POLYFLOR™
COVERING THE WORLD

2013 sustainability report

Introduction

Welcome to Polyflor's 8th report

The aim of this brochure is to clearly report Polyflor's environmental performance for 2012's trading period. We have sound environmental credentials and systems in place, but it is important to continue to build on this.

Transparency is crucial at a time where environmental issues become increasingly important and companies seek commercial advantage wherever they can. The term 'greenwashing' is one that we are all aware of and one that we want to avoid.

Polyflor operates an open communication policy with all stakeholders. Our aim is to inform - whether this is reporting on something very positive or something which may not have been as good or successful as we would have liked. For instance in 2009 we recycled 210 tonnes of liquid waste, but in 2010 this figure dropped to 164 tonnes - the reason for this being that we had less waste to recycle. However such a comparison might be misconstrued but we didn't sidestep reporting it.

Whilst having achieved a great deal in recent years Polyflor is by no means 'perfect'. Like all manufacturers, we have an environmental impact and we also have a responsibility to minimise this impact.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE FLOORING

POLYFLOR™ COVERING THE WORLD

Our Vision

To develop an environmentally and econonomically sustainable business and be as carbon neutral as possible.

- The avoidance of emissions to the ecosystem
- Reduction of waste to a minimum
- The introduction of products that are environmentally consistent with their intended use by providing a high level of durability, reliability, ease of maintenance and safe disposal at end of life
- Conservation of resources by use of recycling
- Active participation in industry initiatives and projects that improve environmental impact
- Raising environmental awareness by regular and open communication with employees, suppliers, customers, shareholders, etc.
- Careful selection of materials, processing techniques and state of the art technology to reduce environmental impact

Sustainable Progress

Polyflor has for many decades been recognised as a leading global manufacturer of high quality, high performance floorcoverings. In the 2012 Palmer Market Research Report for resilient flooring, Polyflor was also recognised as the leading sustainable company with architects in particular rating Polyflor for “Good environmental ethics”.

Since the last Polyflor report particular progress has been made in a number of key areas, including:

Energy Efficiency
Carbon emissions reduced by 17,612 tonnes since 2000

Energy consumption in manufacture reduced by over 46% in the last 12 years

Recycling
The Recofloor waste vinyl flooring take-back scheme continued to grow in 2012. 450 tonnes of waste vinyl flooring was collected and recycled, representing almost 150,000m² - enough waste to cover 21 football pitches.

Recycled content has also increased significantly for many of our products.

NPD
More products were manufactured with non-phthalate materials and this is set to continue in 2013.

Air quality
Many of our flooring ranges were certificated through the Indoor Air Comfort Gold scheme, with the VOC emissions’ results being exceptionally low – a great achievement given it is the most comprehensive and stringent test on the market.

Transportation
All HGVs in the Polyflor fleet are now Euro 5 compliant with new trailers. Operations improved in 2012 to reduce carbon output through efficient loads and backloads, for example consolidated customer loads and correct transportation methods were deployed.

Driving efficiencies were also improved, increasing MPG and further reducing environmental impact – something that is now being continuously monitored.

Packaging
Achieved ISO 14001 2012 objective by reducing plastic roll wrap to zero, saving 96 tonnes of waste material.

Contents

About Vinyl

Vinyl is a cost effective multi faceted plastic - a necessity in everyday life due to its flexibility, durability and performance and functionality. Used in flooring, cables, windows, packaging and medical equipment including blood bags and surgical tubing, this material is irreplaceable for many of its lifesaving applications.

It is important not to make decisions on a product's environmental performance, based solely on emotional rationale, but to view with an open mind and scientific approach. A life cycle analysis for instance, represents a holistic approach which cannot be dismissed. Through modern manufacturing vinyl has a low environmental impact and is exceptionally beneficial within a multitude of uses, where no other material could perform as well or cost effectively.

A Greener Option

Vinyl is an environmentally sound choice. Over its whole life cycle, vinyl floorcovering performs comparably or better than competing materials across a range of impacts.

Vinyl flooring is exceptionally energy efficient to manufacture, using less energy than other plastics and linoleum. Due to its incredible durability it has a long service life, greatly reducing short-term replacements and subsequent energy consumption. Polyflor products' ease of maintenance also means that energy intensive cleaning is not required and harsh chemical cleansers, polish, strippers and water usage are massively reduced, if needed at all.

As a material it is ideally suited to being recycled. It is 100% recyclable and can be recycled many times over without losing any of its performance properties. If it is not recycled, vinyl has a high calorific value and may be safely incinerated with energy recovery. Landfill is the last option, but this is done safely and so the vinyl remains chemically inert without producing leachate.

A Safer Option

Vinyl is the most thoroughly researched, tested plastic, meeting all international health and safety standards as per the intended application.

In the event of a fire, vinyl is flame retardant due to the chlorine content and once removed from the fire it will self extinguish. In the event of a fire, vinyl flooring typically outperforms linoleum and rubber flooring.

Key Sustainability Credentials of PVC for use within the construction industry

1. Safe in use.
2. More variation in uses than any other plastic.
3. Best use of natural resources.
4. Low energy consumption.
5. Low carbon emissions.
6. Best cost : performance ratio.
7. Excellent energy efficient ratings.
8. Excellent BRE ratings.
9. Can be recycled into more construction products than any other polymer.
10. Comes with a 10 year proven European-wide voluntary agreement.

"There is absolutely no evidence that vinyl damages human health or the environment. PVC is durable, low maintenance, recyclable and performs well in LCA tests."

Dr. Patrick Moore, founding member of Greenpeace (2006)

Polyflor Materials

Vinyl is made up of 57% salt (chlorine) and 43% oil (ethylene), salt being one of the world's most abundant natural resources.

Chlorine has an established place in the natural world: The sea, plants and animals all contain and produce vast quantities of chlorinated molecules. Chlorine is also a chemical used within the manufacture of essential, every day items. For example, 85% of medicines either contain chlorine or use chlorine in the production process. Chlorine is not emitted during the production stage of Polyflor flooring - chlorine is chemically bound within vinyl and remains so during the process and the life of the flooring.

Ethylene comes mainly from gas or oil, but ethylene from biomass is also used. Ethylene is also a natural product, given off by ripening fruit. Only 4% of barrel oil is used for all plastic products globally and vinyl flooring uses only a tiny fraction of this, with most oil used for heating and travel consumption.

Polyflor floorcoverings predominantly use sustainable materials. The homogeneous range of products for example, uses up to 85% sustainable materials with the average being 71% across the range. This includes calcium carbonate filler. The high abundance of this material in the earth's crust makes it a sustainable material and its use diminishes the polymer content, thus reducing the usage of oil. The unique composition of vinyl flooring means that it is extremely practical, durable and has a typical life span of twenty years or more. It is incredibly efficient to recycle, which subsequently minimises the use of raw materials.

