announces certified pre-consumer recycled content for its dryback and engineered vinyl flooring for housing and commercial projects made under the Quick-Step and Moduleo brands.

Unilin Flooring, a division of Unilin, specialises in the production of laminate, wood and vinyl floors for housing and commercial interiors.

As part of the Unilin One Home sustainability strategy which aligns with SBTi (Science Based Targets initiative) near-term targets, it has undergone an analysis of pre-consumer recycled content within its vinyl floors made at its Avelgem, Belgium production facility.

Conducted by third-party certification

body SCS Global Services, the analysis has calculated the total content of pre-consumer recycled content used in dryback, looselay and engineered vinyl floors made under the Quick-Step and Moduleo brands. Under the analysis, pre-consumer recycled content is defined as: recycled materials from other industrial processes, including internal cutting waste, reprocessed into raw materials.

For dryback and loose lay vinyl floors, such as those in the Moduleo Roots 55, Moduleo Moods and Moduleo Intoo loose lay collections, a minimum 21% pre-consumer recycled content is used (SCS-RC-20324).

At least 22% pre-consumer recycled content can be found in engineered vinyl floors from Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl and Moduleo LayRed (SCS-RC-20324 and SCS-RC-20323). The

measurement conforms to SCS Recycled Content Standard V8-0.

Paul Webb, commercial manager UK & EIRE, Unilin Flooring, says: 'The third-party verification of pre-consumer recycled content in our Moduleo and Quick-Step vinyl floors demonstrates our commitment to being transparent with stakeholders about the amount of recycled materials used in our flooring.'

'Much of the waste used comes from offcuts within our Avelgem manufacturing plant and is processed into new material for the backing of our floors in our own recycling facility.'

Unilin dryback and engineered vinyl floors were tested by SCS Global Services in accordance with SCS Recycled Content Standard V8-0. Certification is available on request.

www.unilin.com



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FORBO FLOORING SYSTEMS

Evolving sustainability credentials with new carpet tile collection

WITH sustainability one of the core values at Forbo Flooring Systems, the manufacturer is proud to be launching its new carpet tile collection: Tessera Topology. Combining contemporary and usable designs with enhanced sustainable performance, the Tessera Topology range is the first in Forbo's Evolve+ series.

While dimensions change and spaces vary, the function and purpose remain the same, sharing a common topology. Using this principle as inspiration, Tessera Topology combines linear angles with soft organic textures to create a contemporary geometric pattern that brings an inherent warmth to a space. Offering both design and flexibility, it can enhance any installation.

This new collection delivers enhanced environmental credentials and as such is manufactured using Thrive® matter by Universal Fibers® - a 100% solution dyed nylon 6 which contains 90% recycled content. As well as using this innovative new yarn, combined with Forbo's own lean production processes, Tessera Topology contains 75% recycled content, is manufactured using 100% renewable energy (electricity and biogas) and has a very low embodied carbon from cradle to gate (less than 1.5kg CO₂ per sq m eqv. A1-A3) which is achieved without offsetting.

The collection features six neutral tones and seven muted accents in a traditional 50x50cm tile format, offering flexibility in a range of natural colours. From the beige of Pebble Tangent to the green hues of Willow Inverse,

the collection can be easily combined with other existing Tessera products to create beautiful, integrated flooring schemes.

Donna Hannaway, Head of Marketing UK and Ireland, from Forbo Flooring Systems commented: 'As a manufacturer, sustainability is extremely important to us at Forbo. Our core values are Renewability, Transparency and Circularity, and as such we're always looking for ways to adapt and evolve our product portfolios in line with this.'

'Tessera Topology is the latest evolution of this endeavour. Building on our established Tessera portfolio, where our carpet tiles already have over 60% recycled content as standard, it is the perfect choice for those looking for a carpet tile with enhanced sustainability without relying on carbon offsets. The collection also has a third-party verified Environmental Product Declaration, showing our customers our commitment to being transparent with our sustainability information.'

Tessera Topology is the first carpet tile range to join Forbo's new Evolve+ series, focussed around product innovation for enhanced sustainability. By evolving our standard carpet tile construction, which already contains over 60% recycled content, our Evolve+ series ranges have increased recycled content of over 75% and lower embodied carbon of less than 1.5 kg CO₂ e/m² (A1-A3), all independently verified and without offsetting



Tessera Topology

Designed, made and stocked in the UK, Tessera Topology is available quickly, making the collection ideal for office refurbishments or other projects that need to be carried out in a short time span. Tessera Topology also meets Indoor Air Comfort Gold and GUT standards.

In addition to this, Forbo's Tessera carpet tiles can be installed adhesive free using IOBAC MagTabs™, allowing them to be easily removed and reused or recycled, supporting a circular economy. Forbo is also proud to have recently entered partnership with the Salvation Army Trading Company, supporting its Take Back scheme by donating post-consumer carpet tiles that would otherwise have been sent to landfill.

www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/topology



GRANORTE

Walking on air, literally

GRANORTE UK's exciting new eco-friendly Vintage and Heritage cork planks are ideal for both residential and commercial spaces, offering a perfect balance of design and practicality.

Cork Flooring is so much more than just a trend - it's a step towards a more sustainable future. Its renewable nature, low environmental impact, and long-lasting durability make it one of the best choices for eco-conscious consumers.

By choosing Granorte UK cork, you're not just making an environmentally responsible decision - you're also investing in a product that will stand the test of time, contributing to a greener, more sustainable world.

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RECOFLOOR

Transform your vinyl flooring practices: specify Recofloor for sustainable and cost-effective waste disposal

RECOFLOOR is transforming the way the construction industry disposes of commercial waste vinyl. Founded by Altro and Polyflor in 2009, Recofloor is a national streamlined, cost-effective, multi award-winning collection and recycling service creating a circular economy for post-installation and post-consumer vinyl.

Simply by specifying Recofloor from the start of a flooring project, you can play your part in this transformation and ensure that the waste from projects is managed responsibly.

With large flooring projects typically producing substantial quantities of waste, the choices made about vinyl disposal have a big impact on the project's environmental footprint. Traditionally, vinyl waste has been disposed of through waste contractors that ultimately send the material to landfill or incineration. Yet the material is often ideal for recycling. This gives you as the specifier a great opportunity to make a positive difference.

Recofloor collects most vinyl flooring types, including Luxury Vinyl Tiles (LVT), smooth, safety and loose-lay vinyl offcuts and roll-ends, and uplifted smooth and loose-lay vinyl. To date, Recofloor has collected over 7,600 tonnes of waste vinyl, translating to total CO2 savings of over 8,900 tonnes.

Recofloor success stories

As word spreads, Recofloor is notching up an increasing number of success stories. Participants often become strong advocates for the scheme, finding that it's easy to use and aligns with their own environmental goals.

Weldon Village Academy: BAM Construct UK and Hillside Contracts

Flooring contractor Hillside Contracts, working with main contractor BAM Construct UK, collected 1.41 tonnes of material in offcuts from a new 3,000 m² flooring installation at Weldon Village Academy in Northamptonshire. This saved around 1.65 tonnes of CO2 emissions. Lockable Recofloor bins were placed in a central area, easily reached from all parts of the building. This helped the fitters work quickly and efficiently. Clear signage plus briefings for other trades ensured the bins were used only for offcuts and that the material was kept free from contamination. Upon completion, BAM Construct UK received a Recofloor collection certificate highlighting the volumes collected and CO2 savings.

Baird Family Hospital: Graham Construction and Veitchi Flooring
This 23,400m² Polyflor installation at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary's new Baird Family Hospital and Anchor Centre resulted in almost 9 tonnes of vinyl offcuts collected – an area similar in size to 9 tennis courts and saving nearly 11 tonnes of CO2 emissions. Flooring contractor Veitchi, working alongside with main contractor Graham Construction, implemented Recofloor to avoid this massive amount of material going to landfill or incineration.

Key operational plans included using telescopic forklifts to lift Recofloor bins to upper external levels, then wheeling the bins into the building as needed. This ensured fitters could dispose of waste easily as work progressed. Ed Murison, Contracts Manager at Veitchi Flooring, comments: 'Recycling vinyl is a no-brainer, and the Recofloor scheme makes it simple.'

Wythenshaw Hospital – ALM Construction and Lees Heginbotham

A ward refurbishment at Wythenshaw hospital presented multiple challenges for flooring contractor Lees Heginbotham, working with main contractor ALM Construction. Initial plans to take material to a waste contractor in multiple van loads would have seen the vinyl end up in landfill or incineration.



Veitchi

and mess, saved time, and resulted in almost 3 tonnes of material being collected for recycling.

