



**danfloor**  
An Ulster Group Company

DESIGN FOR  
DEMENTIA



# CREATING A THERAPEUTIC ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMIX

EQUINOX<sup>TM</sup>  
TONES

Dementia friendly design can make a real difference in improving the quality of life for thousands of residents in care settings living with dementia. At danfloor we keep abreast of the recommendations when it comes to colour and design and have created a selection of carpets suitable for use within healthcare facilities accommodating those who live with dementia.

## Light Reflectance Values



Light Reflectance Value (LRV), is a measure of the percentage of visible and usable light that is reflected from a surface when illuminated by a light source. LRV's are particularly important when designing interiors that are suitable for the disabled

and for those who are visually impaired. Certain surfaces and features are required to contrast visually within their surroundings to aid navigation and by equating colour with an LRV makes this achievable. Current guidance and Code of Practice BS 8300:2009 states that adequate visual contrast is provided if the LRV of the contrasting areas differ by at least 30 points.

Considered use of colour can significantly improve a visually impaired person's way-finding ability. It can create pathways, identify obstacles and define volume and space helping to make the physical environment safer and easier to use. The majority of danfloor carpets have been tested for their LRV value in order to make the design process easier and to benefit the residents of healthcare facilities.

All product LRVs can be found on our website [danfloor.co.uk](http://danfloor.co.uk)



# SELECTING THE CORRECT FLOORING IS ESSENTIAL WHEN DESIGNING FOR DEMENTIA

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## Indoor Air Quality



It's not just infection control that should be considered but indoor air quality when it comes to flooring in the care sector, especially if you have residents living with breathing difficulties such as asthma.

Throughout the last 10 years there have been numerous studies into the use of carpet versus hard floor surfaces and what effect these two flooring solutions have on air quality. Fine dust can present a significant health hazard, especially for allergy sufferers, as particles may cause irritation when they are breathed in and enter the respiratory tract.

Many of the studies suggest that carpet retains dust particles, unlike hard surfaces where they regularly become air born. If carpets are regularly vacuumed these particles, and allergens that are bound within the carpet fibres, are removed from the room without causing discomfort.



## Acoustics



Within healthcare facilities, corridors and communal areas can be very busy places at all times of day and night. The presence of carpet in such areas helps to absorb unwanted sound and reduce sound reverberation time. This is very important for people with difficulty hearing and for those with dementia as it makes it easier to filter out unwanted noises and therefore reduces stress and confusion.



# THE USE OF CARPET CREATES A **WARM AND HOMELY ATMOSPHERE**

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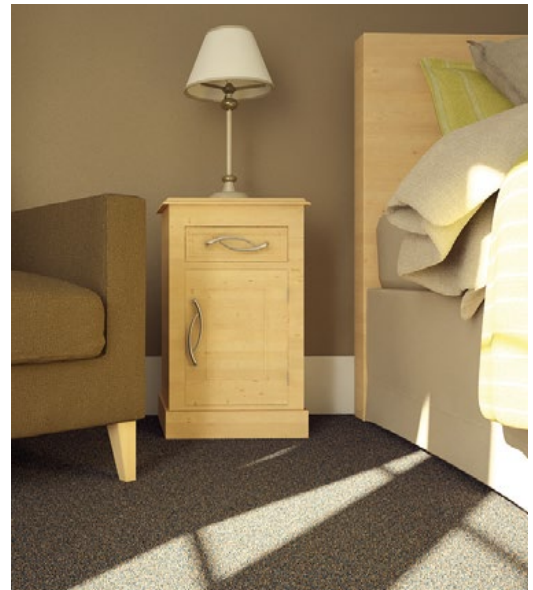
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## Avoiding Trips and Falls



Studies have shown that carpet, when compared with vinyl, can reduce injuries caused by trips and falls. It has also been proven that gait speed and step length is greater in older people walking on carpeted areas than when walking on vinyl.

The Economix and Tones ranges have been designed to facilitate and withstand impact from walking aids and with a regular cleaning and maintenance schedule the carpets will not lose their appearance over time.



## Home from Home Feeling



Healthcare facilities, especially care homes are trying to move away from an institutional look and feel with the aim of creating a more homely atmosphere.

It is therefore essential to have carpet wherever possible. The Economix and Tones ranges provide a subtle colour bank which aids designers with specifying various room scenes and creating a domestic environment. In addition to colour, the texture of carpet within care facilities is important and should be flat to allow for shuffling and the use of walking aids, wheelchairs and trolleys.

Guidance from the University of Stirling suggests that carpet should be laid in bedrooms of care homes and advises that vinyl should not be laid in bedrooms unless absolutely necessary.



# THE UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING STATE WHEREVER POSSIBLE CARPET SHOULD BE LAID IN A CARE HOME

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## A Person-Centred Approach



Guidelines developed from recent studies highlight the importance of colour and contrast, good lighting and a person-centred approach when it comes to design for dementia.

A common challenge faced by interior designers when working in communal residential settings is addressing a "multi-client" brief. Stirling University concludes that a person-centred approach should be at the heart of a service provider's philosophy, focusing on the needs of the individual.

Designers are able to address resident's needs more fully in areas like bedrooms but in communal areas it will be more difficult and this is where inclusive yet flexible design should be considered.



## The Benefits of danfloors Dementia Ranges

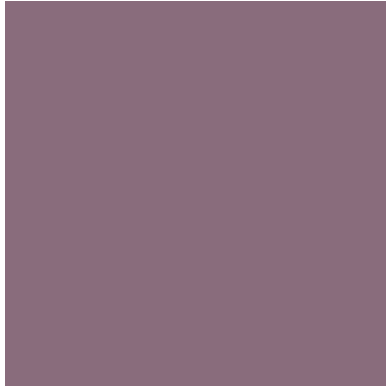


The subtle design of Economix and Equinox Tones helps to create a modern interior design scheme without the carpet being too distracting to the eye. The yarns used to manufacture these ranges are hardwearing and can withstand regular and intense

commercial cleaning, combining this with an impervious membrane makes these carpet ranges easy to clean and maintain. The carpets also include an anti-microbial coating which helps to stop the spread of infection and eliminate unwanted odours.

**For more information about Economix and Equinox Tones visit [www.danfloor.co.uk](http://www.danfloor.co.uk)**





# Innovative Carpet Solutions



# danfloor

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