Plasticisers are added to our flooring to enhance the product performance characteristics through a range of operational temperatures. Softening the vinyl is important in making it the flexible and versatile product that it is. Regarding plasticisers used by Polyflor, our products consist of ortho phthalates and non-phthalate options. Ensuring that we get the right balance between what is best for product performance, the environment and what our customers want is critical and something which is constantly evolving.

All raw materials used in the manufacture of Polyflor vinyl flooring are responsibly sourced from suppliers who, like Polyflor, are ISO 14001 accredited or are well underway to achieving this environmental management system. Polyflor follow the strictest industry regulations and no harmful substances are included in the formulations – we are REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation & restriction of Chemicals) compliant.

Energy Efficiency

The amount of energy required per m² of material produced has continued to fall year on year down to 2.72KwHr per m² representing a 46% drop since 2000. This reduction in energy used has been as a result of hard work on the company's environmental objectives.

- Less energy to produce than other plastics, at least 15% less energy than linoleum and 50% less energy than ceramics.
- Typical life of 20-25 years means fewer replacements so less energy to produce flooring for the life of the building.
- Energy consumption in manufacture reduced by over 46% in the last 12 years
- Carbon emissions reduced by 17,612 tonnes since 2000

Energy Saving initiatives

1 Installation of automatic shutdown systems to ensure machinery is switched off when not in use.
2 The implementation of lighting optimisers has continued across the site, which produces a saving of around 25% on energy used.
3 Installation of automatic lighting in the offices.
4 The metering and monitoring systems used in the factory for air, steam and all energy consumption has been crucial in identifying areas of leakage, unnecessary use and ways to cut the energy required.

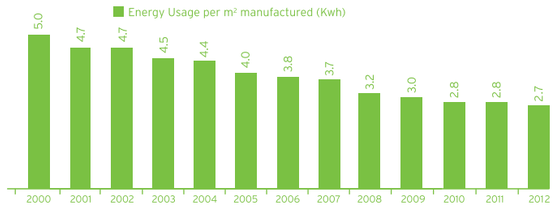
Vinyl is exceptionally energy efficient to produce and embedded energy is further reduced when recycled material is used in place of raw materials. PVC has a relatively low carbon footprint, to put this into context it gives equivalent carbon dioxide emissions as 1 kg of frosted cornflakes, both at 1.9kg CO2. Recycled PVC is just 0.3kg CO2. Here are some other every day examples:

- 1kg Lamb = 14kg CO2
- 1 kg Cheese = 11kg CO2
- 1 kg Aluminium = 10kg CO2

Our carbon emissions were reduced by 1,202 tonnes in 2012 and 1,174 tonnes in 2011. The total 17,612 tonne reduction in carbon emissions reported has been independently audited – Polyflor is working with the Carbon Trust's Energy Management programme, which provides commercially viable solutions to help UK businesses and the public sector cut carbon, energy and costs.

Two significant contributors to our recent progress have come from the following initiatives at our Whitefield manufacturing site:

- The installation of the AirStar system, which reduces compressed air. This has had a massive impact on carbon emissions – reducing our carbon footprint by 20% in 5 years.
- Powerstar implemented a voltage optimisation system, which uses a patented triple wound transformer, enabling voltage reduction without compromising supply. From this, results have shown that the site's annual energy consumption has been reduced by 12.8%.



17,612 tonne reduction in carbon

Working with CARBON TRUST

46% LESS ENERGY

Water Reduction

Water reduction is an important step in improving the environment and protecting natural resources.

On site, rainwater is collected and stored in a designated area known as 'lodge water'. This is used to substitute mains supply, saving a valuable natural resource.

The following steps have been taken to ensure that energy and water usage is greatly reduced:

- Optimisation of steam pressure
- Improvement of the efficiency of pumps and automatic controls
- Regular steam trap surveys
- Optimisation of cooling water temperature
- Installation of water economisers on toilets

Waste Management

Even with an increase in production throughout 2012 there has been continual progress on site in reducing both wet and dry waste.

As a business with electrical and electronic equipment to dispose of, we are fully compliant with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive and therefore recycle such waste accordingly.

Improvements on recycling initiatives meant that dry waste fell from 7.5% of production volume in 2002 to 1.4% in 2012, equating to a significant reduction in dry waste of 81% in ten years. Wet waste in 2012 was 167 tonnes, an impressive 75% reduction when compared to 2000's figures.

Waste recycled in 2012:

Tonnes of wood	Tonnes of cardboard	Tonnes of liquid waste*	Tonnes of paper	Tonnes of plastic rollwrap
28	107	132	1.3	20

Waste recycled in 2011:

Tonnes of wood	Tonnes of cardboard	Tonnes of liquid waste*	Tonnes of paper	Tonnes of plastic rollwrap
39	113	112	3.8	20

*Plasticiser condensate from factory ovens

The tonnages of plastic rollwrap has remained the same, whilst we have recycled more liquid waste. Other figures for 2012 fell compared with 2011's figures. Despite recycling less wood, cardboard and paper, this is largely due to our commitment to use less packaging material and be more diligent with our suppliers. It is important to Polyflor that we reduce potential waste in the first place.

As production increases, investment is continually made to improve storage and handling facilities for subsequent waste on site. Limiting the potential for waste at the outset will continue to be a priority with reusing or recycling being the final legacy as part of our continued commitment to 'zero production waste to landfill'.

Recycling

Polyflor has been recycling vinyl since the 1950s, when we pioneered the manufacture of homogeneous flooring. It has always been considered a perfectly natural part of the manufacturing process.

- Vinyl flooring is most suitable for recycling and is 100% recyclable
- Up to 40% recycled material content
- 9,303 tonnes of production waste and 1013 tonnes of post consumer waste recycled in 2012
- 156.3 tonnes of dry waste (excluding vinyl waste) was recycled in 2012
- 132 tonnes of liquid waste was recycled in 2012

Post Production Waste

Post production waste vinyl is generated on site from scrap material produced during and after production, this comprises vinyl chippings, clean trims and off-cuts as well as recovered dust. We also recycle glass which is post consumer waste, combined with the aggregates, into many of our Polysafe products.

With legacy additives becoming increasingly important (tighter regulation on the quality of recycled material used) making recycling even more challenging, 2012 saw significant progress being made with LVT and Heterogeneous product ranges, which now contain 40% and 10% recycled content respectively. Polyflor products are still completely recyclable through the Recofloor scheme.

In the Future

With recycling being at the heart of Polyflor's operations, we will continue to invest significantly in the development of a much greater recycling capacity and capability, and fully utilise all options available in the recycling of post consumer waste back into new product.

Legacy additives in post consumer recycled material will need to be managed effectively, with returned material identification a key factor to prevent materials being used in Polyflor flooring that would not and should not be included.

25%
RECYCLED
average recycled content

Transport & Logistics

The efficient distribution of our products is imperative to our customers. It is important that we achieve this whilst acting responsibly within the supply chain and minimising our carbon footprint.

Distribution

As a UK manufacturer, Polyflor distributes product from its central distribution centre in the North West of England through a network of wholesalers throughout the UK and around the world, a model that ensures efficiency through the transportation of full, bulk loads.