Dixons Academy: Morgan Sindall and Rhodar

As demolition contractor for Morgan Sindall's Dixons Newall Green Academy project in Manchester, Rhodar was responsible for uplifting and disposing of old vinyl flooring in the buildings being demolished and replaced. 'When we heard about Recofloor from Morgan Sindall, we could see immediately that the scheme made sense,' says John Duggan, Rhodar's Senior Contracts Manager. 'We have always maximised re-use and recycling, and we are also now on a net zero pathway.' A Recofloor site survey confirmed that around 20% of the uplifted material was recyclable,

and bulk bags were delivered for on-site use, successfully collecting 180Kgs of waste. Morgan Sindall and Rhodar each also received a collection certificate and have benefited from publicity via a Recofloor case study.

A more sustainable future for flooring

Recofloor Manager Carla Eslava has seen the scheme grow in

popularity over the years. Stressing that the scheme is far more than a collection service, she says: 'Recofloor has become central to the sustainability commitments of a growing number of businesses in the flooring sector. By embracing recycling through Recofloor, businesses

and organisations enhance green credentials, cut disposal costs, and contribute to a greener future for the construction industry.'

'Specifying Recofloor is easy and provides the industry with a sustainable and economical route for the disposal of waste vinyl. The online cost savings calculators in our website helps contractors work out costs associated with the scheme, making the specification of the scheme much transparent' adds Carla.

To specific Recofloor registered members should simply add a line in their tenders' documents about the Recofloor service and introduce the scheme during their pre-contract meetings. While new users are encouraged to contact the Recofloor team for more details and to learn about the scheme's specifications. Recofloor is free to join and simple to use.

0161 355 7618
info@recofloor.org
www.recofloor.org



Altro Welton Academy

Recofloor provided the perfect solution, delivering four lockable wheelie bins that were deployed on the ward itself; two for used, uplifted smooth vinyl, and two for offcuts. When each stage of work was completed, the bins were simply rolled along the corridors to external doors and out to the agreed collection point. This removed concerns about cleanliness



Dixons Academy



Recofloor™
Vinyl Take-Back Scheme

**7600 tonnes vinyl
flooring recycled**



TRANSFORMING ATTITUDES TO VINYL FLOORING RECYCLING

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To find out more, contact:

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KERAKOLL

Kerakoll's impact on sustainability

THE Kerakoll Group has just published its first Group Impact Report, outlining the actions that the Group and its subsidiaries took over the course of 2023 and the impact this had on the environmental and societal goals of the company. Some of the highlights from this are discussed below.

The first and major change was the B Corp certification of the company, one of the first in the construction industry to undertake this step.

One area of focus is the environmental footprint of production, logistics and supply chain processes, including the extraction of resources, the use of energy and toxic substances, and the control of waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

Binders are the major source of emissions in procurement, and the company has continued to develop new and innovative binders, to move away from a reliance on cement, as this is one of the Group's main sources of CO2 emissions due to the energy intensive nature of its production. The objective is to guarantee maximal technical and environmental performance.

Transport is also a major contributor to the overall impact. The company is committed to developing intermodal transport routes. Kerakoll UK worked with their supplier on a new intermodal concept for the transportation of bulk raw materials, reducing CO2 emissions by 30% compared to transportation by road only. Thanks to a road, rail and maritime transport mix, they not only improved the sustainability of operations, but also their logistics efficiency, ensuring faster delivery times.

Furthermore, in 2023, the foundations were laid for a multiple-year collaboration with the University of Sheffield t/a Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC). The first project agreed on with AMRC refers to assessing the efficiency of the machines at the Kerakoll UK plant, with a view to minimising waste.

Running parallel to this, AMRC is supporting the company in designing a new manufacturing plant in the United Kingdom, with a special focus on reducing the environmental impact and maximising the potential social impact, both for the staff occupying the spaces and the local community.

Energy is another area with a big impact, and the Group continues to invest in energy from self-produced renewable sources and in energy optimisation to bring down the emissions from this source.

Kerakoll realises that this is an on-going process, but the company remains committed to contributing to building a sustainable future and creating positive change for both the environment and the communities it serves.

01772 456831
info@kerakoll.co.uk
www.kerakoll.com



Kerakoll logistics

Our commitment to build a conscious future.



For us, being B Corp means
dedicating ourselves every day to generating value
through our projects, protecting the environment,
the people and the communities.
To build better places to live.

The background of the advertisement is a photograph of a textured, light green wall. A hand is visible on the right side, touching the wall. In the bottom left corner, there is a small, light-colored ceramic vase and a piece of rough, light-colored stone or concrete. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the textures of the wall and the objects.

kerakoll

JUNCKERS

Using our heritage

NO one can escape the signs that our environment is changing at an alarming rate, brought on by the effects of climate change - there is an urgent need to act. The reuse, refurbishment and retrofit of existing buildings is a crucial step in reducing the impact of the built environment which is the second largest source of emissions in the UK. Leading experts, industry bodies, national and local government are strongly advocating the need to adapt the country's existing building stock to reduce carbon emissions.

A quarter of the UK building stock is more than 100 years old. Improving the energy efficiency of historical properties will reduce carbon and retrofitting these buildings could create jobs as well as playing a crucial role in achieving climate targets. We need to extend the life of our existing buildings and make sure they are equipped for future use – a much more sustainable approach.

Refurbishment and adaptation of historic buildings provides significant environmental opportunities compared with new build because there will usually be less waste from demolition, and therefore a lower burden upon landfill, reprocessing, transport, and reduced use of raw materials, especially in relation to materials with high embodied carbon such as concrete, plastics, ceramics/clay products and steel.

There is usually a strong desire to retain our architectural heritage, and often the most attractive and valued streetscapes are those that have a blend of building styles and ages. Many older buildings will have a connection with local history and losing the building altogether can weaken people's unique sense of community, identity and belonging.

The people living and working in the building will often value the fact that their workplace or home has a connection with the town or nation's past. The fact that it may have an unusual layout can be seen as 'character' and can provide as sense of uniqueness that



may be missing from a brand-new building.

An excellent example of an historic building that has been restored and adapted for modern use is the recently reopened Perth Museum. Formerly serving as the City Hall, the landmark building has been completely transformed with careful special reworking to create an inviting and accessible cultural hub.

The interior features large expanses of Junckers solid wood flooring. A common flooring choice for heritage buildings, solid hardwood offers both an authentic, natural material traditionally specified for a building of this calibre, and a hard-wearing surface with a lifespan that can match that of the building. One of nature's hardest timber species, oak has been used as flooring for several hundred years.

Junckers' floors are pre-finished with a

factory-applied seal of ultra matt lacquer which gives them a durable surface that will withstand the high levels of foot traffic expected at the museum.

Architects Mecanoo has transformed the former auditorium into the main exhibition space. It houses The Stone of Destiny which takes centre stage on the ground floor ensconced in a timber box. The raised gallery which runs all around the room on the level where there were previously balconies of seating houses artefacts and curiosities that are part of Scotland's national history.

Here, Junckers Oak Natural Pearl flooring forms a natural backdrop. With a subtle light-grey tone, Oak Natural Pearl has an understated luminescent quality which reflects natural light. The transparent finish complements the warm, honey-hued colouring of the oak and enhances the structural grain pattern.

In a smaller former auditorium, the architects extended a row of tall windows to the ground to significantly increase light levels and improve usage. With high ceilings and restored ornamental plasterwork, the space now houses a café which can easily be repurposed to host events. Junckers' Oak Natural Pearl forms part of a light material palette that creates a warm and welcoming space.

Installed using Junckers' clip system, the solid oak floor is easy to care for and maintain. As the floor is made up of smaller, individual elements, it can be repaired without the need to replace the entire area, and it can even be lifted and reused should it ever be replaced.

01376 534700
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Junckers Oak Natural Pearl plank floor at Perth Museum. Photos: Greg Holmes

HOW SOLID WOOD FLOORING IMPACTS PASSIVHAUS PRINCIPLES

Choosing a Junckers floor helps reduce embodied carbon and has a positively impact a building's whole life carbon emissions. Design with Junckers flooring to help achieve Passivhaus standards.

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JUNCKERS
Walking on Danish design

*Edward's Court Extra
Care Centre, Exeter
Passivhaus standard*





than that derived from new-growth trees.

Moreover, the wood's lengthy incarnation in its pre-floor application (as a joist, beam or rafter, for example, or even the stave of an antique vodka barrel) will mean the wood has been extensively seasoned, undergoing multiple cycles of expansion and contraction due to environmental changes. This process makes the wood more stable and less prone to warping or shrinking compared to newer timber.