Transportation

Polyflor operates its own transport fleet in the UK which is maintained and updated as often as possible to ensure the latest and most fuel efficient vehicles are used. In 2012 a further five Euro 5 compliant HGVs were added to our existing thirteen strong fleet, along with new trailer stock. This means more vehicles on the road, but we are still minimising our carbon output whilst meeting increased demand through operational efficiency of full loads and backloads. Consolidation of customer loads and correct transportation method is utilised.

As well as improving the HGV fleet, reducing the environmental impact of the fleet was also achieved by improving driving efficiences and increasing miles per gallon – this is now something that is being continuously monitored.

Packaging

Polyflor flooring is packed in the most effective manner to provide necessary protection, whilst minimising waste. Recycling of various elements of our packaging waste is organised on site, with recycled packaging used where possible. An environmental objective as outlined within ISO 14001 was realised in 2012, with plastic roll wrap being reduced to zero, saving 96 tonnes of waste material.wrap will be reduced to zero, saving 96 tonnes of waste material.

A benefit of vinyl flooring being much lighter than other flooring materials produces a positive outcome in transit, reducing fuel consumption.

Installation and R&D

In collaboration with industry partners, Polyflor is working on developments in new products and technologies. We are continually evaluating new ideas or alternatives which minimise environmental impact.

In the area of installation for example, we are currently working to ensure the compatibility of our products with newer, solvent free and low VOC adhesives to minimise any environmentally negative elements whilst maintaining key performance criteria. Significant trials are also underway to assess easy release adhesion or adhesive free systems with our products for easier end of life waste recovery. Polyflor SimpLay, a range of loose lay luxury vinyl floor tiles continues to perform well, eliminating the use of adhesives for a reduced environmental impact. This is also extremely beneficial to the Recofloor scheme, as it facilitates easier uplift at end of life without contamination, therefore cleaner and simpler to recycle.

Our research and Development team continue to investigate materials used in Polyflor's products for the most environmentally sound and safe vinyl flooring achievable. Recycled material has increased significantly in all product ranges and is set to increase further in 2013, as outlined within our environmental objectives.

Fit for Purpose

Choosing an environmentally preferable product from Polyflor means zero compromise in the function of the product.

Positive environmental credentials and benefits are built into our flooring

Other elements, whether underfoot safety, hygiene, ease of maintenance, durability or aesthetics work hand in glove with the environmental performance of the product

The majority of Polyflor 2.0mm floorcoverings obtain the highest Use Area Classification of 23/34/43 to EN 685, making them suitable for heavy domestic, very heavy commercial and heavy-light industrial use. In comparison, a greater thickness is required for linoleum to achieve a similar recommendation, but even at 2.5mm thick it is not recommended for class 43 areas. Under the Agrément (UPEC) system only 3.2mm thick linoleum had the same wearability as most of the accredited Polyflor products.

Another of vinyl's strengths is its much greater resistance to water, whereas many alternative materials are not suitable for use in areas where there can be the extensive contact with water. Vinyl is impervious and can be thermally welded with the joints actually fused together and is inherently more flexible and easily self coved. This flexibility also means that vinyl has much better recovery from indentation.

At Polyflor we are clear in our belief that there is no reason that our customers need to compromise on performance, choice or budget in order to use products with the lowest environmental impact.

We do not manufacture a specific range of environmental flooring, we manufacture vast ranges of the highest quality, BRE rated commercial flooring with a level of performance and benefits in use which also result in class leading environmental features. This philosophy carries on into all our new product developments, where the demands of the customer, the facility and environmental requirements are built into the product specification from day one.

SAVE UP TO **60%** ON MAINTENANCE

USE UP TO **55%** LESS WATER

Maintenance

Designed with low maintenance features.

PUR reinforcement is cross-linked and UV cured for superior cleaning benefits, enhanced protection and optimum appearance retention.

Homogeneous PUR facilitates a lifelong polish free maintenance regime and consumption of energy, water and chemicals are significantly reduced, giving a 48% maintenance cost saving over a 20+ year life when compared to untreated homogeneous vinyl flooring.

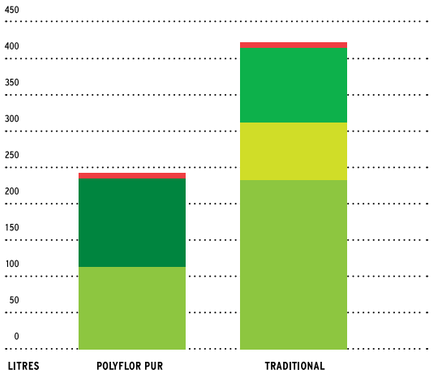
Polysafe PUR and Supratec PUR achieve superior cleaning benefits and optimum appearance retention with a 60% maintenance cost saving over a 20+ year life when compared to untreated safety vinyl flooring.

The in-use phase of the resilient flooring life cycle accounts for at least 80% of its environmental impact. Because of this we have focused our efforts on developing products which greatly reduce the need for energy intensive cleaning. The easier to clean PU and PUR ranges also ensure that use of polish, water, strippers and chemical cleansers are significantly reduced.

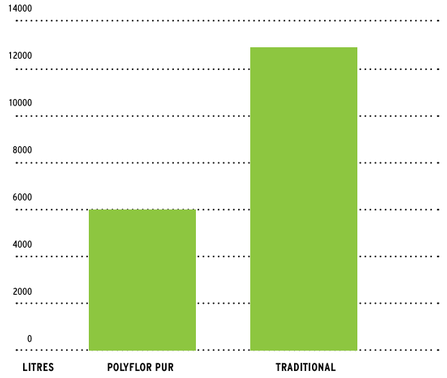
All new ranges are launched with the greatest maintenance and environmental benefits built in and existing ranges have had these benefits added. Continuously improving technologies enables us to raise the standard in terms of durability, maintenance and performance, sought by our customers. Furthermore, low maintenance flooring considerably improves eco audit results of a building throughout its entire life cycle.

For more information about maintenance and the potential cost savings, please take a look at our ‘Home of Low Maintenance’ brochure

CHEMICAL USAGE 1 year 1000sqm PUR vs Traditional vinyl



WATER USAGE 1 year 1000sqm PUR vs Traditional vinyl



Specifiers preferred Polyflor for its easy maintenance*

“Polyflor is much more durable due to its cleaning qualities”

**Palmer Market Research Report for 2012*

Air Quality

The VOC emissions on our range of floor products are all below the very strictly set, accepted levels. Products have been tested by independent laboratories, with approval certificates available upon request.

No negative contribution to indoor air quality.

Passed all the most stringent international VOC emissions tests, including AgBB, Indoor Air Comfort Gold and FloorScore®.