In essence, the age of the wood gives it a higher resistance to wear and tear, crucial for flooring applications, in some cases being as much as forty points higher on the Janka hardness scale. This extraordinary durability means, while all well-made, premium floors are inherently resistant to re-entering the waste stream, reclaimed wood floors are especially so.

The reclamation process

It is estimated that more than 50,000 buildings are demolished every year in the UK alone. Worldwide, the number is in the many millions. When Ted Todd are alerted to a demolition containing high-quality or unusual timber, their experts set about assessing the viability of the find. Reclaimed wood can come from just about any building or structure.

Ted Todd have sourced wood from Victorian textile mills, locomotive factories and hospitals, Eastern European distilleries, 17th century barns, far-flung colonial homes, and even the old War Office in Whitehall, which would once have echoed to the footsteps of Lord Kitchener and Winston Churchill. Once verified, the logistics work begins to transport the timber to the Cheshire workshop. Ted Todd have rescued wood from as far afield as Australia, Canada and Africa.

The process of turning reclaimed wood into a viable floor is a complex one that requires great skill, experience and a good deal of care and patience. Working almost exclusively by hand, the wood is subject to a program of both innovative and time-honoured restorative techniques that breathe new life into the material.

Beyond recycling: a greener future with reclaimed timber

Ultimately, reclaimed wood flooring transcends mere recycling. It embodies waste prevention and reuse, offering exceptional durability and environmental benefits.

By repurposing historical timber, Ted Todd not only create stunning floors but also contribute to a more sustainable future, minimizing waste and preserving our planet's resources.

www.tedtodd.co.uk

TED TODD

Reclaimed floors and the hierarchy of waste management

It's fair to say recycling has become an unremarkable part of our lives. We don't really think about it. Blue, green, black, brown, grey, even purple: we drop our litter and waste into the appropriately coloured bin with hardly a moment's consideration, and for most people, a trip to what used to be called 'the tip' and is now commonly referred to as the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) is a regular outing.

Although recycling has been with us for centuries (the ancient Romans melted down bronze coins to produce statues, and the Japanese were recycling paper as far back as 1031), it is only relatively recently, with the passing of the Household Waste Recycling Act 2003, that such sustainable practices have become ingrained here in the UK.

Lansink's Ladder

When it comes to environmental conservation efforts, recycling tends to be at the forefront of most people's minds. However, recycling is not at the pinnacle of the Hierarchy of Waste Management, sometimes referred to as Lansink's Ladder. That place is reserved for 'prevention'; stopping waste from being created in the first place. Recycling doesn't even earn second place. That would be 'reuse'.

This tier on the hierarchy focuses on keeping material in circulation for as long as possible, delaying its entry into the waste stream or, better yet, preventing that outcome entirely.

Reclaimed floors occupy both first and second place on the Hierarchy of Waste Management. As with all high-quality wood floors, they are intended to last, becoming part of the fabric of the building and matching its lifespan. This markedly delays the moment at which the wood will enter

the waste stream.

But where this is true for all superior wood floors, reclaimed wood floors possess the additional environmental benefit of preventing another resource from entering the waste stream. Additionally, unlike recycling, which involves energy-consuming mechanical and chemical processes, reuse requires minimal such activity.

Reclaimed wood, by definition, leaves more trees unfelled and, given the fact that a single tree can produce enough oxygen for four people every day, this can only be a good thing. Furthermore, the felling of trees requires the use of heavy machinery: harvesters, feller bunchers, forwarders, skidders, log loaders, excavators, mulchers and more. The reclamation process is far less industrial in nature and scale.

Reclaimed wood: stronger and more durable

Old-growth trees, from which Ted Todd's reclaimed timber originates, will have grown for a much longer period than contemporary wood. This extended growth results in denser, tighter grain patterns, making the wood significantly stronger and more durable



Reclaimed Georgian pine

PROTECT AND CARE

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3
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LTP

Enhancing and protecting porcelain pavers

DEVELOPED for the contract and landscape markets, LTP's specialist ECOPROTEC® range includes sustainable surface care products for all types of natural and engineered stone, in internal and external settings. All treatments are made in the UK and benefit from the most advanced research in water-based technology - combining high performance with low odour and low VOC formulations.

To protect tiles and stone laid outside, as part of spring landscaping projects, the ECOPROTEC® range includes a new PFAS-free Porcelain Paving Enhancer, Pre-Grout Protector, three stone sealers and a restoration treatment for faded dark pavers.

Enhancing and protecting porcelain pavers

In the post-Covid years, the demand for external porcelain has continued to grow significantly, far outstripping growth in any other area. In response, ECOPROTEC has developed its range of products to address this demand.

The newest product to join the range is ECOPROTEC's Porcelain Paving Enhancer - a

PFAS-free, water-based treatment that gives porcelain tiles a 'just washed look'. Unlike almost all other surface sealers which are not breathable and can't be used outside, the Porcelain Paving Enhancer is a breathable surface sealer which uniquely creates a glossy sheen.

Highly resistant to foot traffic, wear, stains and UV rays, the treatment promotes easy maintenance and causes minimal change to a tile's slip resistance properties.

'Our new Porcelain Paving Enhancer is our first PFAS-free treatment, bringing with it considerable environmental benefits. It is free of perfluoroalkyl/polyfluoroalkyl substances, making it one of the first products available using a new 'forever chemical' free formulation. Moving forward, our aim is to convert all formulations to PFAS-free over the next 12 months,' explained LTP's Director, Mark Atkins.

The range also includes ECOPROTEC® Pre-Grout Protection - a water-based 'pre-and-post-grout' solution designed for unpolished, textured porcelain. This solution is specifically designed to protect tiles from staining and it allows easy removal of residues of cement-based grouts and two-part resin based jointing compounds, as well as stubborn organic matter.

Creating a barrier, without forming a film or altering appearance, it helps improve and increase the working time of grouts and jointing compounds - and greatly reduces the risk of cement and resin staining. It also helps assist with future cleaning and aftercare.

Sealing external stone & paving

The ECOPROTEC® external stone sealer range includes three protective treatments: Ultimate Sealer, Patio Sealer and Colour Enhancing Sealer. All three sealers are designed to protect all types of natural and engineered stone in outdoor settings, including smooth, honed and rough-cut surfaces. They each have a water-based impregnating formulation that strongly repels water, oil, dirt and grease, helps reduce efflorescence

and allows the surface to breathe.

Ultimate Sealer leaves the surface virtually unchanged in appearance; Patio Sealer provides a delicately enhanced natural finish and Colour Enhancing Sealer creates a more pronounced enhancement, bringing out the natural warmth, tone and colour pigment of the stone.

Unlike film-forming or topical sealers which sit on the tile surface, impregnating sealers penetrate, react and line the open pores. They create a hydrophobic and oleophobic barrier that helps to prevent deep staining and facilitates future cleaning and aftercare. Once cured, water vapour permeability remains, allowing transition of microscopic droplets of moisture. This helps to keep any rising salts down and allows any residual moisture to escape.

Restoring colour to faded pavers

Outdoor sealer and restorer, ECOPROTEC® Black Stone Colour Restorer is a water-based impregnator designed for dark natural stone and artificial stone surfaces. Fast and safe to use, it is formulated to restore the appearance of faded limestone, marble, slate and concrete and to provide protection against staining and the elements. During application, the treatment is applied in multiple coats until the desired colour effect is achieved - from grey to ebony. The dried sealer is then 'cut back' to remove excess.

All ECOPROTEC® water-based treatments offer equal performance to their spirit-based solvent equivalents. 'The water or spirit elements within a sealer don't play a part in the actual protection,' explained Mark Atkins. 'They just facilitate application and evaporate as the treatment dries.'

As well as providing a fast, safe and easy application, the treatments' water-based formulations also make transportation/shipping and storage easier, and typically provide up to 50% greater coverage than a spirit-based solvent.

Advice on-the-go

In addition to support provided by ECOPROTEC's in-house technical team, Product Selector offers instant advice on surface care and treatment, for all types of tile and stone. The free online resource - accessed at ecoproductselector.com - identifies the correct treatment according to surface type and symptom, with continuous updates to include the latest tile finishes and related issues. As well as providing support for contractors, installers and end users, Product Selector is also a valuable retail sales aid and training tool.

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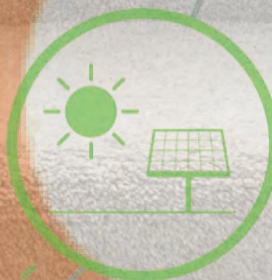
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Extend tool life with our expert in-house repair service—keeping tools in use longer.



QUALITY BY ASSOCIATION



National Institute of Carpet & Floorlayers



HANSON PLYWOOD

SP101

SP101 Flooring Plywood was developed and presented specifically for the flooring industry back in 2012 to solve the many issues arising from the use of general commercial plywood.

The product has now been around for 13 years and continues to offer unrivalled technical and environmental assurances. It has revolutionised the industry's understanding of plywood and it provides the benchmark for fit-for-purpose plywood in built-up subfloors.

The introduction of SP101 led to the inclusion of a plywood specification which is now an annex of BS 8203. This pioneering work now provides the clarity that was missing for plywood being used in flooring applications.

The ever-expanding use of resilient floor coverings such as LVT has emphasised the need for a much higher quality plywood than the general-purpose panels which have commonly been used in flooring applications.

To achieve a fully compliant and reliable installation, a plywood panel needs to be carefully engineered to meet the specific demands required.

Following extensive technical consultation with relevant bodies, Hanson Plywood have developed a product which provides the industry with a fit-for-purpose and guaranteed plywood panel.

Manufactured to flooring industry standards as defined by BS 8203:2017- Plywood Annex A, SP101 flooring plywood is a fully reliable component for use in the subfloor base construction for all floorcoverings.

The supply and quality of general commercial hardwood plywood continues to be compromised by the acute short supply of legal and sustainable high-quality hardwood logs. Plywood is an integral component of the subfloor and its ability to perform is of paramount importance.

SP101 flooring plywood is developed specifically for the flooring industry and is manufactured with an acute attention to detail which underpins its performance and reliability. Strictly controlled and monitored production processes guarantee that SP101 provides the ultimate assurance for flooring applications.

Hanson Plywood were pleased to be involved in the technical consultation process initiated by the CFA which enabled the inclusion of a plywood specification reference within this standard.

This has been welcomed as a significant development for the industry, as it now gives manufacturers and installers a clear reference on the specification of plywood that should be used for a successful and reliable installation. Trained fitters that are working to BS 8203 now need to ensure they're using the correct specification of plywood.

Manufacturers of LVT, adhesives and all

other allied products have acknowledged and welcomed this addition to BS 8203 standard. Plywood which is BS 8203 compliant is naturally demonstrated at most floor-fitting training schools throughout the UK.

SP101 in comparison to General Commercial Plywood BS 8203:2017 and CFA Guidance

SP101 - SP101® is certified compliant with both General commercial plywood - Most panels are not manufactured with any regard to this standard.

Veneer Glue bond

SP101 – BS EN 314 Class 3 Exterior fully tested and reliable

General commercial plywood - Supposedly BS EN 314 Class 2 minimum, but not always tested. Glue lines are known to consistently fail in flooring applications.

Moisture content

SP101 - Very accurate and precise drying in manufacture resulting in a fully stable and conditioned panel.

General commercial plywood – Can vary in some panels resulting in distortion. Poor drying can cause mould growth on the surface of boards

Thickness of face and back veneers

SP101 - Minimum 0.75mm for maximum performance. Works well with all glues and resins and has been tested and approved by most manufacturers.

General commercial plywood - Can be as low as 0.12mm and are readily permeable to moisture and glue. These thin veneers also telegraph the inferior core quality onto the faces.

Core veneer quality

SP101 - No core overlap or gaps therefore creating a high-quality surface finish.

General commercial plywood - Core overlaps and gaps are common in most plywoods and result in poor surface quality and thickness variation.

Flatness and stability

SP101 - Superior construction ensures SP101® is much more reliable and stable.

General commercial plywood - Boards can be distorted due to manufacturing processes.

Thickness and dimensional tolerances

SP101 - Very tightly controlled to ensure optimum performance.

General commercial plywood - Can vary considerably in some panels creating further surface preparation attention.

Ease of working

SP101 - Can be worked very easily, and will usually cut with a fitters knife.

General commercial plywood - Can be difficult to work and may be unstable.

TFT Woodexperts Diamond Mark Certified

SP101 - Every technical detail is tested and certified by TFT Woodexperts to guarantee performance.

General commercial plywood - Most panels do not carry third party verification.

Floor fitting training schools

SP101 - Most UK training schools use SP101® in their classes in order to promote best practice to students.

General commercial plywood - Training schools are reluctant to use any panels that do not meet industry requirements and are not guaranteed fit for purpose.

SP101 Flooring Plywood® - Environment and sustainability

The UK timber industry has comprehensive systems in place to ensure legality and sustainability of timber products. Products have to be technically sound and fit-for-purpose and have to comply with all relevant environmental criteria.

The timber in SP101 Flooring Plywood is sourced from Indonesia a country comprised of well over 13,000 islands with over 91 million hectares of forest cover.

Indonesia is the first country in the world to complete the process of a voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) with the European Union (EU), legally obligating the country to implement a licensing scheme to regulate trade in timber and timber products.

Currently, this means all timber exported from Indonesia has to be fully traceable and certified under Indonesia's countrywide timber legality assurance scheme, SVLK. SVLK (Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas Kayu) was developed through multi-stakeholder consultations and, by process of further modification, became a nation-wide scheme which now offers market incentives for legal compliance (timber cannot be exported without supplying evidence that it complies with SVLK).

Alongside this, the Indonesian Ministry of Environment & Forestry has developed an online system (SIPUHH Online) which tracks logs all the way back to the concession using a QR barcode-scanning system.

SVLK is now the first timber legality assurance scheme to be recognised by the UK Timber Regulation (UKTR) as a framework that assures the legality of timber sourced in Indonesia.

All timber products certified under SVLK and exported from Indonesia are now FLEGT licenced as of November 2016. A FLEGT licence is currently the only licence that ensures full, verifiable compliance with the EU Timber Regulation.

SP101 Flooring Plywood was the first flooring plywood to be imported into the UK with a FLEGT licence. SP101 Flooring Plywood is constructed with environmental sustainability at its core. Every sheet is comprised of legally verifiable timber from well-managed forests.

www.hanson-plywood.co.uk



Benchmark plywood for the flooring industry

BS 8203:2017 compliant,
FLEGT licenced - Environmental
and technical assurance



SP101
Flooring Plywood®

-  Accurate Dimensions
-  Flatness and Stability
-  Superior Core Composition
-  Ease of Use
-  TFT Woodexperts
Diamond Mark Certified

SP101 Flooring Plywood

Adhesive

Finished Surface (LVT)

Base Floor Deck

www.SP101.co.uk



ALTRO

Collaboration and sustainability focus for Altro in education

BAM Construct UK has collaborated with Altro and Recofloor to achieve significant sustainability gains on a number of major school construction projects.

At Weldon Village Academy, a new purpose-built secondary school near Corby, BAM Construct UK built the state-of-the-art, three-storey facility to provide education, sport and recreation facilities for the community as well as the school population. At the start of the project, Dave Ellis, Regional Director – Midlands for BAM Construct UK said: 'Sustainability will be central to our approach as we look to create a school that features eco-efficient features.'

To ensure an overarching sustainable building, the interior materials were selected for, among other criteria, their reduced embodied carbon properties. This included the flooring throughout, which needed to provide recyclability and high slip-resistance for busy areas, such as corridors and classrooms. BAM Construct UK approached Altro, their supply chain partner, for support and guidance with specifying the correct floors.

Adhesive-free safety floor Altro XpressLay was specified for the corridors and classrooms, providing speed of installation and ease of maintenance ensuring the busy areas were returned to use quickly and completed to project timescales. Altro XpressLay is installed without adhesive or DPM, providing easy access to subfloors, and avoiding any unpleasant adhesive odours.

Like all Altro adhesive-free floors, it utilises a unique formulation for a quick fit without compromising on performance or durability. The revolutionary technology, featuring a studded surface on the underside of the floor, allows it to lie flat and perform like a traditionally adhered floor without the need for an adhesive. Floors can be installed and walked on the same day.

Recofloor, the UK's first waste vinyl floor take back scheme, was introduced into the build, providing collection of clean vinyl offcuts for recycling. 'Shared objectives from the outset contributed to a successful and sustainable



Weldon Village Academy



outcome' explains Carla Eslava, Recofloor Scheme Manager. 'Every offcut matters when it comes to diverting waste vinyl from landfill.' The vinyl offcuts collected from the 3,000 sqm of Altro XpressLay installed at Weldon Village Academy avoided 1.88 tonnes of embodied carbon emissions.

Sustainability was also high on the agenda for the new school extension at Holyrood Academy, Somerset. The architect initially specified traditional adhered flooring, but main contractor BAM saw the opportunity for time and cost savings as well as huge sustainability benefits by switching the specification to adhesive-free options.