Indoor air quality is a key consideration when selecting building products, and Polyflor vinyl flooring makes a significant contribution towards creating indoor environments with very low VOC (volatile organic compounds) emissions. All of our flooring ranges have already passed key international standards but we continuously look to reformulate our ranges to ensure their VOC emissions are kept to the lowest levels achievable. Independent and rigorous VOC tests Polyflor ranges have undergone include AgBB, Swedish B.P.D (FLEC test), Finland M1 test, GBCA Compliant (GreenTag approval) and FloorScore® (Certificates for these products are available on the SCS website, www.scscertified.com).

The most recent test method is 'Indoor Air Comfort Gold'. This new test by Eurofins is the most comprehensive and stringent on the market and tests for all known emissions.

Along with positive VOC test results, there is no evidence to suggest that vinyl flooring contributes to common allergies such as dust allergies or asthma and is favoured for its superior 'cleanability' over other flooring products and used in the strictest of hygiene zones throughout hospitals. Furthermore it is non-shedding, most allergies are caused by airborne dust. Clean room approval certification for non-shedding is available on most ranges.

Dioxins are toxic chemicals which occur as an unwanted byproduct of some chemical reactions within manufacture (of any product using heating or thermal processing) and during incineration, for example. It is important to note that PVC is not a significant contributor of dioxin emissions - power stations and the steel industry are the biggest man made producers of dioxin emissions. The annual dioxin concentration of the UK PVC industry is less than 140mg per annum, whereas a single tug boat in the North Sea is 70mg per annum. Dioxins occur naturally in the environment for instance, with natural fires and wood biodegradation. Regarding Polyflor specifically, stringent audits are carried out on the manufacturing site to ensure that all emissions fall well under EU industry standards – this is particularly important to us as manufacturing is within a residential area. Most waste vinyl is recycled – either into new flooring or other useful products, such as road traffic cones. It does not get incinerated – although incinerating our vinyl would not be detrimental with properly managed, modern, quality incinerators which are very clean. If incinerated, vinyl waste has an appreciable calorific value, producing energy - this contributes to domestic heat in Sweden. Where in the past vinyl has gone to landfill, this has been a safe method of disposal as it does not breakdown and cause harmful gases in landfill site, but it is obviously not ideal.

Safety

Health & safety within the environment is an important factor to consider when selecting a floorcovering, particularly with key concerns surrounding slips and trips and also fire performance.

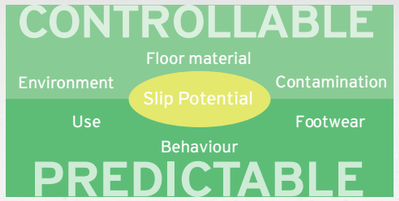
Slip Resistant

Polyflor flooring can be used in all internal use areas and this also includes areas where hazards are potentially much higher, for instance in kitchens and stairwells where slipping is likely and where the consequences of doing so are the most dangerous. Polysafe flooring complies with and exceeds the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines and is independently assessed by the British Board of Agrément and meets the European standard, EN 13845. Polysafe helps prevent accidents and injuries with its slip resistance properties, which are made up of a combination of aggregates including quartz, aluminium oxide and silicone carbide, along with the surface emboss which provides the required roughness to create the necessary friction.

Vinyl is engineered to provide the best fire performance characteristics of all resilient flooring materials. Compared to other materials vinyl flooring is slow to ignite in a fire – the chlorine content makes it flame retardant. In fact, a fire which is large enough to ignite vinyl would have already produced fatal levels of carbon monoxide from other burning materials before any danger from burning vinyl flooring. Regarding fire safety classification, vinyl flooring typically outperforms linoleum, achieving class Bfl to EN 13501-1 (8kw/m or greater) with linoleum achieving class Cfl to EN 13501-1 (4.5kw/m or greater).

Fire Performance

Slips and Trips According to HSE research:



- Slips and trips are the single most common cause of major injuries in the United Kingdom workplace, accounting for 1 in 3 major injuries per annum (37% of all occupational injury accidents).
- Over 8,500 major injuries are suffered each year at a cost to the economy of £750 million each year.
- A cost of £512 million is felt by employers in lost production and other costs each year.

Product Stewardship

It is important that we are responsible in the chain of custody of our products. With landfill being both expensive and the least green of options for waste, recycling is a key element of Polyflor's closed loop operations.

Polyflor is exceptionally committed to the recycling of its post production waste and its post consumer waste, supporting voluntary industry-wide commitments. We are active members of various initiatives including EPFLOOR, the European Flooring Manufacturers' Sector Group, which was formed to increase post consumer waste recycled in Western Europe and Recovinyl, a scheme which provides financial incentives to support the collection of PVC waste from the non-regulated PVC waste streams. Recovinyl is also an initiative of VinylPlus (formerly Vinyl 2010*), another European initiative of which Polyflor is a member. VinylPlus is the new ten-year Voluntary Commitment of the European PVC industry, which looks to tackle all sustainability challenges for PVC. Each of the challenges is based on The Natural Step System, with step one focusing on Controlled-Loop Management. Key objectives for this stage include:

Recycle 800,000 tonnes/year of PVC by 2020.

Exact definitions and reporting concept is available.

Develop and exploit innovative technology to recycle 100,000 tonnes/year of difficult-to-recycle PVC material (within the overall 800,000 tonnes/year recycling target) by 2020.

Address the issue of legacy additives and deliver a status report within each annual VinylPlus Progress Report.

Specific to vinyl flooring, Polyflor is also a proud funding and founding member of Recofloor†, the waste vinyl flooring recycling scheme which is available throughout the UK. By providing an accessible and efficient facility for waste vinyl to be reclaimed and recycled, Recofloor helps prevent post consumer waste from going to landfill. We also recycle glass which is post consumer waste, combined with the aggregates, into many of our Polysafe products.

In the Future

Polyflor will stay committed to recycling end of life vinyl through VinylPlus and the Recofloor scheme. We will also continue to invest significantly in the systems for collection, sorting, granulation and storage to ensure capacity and capability for dealing with the anticipated growth in the volumes of post consumer waste we recycle.*

recovinyl plus vinyl plus COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*** Vinyl 2010 achieved its 10 year target of recycling 240,000 tonnes of post consumer construction vinyl – it actually recycled 260,842.**

† See pages 24 & 25 for more information about Recofloor

International Schemes

The majority of our collections currently come from within the UK where transport to our factory is straightforward, using the same delivery vehicles as they return to site. In international markets there is varying progress in recycling, especially where distances are large and logistics of any recycling operation more complex. National legislation and local attitudes also play a major part in the implementation of recycling.

A long history in Scandinavia of recycling, assisted by legislation to ensure waste is segregated on site, means there is a higher volume of post installation waste. In Norway and Sweden, Polyflor has established schemes to collect and recover vinyl waste from site. This material may either be delivered to Polyflor on return transport for recycling or often more practically, the waste has been sent to other local vinyl flooring manufacturers for them to recycle into new flooring. In Germany the AgPR vinyl recycling facility has been in use for a number of years, offering an outlet for post installation vinyl waste for many manufacturers and contractors. This waste is then supplied to various vinyl flooring manufacturers in Europe, including Polyflor.