Representatives from BAM Construct UK, Altro and Recofloor met to discuss options for specification, and managing and recycling waste from the build. After the consultation, and with prior knowledge and experience of previous successful installations, adhesive-free floors options were reviewed and selected based on the cost and time benefits, plus embodied carbon avoided.

'It was imperative we delivered the build to timescales, but as sustainably as possible. The adhesive-free floors saved project time and reduced carbon output,' said Graham Holt, Construction Project Manager, BAM Construct UK.

At Holyrood Academy, Altro Wood adhesive-free safety floor was specified for the dining area and Altro Cantata adhesive-free was specified for the corridors and communal areas, providing a safe, durable and decorative solution for the busy spaces.

David Lever, Altro's Sustainability Manager, says: 'There are many cost and time advantages to using Altro adhesive-free flooring, which requires no adhesive and no damp-proof membrane, but the saving in embodied carbon achieved by avoiding these elements is the real headline grabber. Figures produced by the team on the Holyrood Academy project showed that switching the specification from adhered to adhesive-free gave an approximate carbon-saving of 59%, preventing 3.89 tonnes of embodied carbon emissions.'

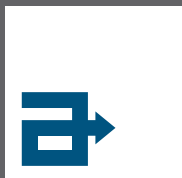
There are also plenty of benefits when it comes to installing Altro adhesive-free floors, as John Redford from RBJ Flooring, the installer at Holyrood Academy, explains: 'It went really smoothly, in large part due to the planning and professionalism of the main contractor and the products selected for use. The site was prepared and ready for when we arrived, and our team enjoy working with the Altro products, particularly adhesive-free, which we have a lot of experience with. Using these takes out the wet trades, means we don't have to lump around 100s of bags of screed, mix it, clean everything down and so on. We're very happy laying these products.'

Find out more about the many benefits of adhesive-free floors here: www.altro.com/uk/learn-and-engage/altro-guides/adhesive-free-floors

www.altro.com



Holyrood Secondary School



altro

Award-winning, sustainable floors

that can save you up to 50% time*,
up to 35% cost and up to 50% CO₂

- ✓ 100% recyclable – 100% reusable
- ✓ Minimises downtime - lay, weld and walk the same day
- ✓ Lightweight, easy to transport
- ✓ 10-year product guarantee
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- ✓ 5 ranges, taking you from front to back of house areas
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- ✓ Tried and tested for 15 years - does not move, does not ruck



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*depending on substrate condition: a 200m² corridor would be laid in two days compared with four days with an adhered floor covering.

Education - Altro Cantata™ adhesive-free



Housing - Altro Wood™ adhesive-free



Offices - Altro XpressLay™ adhesive-free

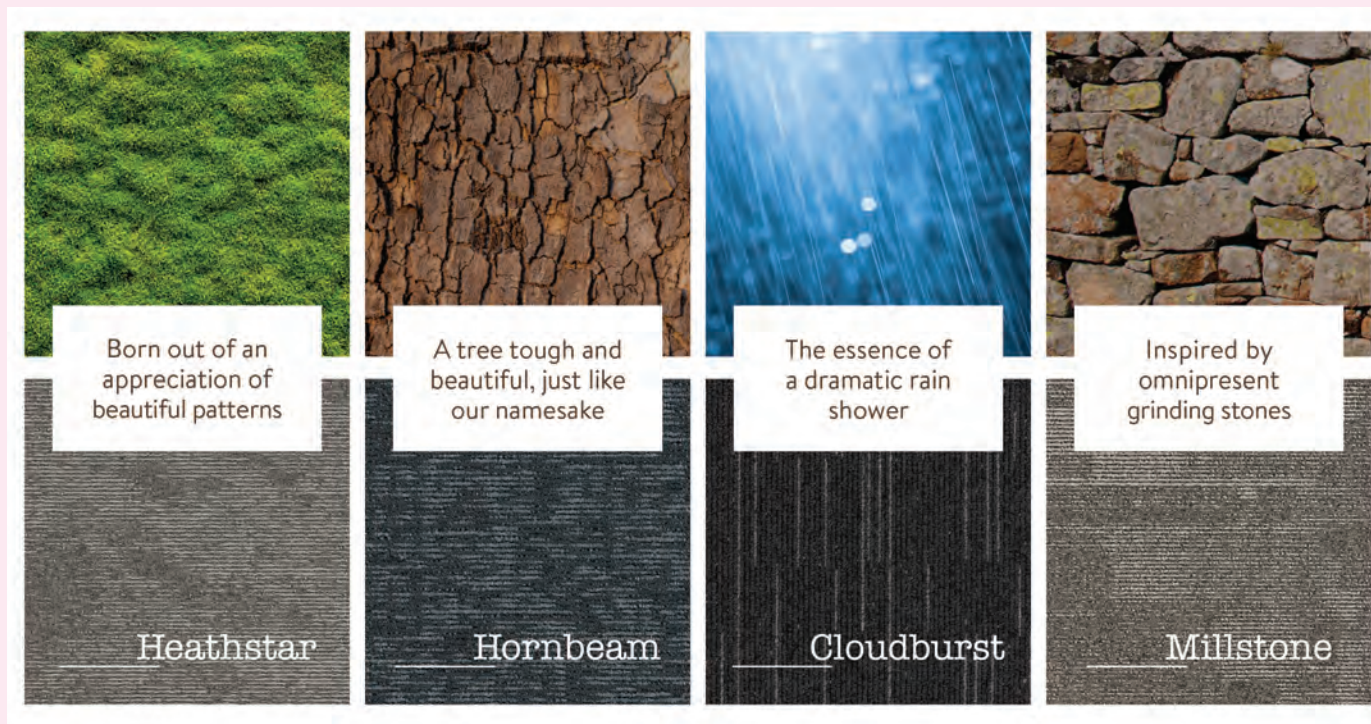


Healthcare - Altro Illustra™ adhesive-free



Hospitality - Altro Stronghold™ 30 adhesive-free





PARAGON CARPET TILES

Bringing the outside in, sustainably: Paragon's new carpet tile collection

IN a world that is increasingly driven by the need for connection with nature, Paragon Carpet Tiles has launched a new nature-inspired collection made from recycled materials.

Inspired by the breathtaking landscapes that surround their UK manufacturing base, the four new designs are testament to the beauty and resilience of the natural world.

Our sustainable UK manufacturing

For Paragon, creating exceptional flooring solutions goes beyond aesthetics. It's about crafting products that are both visually captivating and environmentally responsible. This commitment is woven into the very fabric of their manufacturing process, with a strong emphasis on sustainability. The factory and offices use green electricity from 100% renewable sources.

All Paragon Carpet Tiles are backed with our Envirobase backing, which is made with over 70% recycled materials. By incorporating recycled materials wherever possible, Paragon actively reduces its reliance on virgin resources, minimising waste and contributing to a circular economy.

Partnering with sustainable suppliers

Paragon understands that true sustainability extends beyond the factory floor. Our supply chain and their partners also take steps towards contributing towards a healthier planet. For example, our partner, Aquafil, make ECONYL yarn from regenerated nylon. It is created from waste materials such as fabric scraps and discarded fishing nets, turned into yarn and then we turn it into carpet tiles.

This diverts waste from landfill, but their involvement with Healthy Seas actively engages in the crucial task of recovering discarded fishing nets – ghost nets – that haunt our oceans. These derelict nets pose a significant threat to marine life, ensnaring countless creatures and damaging delicate ecosystems. By retrieving this harmful waste, Aquafil not only transforms it into high-quality ECONYL yarn but also actively contributes to cleaner, safer oceans, fostering a thriving marine environment for generations to come.

Takeback service

We offer a robust take back service, and we are also developing a network of recycling partners, who can either clean and reuse tiles, or repurpose the material in other applications. This approach minimises landfill waste at the end of the product lifecycle.

For more information about our new range of sustainable carpet tiles, visit our website below.

www.paragon-carpets.co.uk

The Elemental Collection Inspired by nature, designed to perform



Carpet tile featured: Elemental Hornbeam Glade Dusk
Project: Dean Clough Mills, Halifax, West Yorkshire

Bring nature into your interior spaces with the inspirational Elemental collection.

Channelling the natural beauty that surrounds us in our Yorkshire home, our designers have created a stunning multi-level loop range that matches artistic elegance with the qualities of high-performance flooring.