Polyflor Australia has set up a local collection scheme which is running very effectively. Similarly in Ireland, the facility to recover waste from larger projects has been put in place and with the Recofloor† scheme now up and running there, with various distributors on board and drop off sites available, logistically it is relatively simple for this waste to be delivered to Polyflor for recycling.

Polyflor South Africa has made great progress with recycling commitments. One of many members of the Southern African Vinyl Association (SAVA), a commitment to increase responsibility and sustainability within the PVC industry as a whole is very positive, but similar to the VinylPlus scheme in Europe, one of the key challenges outlined within this product stewardship programme is the commitment to increase recycling.

† See pages 24 & 25 for more information about Recofloor

SAVA Southern African Vinyls Association

Recofloor

The flooring industry is not bound by law to recycle waste, but we are actively seeking to recover and recycle post consumer waste vinyl flooring to minimise our and the flooring industry's environmental impact and close the loop of our products' life cycles.

- We are a founding and funding member of Recofloor, the industry's vinyl take-back scheme for recycling end of life post consumer vinyl flooring.
- We recycle installation off-cuts, uplifted flooring and old stock roll-ends and samples.
- We recover and recycle into new flooring or other useful products such as traffic cones.

Yes Please	No Thanks
Post installation, clean vinyl off-cuts (smooth or safety vinyl)	Cushion vinyl flooring
Old stock vinyl roll-ends & samples (smooth or safety vinyl)	Non vinyl flooring including linoleum, laminate, carpet, or flooring with jute / fabric backing
Smooth uplifted flooring – depending on condition and quality	General waste including asbestos, rubble, wood, blades, nails, screws etc
	Liquids

Please ensure all material for collection is as clean as possible

Recofloor™ Vinyl Take-Back Scheme

Recofloor 2012 GOLD AWARD

BCE Environmental Leadership Awards Since 1973

CIWM awards FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE WINNER 2010

"What has made this scheme a major success and a worthy winner of this award is the commitment to engage everyone within the process. May it continue to grow and the model to expand into other areas of take back."

Eddie Bingham, BCE judge

In The Beginning

The challenge with recycling post consumer waste has been the logistics of retrieving the material, rather than actually recycling it. To try and tackle this issue and actively encourage more waste vinyl flooring to be recycled a working group was formed in 2007 with all vinyl flooring manufacturers on board and managed and coordinated by waste management company, Axion Consulting. Funding for this reclaim and recycle initiative came from WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme). Once the trial period and government funding had ceased, members had to decide upon the scheme's fate. Polyflor continued to run the scheme with another UK manufacturer and in 2009 Recofloor was formed. As a founding and funding member of Recofloor, Polyflor has helped develop the scheme into the success that it is today - supporting financially, driving the scheme through sales and marketing and logistically supporting with collections, sorting and ultimately recycling.

Recofloor's Progress

Since 2009 Recofloor has achieved a great deal and is now the industry leading facilitator for efficiently reclaiming vinyl flooring. 2010 was a real turning point for the scheme, which saw Recofloor winning the CIWM (Chartered Institute of Wastes Management) Award for Environmental Excellence in the category of SME Innovative Practice. Another great initiative was Recofloor's 'Cost Calculator', which allows contractors to calculate how much it would cost to send their waste to landfill, so they can see the savings they will generate by using Recofloor instead.

Increasing the reclaimed volume of quality vinyl waste for recycling is continuously improving (a key challenge has been to educate members about the importance of the material they send back through the Recofloor scheme, avoiding contamination – not always easy on a busy building site). Volumes are up year on year, with 1,259 tonnes being collected since the scheme started (figure correct as at January 2013), saving 1,007,200 kg or 1,007 tonnes of CO_2. This equates to driving the average family petrol car 120 times round the equator or taking 248 cars off the road for a year. This volume equals nearly 420,000m² or enough waste vinyl to cover 58 football pitches.

Many thanks go to our customers who have keenly taken advantage of this unique scheme, but getting distributors on board has certainly contributed to Recofloor's success. By acting as drop-off sites for their customers, distributors have increased the accessibility of Recofloor, making it even easier for contractors to dispose of their waste vinyl flooring and for Recofloor to collect and recycle it. Minimising needless drop-off and pick-up journeys also reduces CO_2.

Why Take Part?

- Recofloor ties in with the Government's existing legislation of site waste management plans
- Customers are keen to see their flooring recycled at the end of its life
- Certificates of commitment are awarded to impress and gain new contracts with their green credentials
- Recofloor Awards – Gold, Silver and Bronze awards are issued to members who have significantly recycled
- Recofloor specified as an outlet for vinyl waste in tenders
- Could help achieve extra waste credits for BREEAM & CSH
- Using our drop-off sites is free of charge for collections and timed collections there are nominal fees, but this could still save our members around 60% by recycling through Recofloor, rather than landfilling

Achievements for 2012

- 450 tonnes of waste vinyl flooring were collected and recycled, representing almost 150,000m² – that's enough to cover 21 football pitches
- 470 collectors
- 65 drop-off sites
- Successful marketing campaigns continued, helping build momentum and recruit more members, both contractors and distributors – including 'bacon butty days' at various drop-off sites
- Successful Recofloor 'sustainability day' – a seminar and awards ceremony held for Recofloor members and Polyflor customers
- Won Business Commitment to the Environment Premier Award (BCE)

EPDs

Environmental assessments or ‘Green Labels’ legitimately help specifiers make informed decisions on the environmental profiles of construction products. Environmental Product Declarations are the next step.

There are many different green labels to choose from worldwide. This proliferation can make it difficult to make a choice and also get the clearest and most up to date environmental information, confusing the global market. Specifiers are ever more discerning over green claims and want reliable, consistent data. With that in mind, the European working group CEN TC 350 created the new standard EN 15804 Sustainability of Construction Works - Environmental Product Declarations (EPD). With the aim of creating ONE pan European and worldwide harmonised standard for reporting of environmental performance.

- They communicate verifiable, accurate, non-misleading environmental information for products and their applications, expressed in information modules, which allow easy organisation and expression of data throughout the life cycle of the product
- The standard provides a way to develop a Type III environmental declaration of construction products and is part of a collection of standards intended to assess the sustainability of construction works. It provides core product category rules (PCR) for the Type III declarations
- Harmonisation of schemes such as BREEAM (UK), DGNB (Germany), Fdes (France) and Green Tag (Australia), for example = EN 15804
- EPDs are currently voluntary, but will become part of the Construction Products’ Regulation (CPR) in July 2013
- EPDs provide a system that is open to all of Europe without creating barriers to trade
- ERFMI generic profiling is available on all European produced resilient flooring categories
- Products can be individually assessed or ERFMI generic profiling is available – either dataset is independently verified by Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. (IBU)
- Verified EPDs are listed on systems such as the IBU and DGNB navigator databases
- They could be adopted within 2 years across Europe
- The information is reported in the same way across all building products

EPD’s provide completely transparent information about Polyflor products and their impact on the environment

There are 24 environmental indicators within the assessment process of the EPD, which are broken down into the following categories:

- 7 Environmental Impact Indicators
- 10 Resource Indicators
- 3 Waste Indicators
- 4 Output Flow Indicators

Critically the 7 Environmental Impact Indicators include:

- GWP – Global Warming Potential
- ODP – Ozone Depletion Potential
- AP – Acidification Potential
- EP – Eutrophication Potential
- POCP – Formation of Potential of Tropospheric Ozone
- ADP – Abiotic Depletion Potential of non-fossil fuels
- ADP – Abiotic Depletion Potential of fossil resources

Polyflor EPDs
In 2012 Polyflor were part of the ERFMI EN 15804 generic data set for creation of industry EPDs which were successfully, independently verified by IBU.