For more information visit our **NEW** website at paragon-carpets.co.uk, and to request samples email samples@paragon-carpets.co.uk

F. BALL AND CO. LTD

Getting stuck into sustainability

F. BALL and Co. Ltd. is demonstrating a commitment to environmental responsibility through a sustainability strategy that extends beyond compliance, with two key pillars being its increasingly popular recycling scheme and significant efforts to reduce its carbon footprint.

The F. Ball Recycling Scheme provides receptacles at wholesalers around the country where empty recyclable F. Ball buckets and bottles can be conveniently deposited by flooring contractors for recycling, completely free of charge.

The initiative, first introduced in 2019, has been steadily expanded in response to a positive reception from flooring contractors, and there are now more than 40 recycling points at wholesaler partners across the UK.

Last year, 23,000 buckets and 1,560kg of bottles (approximately 12,000) were collected and recycled through the scheme, avoiding 13 tonnes of plastic being sent to landfill.

This follows F. Ball introducing recyclable packaging for its instantly recognisable yellow bucket adhesives, as well as its five and 20 litre plastic bottles used for liquids, primers and tackifiers, with a minimum 30% of the new packaging itself manufactured from recycled materials.

Wider strategy

The sustainability strategy of F. Ball goes beyond the minimum required by law to limit its environmental impact. It revolves around reviewing the resources the company uses and its outputs, as well as making efforts to conserve the immediate natural environment.

At its Staffordshire headquarters, F. Ball evaluates the entire life cycle of its products when looking for ways to be more sustainable. This includes considering the materials used to make its products, manufacturing processes and how the products can be recycled or disposed of responsibly following use and is aided by complying with ISO 14001 standards.

Carbon footprint reduction

Another major objective of F. Ball's sustainability strategy is to reduce the carbon footprint of the business by implementing measures to both consume less energy and increase the proportion of the energy that it uses that comes from renewables. This is being achieved in large part by installing solar panels to generate a

significant amount of the electricity supply.

The company has recently doubled the amount of energy it generates from renewable sources following further investments in solar panels and now has over 1,700 solar panels generating over a 500kw peak across its main building and powder plant facility. It is estimated that this prevents 59 tonnes of CO2 entering the atmosphere each year.

Factory and offices

F. Ball's commitment to sustainability extends to the design and operation of its buildings. The facilities incorporate the latest energy-efficient technologies, including energy efficient LED lighting, which is either connected to proximity sensors or programmed to turn off when not required.

Factories are also equipped with state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment, including high-efficiency motors and boilers to minimise energy consumption. The company's powder plant facility is gravity fed so that the only power required for production is that of delivery trucks conveying raw materials to the top of the facility. Furthermore, F. Ball has installed 17 electric vehicle charging points, both for company cars and employee vehicles onsite.

The development of the site at F. Ball's headquarters, which is situated on the edge of the Peak District National Park, has been carefully planned to harmonise with the surrounding landscape, preserve the character of the natural environment and protect wildlife. The powder plant facility is constructed on stilts on a

flood plain to reduce the risk of flooding.

Commitment to improvement

F. Ball's sustainability strategy involves not standing still, but continually striving to achieve ever-more challenging goals through continuous change, including looking for more ways to reduce consumption of finite raw materials and further reducing the business's carbon footprint.

This will involve formulating products with the aim of using fewer raw materials and making them easier to recycle, as well as looking at emerging renewables technology to find new ways of minimising the company's energy consumption.

Consultations with every person in the company have taken place through a series of workshops in order to get their ideas on how to achieve sustainability in each of their departments. The results of this will shape the future direction of the F. Ball sustainability strategy, in line with employee suggestions and expectations.

F. Ball Safety Health Environmental and Quality (SHEQ) Manager Jenny Barnett says: 'We have an ethical duty to do as much as we can to ensure that our business activities do not adversely affect the environment. This requires a constant and dedicated effort to identify and implement new ways to be more sustainable, ensuring we are always striving for improvement. It is also good business, driving efficiency and safeguarding our long-term viability.'

www.f-ball.co.uk



F. Ball has installed 17 vehicle charging points for both company cars and employee vehicles



Solar panels generate the majority of F. Ball's power supply in the summer months



ULTRAFLOOR

Manufacturing meets sustainability: How Instarmac is going green and thriving

THE levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere have reached a concerning all-time high. Though carbon dioxide is an essential element for the survival of plants and animals, excessive amounts of this greenhouse gas are having a catastrophic impact on the environment.

As of 31st March 2025, atmospheric CO₂ levels had reached a staggering 427.42 parts per million – the highest average ever recorded, a truly alarming milestone. As a market-leading manufacturer, the team at UltraFloor understands their critical responsibility to prioritise sustainability and minimise their environmental impact.

Sustainability has long been a top priority for everyone at UltraFloor, and with this steadfast commitment in mind, they have implemented a range of innovative environmental initiatives, all aimed at reducing their carbon footprint and safeguarding the

planet.

UltraFloor take great pride in their sustainability practices, with all of their high-performance subfloor preparation materials produced at their state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Tamworth, Staffordshire.

'Having as little impact on the environment as possible is behind every decision I make about the running of our production facility. In the last year alone, I am proud to say that we have introduced further initiatives which includes installing 3 new compressors and a new X8i Compressor System Controller which constantly monitors the system and manages them to only produce the air required.' Paul Evans, Works Director at Instarmac Group plc.

UltraFloor's commitment to environmental stability extends far beyond their manufacturing and office facilities. In a significant investment, Instarmac has installed 3,771sqm of high-specification solar panels at their Tamworth premises, totalling over £420,000. This impressive solar system generates enough electricity to power part of their manufacturing site, saving a remarkable 36,000 kw per month. UltraFloor's proactive approach to renewable energy reflects their dedication to reducing their environmental impact and embracing a greener future.

UltraFloor's innovative Level IT Hydra Bond and Level IT Multi Pro smoothing underlayments are empowering customers to reduce their carbon footprint. These unparalleled products feature UltraFloor's cutting-edge Envirobead® Technology, which incorporates 20% recycled material in every bag – a ground-breaking first in the industry. With their commitment to sustainability, UltraFloor is enabling customers to make more eco-conscious choices without compromising quality or performance.

UltraFloor delivers its offerings through a robust fleet of 40 privately-owned vehicles.

In a significant step towards sustainability, UltraFloor has integrated Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) lorries into its fleet, resulting in a remarkable reduction of 100 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per truck. UltraFloor are fully committed to using fuel alternatives and have a further ten CNG lorries on order with plans to have them operational by December 2025.

Are pallets taking up space in your yard? UltraFloor can take them back! Their experienced Drivers can collect your unwanted pallets and return them to UltraFloor to be recycled or reused. Since 2021, UltraFloor Drivers collected approximately 28,466 pallets. That's 366 tonnes of wood which has saved around 3,558 trees.

Other initiatives successfully implemented at UltraFloor include intelligent lighting, a grey water system and climate control. They have also proudly been zero waste to landfill since 2014 – this means that 100% of manufacturing waste is recycled and not sent to landfill.

All of UltraFloor's environmental practices have been acknowledged by ISO 14001 – an independent accreditation which UltraFloor have been awarded for the last 15 years. The ISO standard allow UltraFloor to reflect a good level of professionalism and demonstrates best practice. This accreditation is a great accomplishment for UltraFloor as it shows their customers, the supply chain, and the flooring industry as a whole, their intent to continually improve all aspects of their business and how committed they are to providing sustainable solutions.

Find out more about UltraFloor's environmental commitments for the future by visiting Instarmac.co.uk to download a copy of their Environmental and Social Responsibility Report.

Source: CO2.earth

www.ultrafloor.co.uk



CHEMIQUE ADHESIVES

A new, low-hazard, one-component pedestal adhesive

CHEMIQUE Adhesives, a leading UK manufacturer of high-performance industrial adhesives and adhesive application equipment has recently introduced a new low-hazard, moisture-curing, one-component pedestal adhesive to its Polyped access flooring range.

Polyped 3370 is a phthalate-free, single-part polyurethane adhesive designed for easy pedestal installation. Its unique formula allows for effortless application by simply dipping the pedestal base into the adhesive before positioning it on a concrete subfloor.

This low-foaming, thixotropic polyurethane adhesive requires no mixing and easily fills voids between substrates, resulting in a strong, yet flexible bond.

Furthermore, the adhesive has surpassed VOC testing including BREEAM International at Exemplary level. Following a 48-hour curing period, it successfully passes both the T42 'swinging bag' and T15 'pedestal strength' tests.

Keith Berry, technical manager at Chemique Adhesives comments, 'Our new, low emission one-part pedestal adhesive has been developed with both safety and performance in mind. It has successfully passed rigorous VOC testing that meets stringent emission standards



Polyped 3370 is a phthalate-free, single-part polyurethane adhesive

and ensures a safer work environment without compromising on bond strength.'