All generic and product specific EPDs are written to the rules and standards according to EN 15804 and ISO 14025.

The ERFMI’s ‘generic’ data set for EPDs include the following – again independently verified by IBU:

- EN 10581 PVC Homogeneous
- EN 10582 PVC Heterogeneous (compact)
- EN 651 PVC Heterogeneous (foam backed)
- EN 13845 PVC Safety Flooring
- EN 649 Luxury Vinyl Tiles
- EN 1817 Rubber (smooth)

To view EPDs, please go to www.polyflor.com/environment or www.bau-umwelt.de. For more information, contact Polyflor on 0161 7671111 or info@polyflor.com.

SAFETY	EN 15804 EPD SPECIFIC	EN 15804 EPD GENERIC
Polysafe Astral PUR		EPD-ERF-2013611-E
Polysafe Mosaic PUR		EPD-ERF-2013611-E
Polysafe Corona PUR		EPD-ERF-2013611-E
Polysafe Vogue Ultra PUR		EPD-ERF-2013611-E
Polysafe Standard PUR		EPD-ERF-2013611-E
Polysafe Wood fx PUR		EPD-ERF-2013211-E
Polysafe Wood fx Acoustix PUR		EPD-ERF-2013311-E
Polysafe Modena PUR		EPD-ERF-2013611-E
Polysafe Arena PUR		EPD-ERF-2013611-E
Polysafe Hydro		EPD-ERF-2013611-E
Polysafe Hydro Evolve		EPD-ERF-2013611-E
Polysafe Strata		EPD-ERF-2013611-E
Polysafe Ultima		EPD-ERF-2013611-E
Ecomax		EPD-ERF-2013611-E
HOMOGENEOUS	**EN 15804 EPD SPECIFIC**	**EN 15804 EPD GENERIC**
Pearlazzo PUR		EPD-ERF-2013111-E
2000 PUR		EPD-ERF-2013111-E
Classic Mystique PUR		EPD-ERF-2013111-E
Mystique PUR		EPD-ERF-2013111-E
Prestige PUR		EPD-ERF-2013111-E
Standard XL		EPD-ERF-2013111-E
XL PU		EPD-ERF-2013111-E
Polyflex Plus		EPD-ERF-2013111-E
HETEROGENEOUS	**EN 15804 EPD SPECIFIC**	**EN 15804 EPD GENERIC**
Harmony fx PUR		EPD-ERF-2013211-E
Forest fx PUR		EPD-ERF-2013211-E
Mineral fx PUR		EPD-ERF-2013211-E
Acoustix Harmony fx PUR		EPD-ERF-2013311-E
Acoustix Forest fx PUR		EPD-ERF-2013311-E
Acoustix Gallery fx PUR		EPD-ERF-2013311-E
LVS	**EN 15804 EPD SPECIFIC**	**EN 15804 EPD GENERIC**
Secura		EPD-ERF-2013411-E
LVT	**EN 15804 EPD SPECIFIC**	**EN 15804 EPD GENERIC**
Expona Design PUR	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	
Expona Commercial PUR	EPD-ERF-2013211-E	
Expona Control PUR		EPD-ERF-2013511-E
Bevel Line PUR		EPD-ERF-2013511-E
Camaro PUR		EPD-ERF-2013511-E
Colonia PUR		EPD-ERF-2013511-E
RUBBER	**EN 15804 EPD SPECIFIC**	**EN 15804 EPD GENERIC**
Diamant		EPD-ERF-2013711-E

BRE Global

Polyflor's vast range of products, technical support and best value flooring, means you can maximise your BREEAM score without any compromise on performance, choice or budget.

About the BRE & BREEAM Assessment Method

BRE (Building Research Establishment)
Countless 'green' claims for building materials are constantly made, but customers want validation of a claim's accuracy, which is why everything we do is externally audited and if applicable, certificated. This includes our environmental standard, ISO 14001 certification and test certificates for VOC emissions for example. The plethora of environmental information required and available is probably overwhelming and confusing to most of us, so making the specification process a simpler one is crucial, thus freeing up time and resources whilst providing assurance that the selected materials and products are environmentally sound to meet specification requirements.

There are many international schemes which assist specification of environmentally sound building materials, but the BRE (Building Research Establishment) Global environmental assessment reviews the environmental impact of a product from 'cradle to grave'. Using a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) approach over a building life of 60 years, materials are assessed according to their impact on climate change, water extraction, mineral resource extraction, stratospheric ozone depletion, human toxicity, ecotoxicity to freshwater, nuclear waste, ecotoxicity to land, waste disposal, fossil fuel depletion, eutrophication, photochemical ozone creation and acidification.

The complex data derived from the given criteria is calculated into ecopoints, which are then represented by ratings from E to A+ with an A+ rating being the highest achievable environmental rating. Using these ratings sets a benchmark for environmental excellence and ensures that reliable and comparable information is available between competing products, eliminating the confusion of varying claims and counter claims, making specification much easier.

BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method)
This is the most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings and sets the standard for best practice in sustainable design. BREEAM provides the following functions*:

- Market recognition for low environmental impact buildings
- Assurance that best environmental practice is incorporated into a building
- Inspiration to find innovative solutions that minimise the environmental impact
- A benchmark that is higher than regulation
- A tool to help reduce running costs, improve working and living environments
- A standard that demonstrates progress towards corporate and organisational environmental objectives

When a building project is undergoing a BREEAM assessment Polyflor can help maximise your BREEAM score, by using our A+ rated floorcoverings (A+ achieves 3 point credits and A rating achieves 2 point credits). We also have experience to help with any question you may have relating to your BREEAM assessment and have all the information and further declarations or certification you may require. Further product specific detail may include recycled content and VOC information for example. Regarding formaldehyde testing (EN14041), we declare E1 without any testing as there is no formaldehyde or formaldehyde-containing materials in our products.

BRE has developed a free tool called SMARTWaste which helps implement and manage site waste management plans (SWMPs) in respect to the legal requirements. This can help achieve waste credits for BREEAM and the Code for Sustainable Homes. Polyflor's customers can use the Recofloor scheme to recycle end of life vinyl flooring, which will help facilitate BRE's SMARTWaste plan.