The range also includes Polyped 3342, a single-part, moisture-curing, hybrid polymer pedestal adhesive that is completely hazard-free. This product has successfully passed numerous VOC tests, including BREEAM

International at Exemplary level and Indoor Air Comfort Gold. Please contact us for further information.

01922 459321

marketinguk@chemiqueadhesives.com
www.chemiqueadhesives.com

FOSROC

Guess who's back – Nitoflor Lithurin E

Reducing environmental impact, NITOFLOL LITHURIN E is a new non-hazardous, water-based surface hardener for dustproofing old concrete floors.

Better than ever

The original Lithurin surface hardener from Fosroc was a popular and effective product that was well established in the market. Although discontinued several years ago, demand for the product has been steadily consistent, so with further technical development and improvement from the team at Fosroc, the previous Lithurin product has been given a new lease of life.

It's now back as a more environmentally friendly water-based version with all the same benefits of durability, ease of application and value for money that made it an industry staple in the first place.



What's it for?

Nitoflor Lithurin E can be used to prevent dusting and increase durability on old flooring and is suitable for use on concrete and granolithic surfaces. Applications could include industrial floors, light engineering works, warehouses, animal feed and milk parlours, abattoirs, car parks, dams, reservoirs, tanks, silos and flues.

Advantages

- Non-hazardous water-based liquid
- Highly durable, improves abrasion resistance and reduces chemical attack from oils and greases
- Easy to apply, no special equipment or skills required
- Economical, low cost method of floor protection

How it works

The product is a clear liquid based on non-hazardous metal silicates and wetting agents. When the product is mixed with water and applied to the floor, the solution penetrates the concrete, reacting with lime and other soluble particles to form granite hard crystals, leaving a permanent, hard wearing surface. Surface dust levels are considerably reduced for easier floor maintenance and cleaning.

Want to know more? If you have an enquiry about Nitoflor Lithurin E contact us on 01827 262222 or enquiryuk@fosroc.com.

www.fosroc.com



AMTICO

A bio-attributed LVT flooring option

DESIGNERS and specifiers continue prioritising sustainable products that reduce a project's environmental impact, from carbon emissions to waste. Flooring has evolved beyond design and laying patterns to embrace circularity and lower-carbon solutions. One advanced offering leading the way is Amtico Bio – a bio-attributed LVT flooring option, underpinned by a rigorous sustainability strategy that further closes the loop on production and end-of-life waste.

The science

Created for projects that demand higher levels of sustainability, Amtico Bio offers climate-conscious customers the option to choose lower-carbon flooring. The bio-attributed LVT is manufactured using PVC derived from renewable raw materials and is available to specify across the Signature, Spacia, Form and Marine collections.

Traditional PVC is made using crude oil (a fossil fuel) and salt from seawater, with the fossil fuel element being the primary contributor to CO2 emissions. However, Amtico Bio is made with bio-attributed PVC, which replaces fossil fuel feedstocks with biomass sources, either crude tall oil (a byproduct of the paper pulping industry) or used cooking oil (from the catering industry) as sources of renewable ethylene – yet the material remains chemically identical to standard PVC. Specifying Amtico Bio reduces the embodied carbon of Amtico LVT by between 20% to 28%, while still offering the same performance and finish.

Supporting change

Customers who specify Amtico Bio receive a

sustainability declaration to guarantee the PVC is attributed to the renewable organic material which authenticates that Amtico has followed the stringent ISCC Plus mass balance process, ensuring third-party verification and traceability throughout the supply chain. Amtico Bio and the bio-attributed PVC are both ISCC PLUS certified using the mass balance approach, which guarantees transparent sourcing and ethical production.

Mass balance

The 'mass balance' principle allows Amtico to incorporate renewable biomass materials within its existing manufacturing processes, rather than segregating identical materials and creating new processes. This ensures that bio-attributed flooring is more affordable and accessible for everyone, supporting the next step in PVC's sustainability journey, while significantly lowering a project's carbon footprint.

Amtico Bio is identical to the standard Signature, Spacia, Form and Marine products – so the aesthetics, quality, performance and warranties remain precisely the same.

Closing the loop

Reducing waste is a core pillar of Amtico's



'Responsible Foundations' sustainability strategy, with a target of zero avoidable waste by 2040. All pre-production waste is already recycled or repurposed, avoiding 100% of production waste going to landfill by either reintroducing material back into manufacture or sending it to a recycling partner to create road traffic furniture such as speed bumps and traffic cones. In 2024 alone, Amtico facilitated recycling over 950 tonnes of LVT waste into such public realm products.

Installation off-cuts and end-of-life flooring have been captured via take-back schemes in both commercial projects and through continued trials with 50 independent residential retailers, reclaiming and recycling over 42 tonnes of material in the same period. Heyside Plastics, one of Amtico's trusted partners, processes uplifted flooring that would otherwise be landfilled, turning it into durable public infrastructure components. 'Zero waste is not just a goal; it's a necessity,' says Ian Lloyd, Operations Director, reflecting the company's ethos. More than 80 employees actively participate in Amtico's sustainability programme, contributing ideas and volunteering in continuous improvement initiatives.

Climate leaders

As a British manufacturer, Amtico supports the UK's Net Zero ambitions and recognises climate change as a defining challenge. Having reduced its Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 15% year on year and Scope 3 by 25% in 2023, the business is on track to validate its ambitious 2040 net-zero target through the Science-Based Targets initiative in 2025. Initiatives such as the rollout of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) across all core collections underpin ongoing carbon reduction efforts.

Sustainable design in interiors is about bringing together functionality, accessibility, and aesthetics with responsibility for people and the planet. By offering Amtico Bio alongside new recycling and waste reduction programmes, Amtico empowers designers and specifiers to lower their projects' carbon and waste footprint, delivering beautiful floors with a reduced environmental impact.

www.amtico.com/commercial



XPS FOAM

Built for fitters, better for the planet

KATHRYN McHugh, Head of Operations at XPS Foam Ltd, explains that at the company, sustainability isn't just a feature of its Underlay range — it's part of how it operates every single day.

'Our XPS Foam Underlay is made using up to 100% recycled plastic and is fully recyclable at the end of its life. That means we're not just reducing waste — we're giving it a second life. We repurpose materials that might otherwise end up in landfill, including things like contact lens cases, fridge shelves, and other rigid plastics.

'We turn our own manufacturing waste into new material. All manufacturing waste material is reprocessed back into pelletised fluff, which we convert back into high-quality beads ready for re-manufacture. That alone allows us to recycle over 1,000 tonnes of plastic waste every year.

'And because we manufacture here in North Wales, using local suppliers wherever possible, we keep our carbon footprint low. There's no import freight, no long-distance shipping, and minimal CO₂ emissions compared to imported underlays.

'Our supply chain is short, efficient, and entirely UK-based — something we're incredibly proud of. The result? A durable, high-performance underlay that's not only easy to install and long-lasting, but also kinder to the planet.'

For fitters, retailers, and end users alike, XPS Foam Underlay offers a simple way to make more sustainable choices — without compromising on quality.



www.xpsfoam.co.uk

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of **XPS** Underlay

Underlay
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GLOSSARY

HOW TO MAKE SURE YOU KNOW YOUR EPR FROM YOUR EPD!

This is the revamped and updated version of our popular annual Glossary – your guide to some of the terminology used around the sustainability topic. We appreciate that, while the fundamentals of climate change may be relatively straightforward, the science behind it is not, and the acronyms and jargon associated with our efforts to deal with it can sometimes seem designed to confuse further. We've pulled together some of the terminology, acronyms and jargon that you are likely to come across, as you work to collaborate with others to bring environmental improvements in your own business.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – BNG makes sure development has a measurably positive impact ('net gain') on biodiversity, compared to what was there before development. There are now regulations in place by which developers must deliver a biodiversity net gain of 10%. From April last year a BNG of 10% has been required for small sites and this will come in for nationally significant infrastructure projects from November this year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/biodiversity-net-gain>

BREEAM – the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method was the world's first sustainability rating scheme for the built environment and has contributed much to the strong focus in the UK on sustainability in building design, construction and use. A BREEAM assessment is voluntary but may be required for some planning approvals.