For more information on BREEAM, go to www.breeam.org

*BREEAM bullet points from www.bre.co.uk

The Code for Sustainable Homes
The Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) is an environmental assessment method for rating and certifying the performance of new homes using BRE Global's EcoHomes scheme. Government owned, it is a national scheme devised to encourage and improve sustainable home building. It is required when CSH level 3 has to be met via:

- All new housing funded by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)
- All new housing promoted or supported by the Welsh Assembly Government or their sponsored bodies
- All new self-contained social housing in Northern Ireland

Some local authorities also require CSH standards to be met as a condition of planning approval.

The CSH covers nine categories of sustainability within the project's design:

- Energy and CO_2 emissions (M)
- Water (M)
- Materials (M)
- Surface Water Run-off (M)
- Waste (M)
- Pollution
- Health and Wellbeing (M)
- Management
- Ecology

The 'M' denotes that these categories are mandatory, whilst the others are flexible. Zero to six can be achieved depending on the mandatory standards and proportion of flexible standards achieved.

Polyflor flooring will contribute towards a positive outcome on the CSH assessment with some of the relevant, mandatory categories. This could include information on VOC emissions or the Recofloor recycling scheme, for instance.

BRE Global
National Scheme Operators (NSOs) develop and own country specific local schemes but are affiliated to BREEAM. BRE Global is the national scheme operator for the UK and broader international and European schemes (BREEAM), the Dutch Green Building Council is the national Scheme Operator for the Netherlands (BREEAM NL), the Instituto Technológico de Galicia is the NSO for Spain (BREEAM ES) and the Norwegian Green Building Council is the NSO for Norway (BREEAM NOR). All of the schemes comply with the requirements established by the Code for a Sustainable Built Environment.

BRE Global Certification – certification for customer confidence

Independent, third-party certification is always important as its impartiality reassures customers that our products will perform as expected. This is why Polyflor has had the majority of its product ranges individually assessed and rated by BRE Global. Each product which is certificated by BRE Global has undergone a LCA – a 'cradle to grave' assessment – therefore looking at its environmental performance throughout every stage of its life. Generic ratings are a good guidance, but are based on European production averages, whereas individual certification ensures accuracy of LCA data specific to the product and manufacturer.

Polyflor's safety, homogeneous, heterogeneous and LVT ranges have been individually assessed by BRE Global to measure their environmental impact. The new rating scheme is based on A+ to E rankings, with A+ being the most desirable rating, having achieved the best ecopoints. A better rating helps to maximise a building's BREEAM score, which is achievable through our 28 A+ ratings.

The BRE Global rating scheme is categorised by end use areas, as the environmental impact in each can vary. The reason for this is that various products will be available in the different sectors, which are subject to a pre-determined spread of ratings across the categories A+ to E. Therefore more options may be available within the domestic sector, for example. Overall, Polyflor's certified ratings are impressive, particularly in the key areas of health and education, where BREEAM ratings are linked to government funding. For more information on our certification, visit www.greenbooklive.com and enter a Polyflor certificate number ENP472, ENP415 or ENP429 into the search box – certificate number depends on the product, see below.

SAFETY	Certificate	Health	Education	Retail (fashion)	Retail (durability)	Offices	Domestic
Polysafe Astral PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Mosaic PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Corona PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Vogue Ultra PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Standard PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Wood fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A	B	B
Polysafe Wood fx Acoustix PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A	B	B
Polysafe Hydro	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Strata	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Ultima	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A

HOMOGENEOUS	Certificate	Health	Education	Retail (fashion)	Retail (durability)	Offices	Domestic
Pearlazzo PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
2000 PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Classic Mystique PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Mystique PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Prestige PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Standard XL	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
XL PU	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A

HETEROGENEOUS	Certificate	Health	Education	Retail (fashion)	Retail (durability)	Offices	Domestic
Harmony fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Forest fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Mineral fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Acoustix Harmony fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A	A	B
Acoustix Forest fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A	A	B
Acoustix Gallery fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A

LVT	Certificate	Health	Education	Retail (fashion)	Retail (durability)	Offices	Domestic
Expona Design PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A	B	B
Expona Commercial PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	B
Bevel Line PU	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A	A	A
Camaro PU	ENP429	*	*	A+	*	A	A
Colonia PU	ENP429	*	*	*	*	*	A

* Product not suitable for use area and has therefore not been rated for the particular use area

BRE Global Generic Ratings

Where Polyflor products have not been individually certificated by BRE Global, generic ratings are also available. These generic ratings apply to specific categories of flooring installed into defined use areas. For example, homogeneous flooring, to EN649 standard, rated 34/43 for use area and installed in a healthcare environment, achieves a generic BRE Global A+ rating. Vinyl flooring achieves on average a generic BRE Global A+ rating for most vinyl varieties across the categories shown below.

Standard	Homogeneous EN 649 EN ISO 10581	Heterogeneous EN 649 EN ISO 10582	Acoustic EN 651 -	LVT EN 649 -	Safety EN13845 -	Rubber (Smooth) EN1817 -	Rubber (Profiled) EN12199 -	LVS EN 653 -
Health	**A+**	**A+**	**A+**	**A+**	**A+**	**A+**	**A+**	
Element	821570038	821570039	821570053	821570054	821570055	821570056	821570057	
Education	**A+**	**A+**	**A+**	**A+**	**A+**	**A+**	**A+**	
Element	821570065	821570066	821570010	821570013	821570010	821570014	821570015	
Commercial	**A**	**A**	**A**	**A**	**A**	**A**	**A**	
Element	821570038	821570039	821570041	821570042	821570043	821570044	821570045	
Retail	**A+/A+**	**A+/A+**	**A+/A**	**A+/A**	**A+/A+**	**A+/A+**	**A+/A+**	
Element	821570038	821570039	821570053	821570054	821570055	821570056	821570057	
Domestic	**A**	**A**	**A**	**A**	**B**	**A**	**A**	**A**
Element	821570065	821570066	821570010	821570013	821570010	821570014	821570015	821570002

For more detail about how these ratings are arrived at by BRE Global visit www.bre.co.uk/greenguide.
Polyflor ranges not individually assessed by BRE Global can be included within the appropriate generic ratings, shown below:

Safety	**Homogeneous**	**Rubber (smooth)**	**Rubber (profiled)**	**LVT**	**LVS**
Modena PUR	Polyflor SD	Diamant	Noppe Stud Tile	SimpLay	Secura
Hydro Evolve	Finesse SD				
Ecomax	Finesse EC				
Arena PUR	Polyflor EC				
Expona Control PUR	Polyflex Plus PU				

LEED®

For North America, Polyflor has produced a separate guide to demonstrate where Polyflor floorcoverings have the potential to contribute to LEED® points, with a detailed explanation of how our products fulfil the below requirements:

WATER EFFICIENCY

WE Credit 3.2: Water use reduction (30% reduction)
In production Polyflor uses only 4% of its water supply from mains, with 96% being recycled from the lodge water. The easier to clean PU and PUR ranges ensure that the use of cleaning chemicals, strippers and water are significantly reduced. Polyflor's Polysafe PUR and Polysafe Supratec PUR floorcoverings use 60% less water than non PUR vinyl and Polyflor's homogeneous PUR floorcoverings use 55% less water

ENERGY & ATMOSPHERE

EA Credit 1: Optimise energy performance
Polyflor flooring is energy efficient in the production phase of its life cycle, using 46% less energy than 12 years ago and in that time reducing carbon emissions by 17,612 tonnes. Over the in use phase of its life cycle, our low maintenance families (PU, PUR & Supratec PUR) will save energy through reduced usage of cleaning machinery. Along with its 20-25 year life span, energy consumed and carbon dioxide emissions are significantly reduced

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

MR Credit 1.1: Building reuse (maintain 75% of existing floors)
Polyflor ranges have excellent durability. Vinyl flooring is renowned for its longevity of life compared to many alternative resilient floorcoverings – typically 20-25 years.