<https://www.breeam.com>

Carbon neutral – Carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. This matters because carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the major greenhouse gas (causes global warming). Deforestation and any burning of fossil fuels (as in transport or manufacturing) releases CO₂ into the atmosphere. The UN's main climate goal is to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, in order to limit temperature rise to 1.5C.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/articles/2020-12-11/carbon-neutrality-2050-the-world's-most-urgent-mission>

Circular economy – the concept of keeping materials within the economy at the highest level of value for the longest time possible. Although recycling is part of the circular economy, it also aims to reuse products as much as possible, which is why design of flooring products for reuse is important in our sector.

<https://cfa.org.uk/userfiles/files/Zero%20Avoidable%20Waste%20in%20Flooring%20-%20A%20Scoping%20Study.pdf>

CISUFLO (Circular Sustainable Floorcoverings) – A collaborative European project which is working on new technologies and products to improve materials' recovery and drive the flooring sector in Europe towards a circular economy. The overall goal is to minimise the environmental impact of the flooring sector, by setting up a systemic framework for circular and sustainable floor coverings taking into account both technical feasibility and socio-economic factors. The CFA is one of four trade association partners. The project is due to culminate with the publication of a final report in June this year.

<https://www.cisuflo.eu>

Climate Change Act – The UK passed its Climate Change Act in 2008, and was the first country to do so. The Act aspired to an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. In 2019 this was changed to 100% reduction by 2050, compared to 1990.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

Co2nstruct Zero – the Construction Leadership Council's response to the Government's Green Industrial Revolution proposals set out in November 2020. The Co2nstruct Zero programme includes nine priorities, covering Transport, Buildings and Construction Activity.

<https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/workstream/co2nstructzero/>

COP – these are meetings of the 'Conference of the Parties' to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The most recent was held in Baku, Azerbaijan in November 2024. The next, COP30, will be held in Belém, Brazil, in November this year.

<https://cop30.br/en>

Cradle to cradle – cradle to cradle (C2C) certification is the global standard for products that are safe, circular and responsibly made. Certification is carried out by the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute.

<https://c2ccertified.org/the-standard>

Cradle to grave – the principle that the originator of a product is responsible for a product right the way from its creation through to its disposal. This is therefore the principle that underlies end-of-life recovery schemes.

<https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Cradle-to-grave>

Embodied carbon – the CO₂ emissions associated with materials and construction processes throughout the whole lifecycle of a product or building. It includes any CO₂ created during the manufacturing of building materials (material extraction, transport to manufacturer, manufacturing), the transport of those materials to the job site, and the construction practices used.

<https://ukgbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/operational-and-embodied-carbon-1.pdf>

EPD – an Environmental Product Declaration is a report which provides a 'life cycle' description of a product, focussing on its environmental impact. They are now increasingly common, and expected, within the flooring industry. EPDs fit within an international EPD system which itself operates within ISO and EN standards. EPDs are logged on an international website.

<https://www.environdec.com>

EPR for Packaging – Following a delay, Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (EPR) will be introduced this year. It moves the full cost of dealing with packaging waste on to the packaging producers, applying a 'polluter pays principle' and making producers responsible for the costs of their packaging throughout its life cycle. This is intended to encourage producers to reduce their use of packaging and use types of packaging which are easier to recycle. Producers are expected to meet ambitious new recycling targets and use clear unambiguous labelling of recyclability to assist consumers.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/extended-producer-responsibility-for-packaging-who-is-affected-and-what-to-do>

EPR for Construction Products – there has been discussion regarding the suitability of Extended Producer Responsibility for construction products. The goal would be to incentivise manufacturers to consider durability, reparability and end of life as part of the product design. The topic features in one of the CPA's Sustainability Discussion Papers.

<https://www.constructionproducts.org.uk/our-expertise/sustainability/resource-efficiency-zero-avoidable-waste-and-the-circular-economy/>

ESG – Environmental, Social, and Governance refers to a set of factors considered when taking a holistic view to sustainability. It is used as a framework to account for the impacts of companies on people, business and the environment, and provides a way to measure business risks and opportunities in those areas.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-regulatory-regime-for-environmental-social-and-governance-esg-ratings-providers>

Future Homes Standard – The UK Government's 2021 Heat and buildings strategy included the introduction of a 'Future Homes Standard' by 2025, which would ensure that "new-build homes are future-proofed with low-carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency". The intention is to ensure that new homes produce 75–80% less carbon emissions than current regulations permit, and it involves a 'fabric first' approach, meaning that poor building insulation cannot be compensated for by the addition of heat pumps etc. Currently, the Government is yet to announce the final detail of the Standard or a timeline for its introduction.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-and-buildings-standards-2023-consultation/the-future-homes-and-buildings-standards-2023-consultation>

Future Homes Hub – an industry-driven response to the Future Homes Standard which provides resources for housebuilders to enable the sector to become environmentally positive.

<https://www.futurehomes.org.uk>

Greenwashing – advertising or marketing which is deceptively used to persuade the public that an organisation's products, aims and policies are more environmentally friendly than is the case.

<https://nbs.net/how-to-avoid-greenwashing/>

ISO Net Zero Guidelines – published at COP27, these Guidelines from the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) are designed for all organisations working to deliver net zero pledges and are intended to improve international alignment and combat greenwashing.

<https://www.iso.org/netzero>

ISO 50005:2021 – an ISO Standard which provides guidelines to support and simplify the implementation of an energy management system for SMEs.

<https://www.iso.org/standard/76428.html>

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is the most widely used green building rating system in the world.

<https://www.usgbc.org/leed>

Low Emission or Clean Air Zones – Low Emission Zones (LEZs), also known as Clean Air Zones (CAZs), are areas of major cities which drivers of more polluting vehicles must pay to drive through, in order to encourage more environmentally friendly transportation. There are 4 tiers – Class A, B, C and D – with different levels of restrictions. Class B, C and D include heavy goods vehicles and Class C and D include vans.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/driving-in-a-clean-air-zone>

Net zero – achieving net zero would mean that the amount of greenhouse gas emitted to the atmosphere is balanced by the amount removed.

<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/net-zero-coalition>

Paris Agreement – COP 21, held in Paris in 2015, agreed the target of limiting global warming to 1.5C compared to pre-industrial levels. This is a United Nations agreement and is legally binding. It is hoped to achieve this goal by attaining net zero by 2050.

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

Phthalates – a type of plasticiser used in a number of different products, including vinyl flooring, and potentially linked to health issues. Their use is increasingly restricted and banned in certain products.

Plastic Packaging Tax – this came into force on 1 April 2022. Companies need to register for the tax if they have manufactured or imported ten or more tonnes of finished plastic packaging components within the last 12 months. The tax has to be paid at the rate of £200 per tonne if the packaging contains less than 30% recycled plastic.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/plastic-packaging-tax>

Scope 1, 2 & 3 – these refer to different types of emissions caused by industrial processes, categorised according to the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol.

Scope 1 are emissions directly caused by a company's business, such as fuel combustion, company vehicles and emissions caused by manufacturing.

Scope 2 are emissions caused by power generators from whom a company acquires its energy.

Scope 3 emissions include all those caused further down the supply chain. For many companies in our sector this is where the majority of their emissions come from, since it includes emissions caused by raw material extraction and the fabrication of bought-in components. These are also the most difficult emissions to monitor and to minimise, since they are not within the company's direct control.

<https://www.carbontrust.com/our-work-and-impact/guides-reports-and-tools/an-introductory-guide-to-scope-3-emissions>

SKA rating – a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) environmental assessment method, benchmark and standard for non-domestic fit outs.

<https://www.rics.org/uk/about-rics/responsible-business/ska-rating/>

Sustainability – as far back as 1987 the United Nations defined sustainability as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." It is about more than just the environment, covering the full range of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues. A definition put forward in the 2022 NBS Sustainability Report is the "Ability to sustain a comfortable human life without compromising the environment".

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5987our-common-future.pdf>

<https://www.thenbs.com/publicationindex/documents/details?Pub=NBS&DocId=343156>

Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) – The ULEZ in London requires that petrol cars and vans must be Euro 4 and diesel cars and vans must be Euro 6 to avoid a daily charge.

<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle/>



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ISO 17025

46 dB (ΔLW)
BS EN ISO 10140-3 Impact Sound

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rate of heat transfer
for underfloor heating
– at 10mm thick,
it feels fantastic
underfoot too



plushwalk
memory foam

3.0 - 3.5 TOG
BS4745

40 - 49 dB (ΔLW)
BS EN ISO 10140-3 Impact Sound

Choose a smooth
installation that
provides the
ultimate comfort
underfoot



GrandeWaltz

2.8 - 3.0 TOG
BS4745

44 - 47 dB (ΔLW)
BS EN ISO 10140-3 Impact Sound

Choose an underlay
that **provides**
eco-luxury! Designed
to tread lightly
on the planet