MR Credit 2.1: Construction Waste Management (divert 50% from disposal)
MR Credit 2.2: Construction Waste Management (divert 75% from disposal)
The Recofloor scheme (of which Polyflor is a founding and funding member) complies with site waste management legislation and diverts vinyl flooring waste (off-cuts and uplifted) from going to landfill.

MR Credit 4.1: 10% Recycled content (post-consumer + ½ pre-consumer)
MR Credit 4.2: 20% Recycled content (post-consumer + ½ pre-consumer)
Polyflor homogeneous ranges contain an average of 25% recycled material, which includes process waste, sampling waste, materials from site and from the distribution chain. In 2012 we recycled 9,303 tonnes of production waste and over 1013 tonnes of post consumer waste back into new product.

MR Credit 5.1: Regional Materials (10% extracted, processed & manufactured regionally)
MR Credit 5.2: Regional Materials (20% extracted, processed & manufactured regionally)
As a global company, Polyflor flooring is manufactured in the UK, across Europe and Asia and raw and recycled materials are locally sourced.

INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

IEQ Credit 4.1: Low emitting materials (adhesives and sealants)
In North America, Polyflor recommend Mapei Eco 350 and 360 for all homogeneous sheet floorcovering. For our luxury vinyl tile ranges, we recommend Mapei Eco 300 and 360. For Polysafe ranges, Polyflor recommend the use of Mapei G 212 – part polyurethane, which is solvent free. These adhesives are rated 'extremely low TVOC' and are low odour, non flammable and solvent free. They also meet the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) low VOC emission criteria, achieved through the Indoor Air Quality Adhesive Testing Programme.

IEQ Credit 4.3: Low emitting materials (carpet systems)
All of our ranges have passed key international standards but over the last few years we have reformulated all our ranges to ensure their VOC emissions are kept to the lowest levels achievable. The VOC emissions on our range of flooring products have been tested by independent laboratories and are all below the strictly set, acceptable levels of the AgBB test method. Polyflor has also achieved FloorScore® certification and has had key homogeneous, safety, heterogeneous and luxury vinyl tile ranges evaluated - certificates for these products are available at www.scscertified.com.

IEQ Credit 5: Indoor chemical & pollutant source control
The in use phase of the resilient flooring life cycle accounts for at least 80% of its environmental impact. The easier to clean PU and PUR ranges ensure that the use of cleaning chemicals, strippers and water are significantly reduced. Furthermore Polyflor's homogeneous PUR facilitates a life long polish free maintenance regime.

Ecospecifier & BASTA

The Ecospecifier scheme is described as a guide to eco and health preferable products, materials and technologies for the built environment. We are registered to this scheme in Australia and South Africa. In Australia the Ecospecifier assessment has placed Polyflor homogeneous PUR ranges in the top 15% of resilient finishes based on their environmental impact.

Assessment of materials is based on a life cycle approach and measuring the impact of products in the critical areas below:

- Reduction of Energy and Greenhouse Gases
- Habitat and Land Degradation
- Resource Depletion and Efficiency
- Occupant and Contractor Health
- Toxicity to Land, Air and Water

Due to the strong performance in minimising the environmental impact in these categories, Polyflor products, including Pearlazzo PUR, Prestige PUR, Mystique PUR, Classic Mystique PUR, 2000 PUR and XL PU are listed on the Ecospecifier.com.au database of environmentally preferable materials, providing architects, designers and specifiers in general with an easier and effective way to select an environmentally sustainable flooring product.

In addition to this, Polyflor has become the first commercial flooring organisation in Australia and New Zealand to achieve Ecospecifier's 'Green Tag' LCARate certification in its homogeneous, safety and LVT ranges, 22 in total. Importantly, Polyflor vinyl flooring also achieves a GreenRate level 'A', scoring maximum points in the Materials-Flooring Calculator and IEQ-VOC sections of the Green Star rating tools.

There are many environmental schemes in place around the world and we have also successfully registered with BASTA in Sweden, which aims to phase out harmful products in construction and offer a select database of registered sustainable products, similar to the Ecospecifier method.

There is a commonality with all of these schemes, and that is that Polyflor ranges are consistently evaluated as being an environmentally beneficial choice of flooring.

750m² of Polyflor flooring was donated free of charge to Bury Hospice by long standing supporter of the hospice and Executive Chairman of James Halstead PLC, Geoffrey Halstead

"Corporate social responsibility is the continuing commitment by business to contribute to economic development while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as of the community and society at large."

World Business Council for Sustainable Development

Corporate Social Responsibility

Supporting the wider community

Neighbours - Polyflor is a socially aware company with its manufacturing site being in the heart of a residential area. Duty of care to our neighbours is critical to ensure a happy living environment is provided to our neighbours. Reducing noise pollution and emissions was pivotal, so emissions checks are constantly monitored on site and £500,000 has been invested on minimising noise, through acoustic engineering within the factory. We also ensure that HGVs always turn off their engines during evening and early morning deliveries and collections – although the new fleet is much quieter anyway. Polyflor is surrounded by trees and greenery, which is aesthetically pleasing to local residents, as well as encouraging biodiversity.

Charity & Donations - 2012 saw Polyflor getting involved with its local football club, Oldham Athletic. As well as undertaking a season long perimeter advertising sponsorship package, Polyflor was also the match programme sponsor for Oldham Athletic's league game against Bury. Polyflor employees were invited to attend the game, with one employee (and long serving fan) presenting the 'man of the match' award. Following on from this, Polyflor became the main sponsor for Boundary Blues, Oldham Athletic's junior supporters' club. As a major employer in the local area, the objective of this support was to raise awareness and increase the Company's presence in the community – the aim was to be part of something beneficial to the local community and encourage children to get more involved with sport and become fans for life of their local team. Boundary Blues hosts many events for its members ranging from annual children's football tournaments to themed parties and bowling nights with the chance for members to be drawn out of a hat to be a match mascot. The support from Polyflor helped raise awareness of these events and allowed the Boundary Blues team to put on more activities for the children. Polyflor also came to the rescue when the ball boys and girls needed new outdoor coats. The Company's financial support helped kit them out with new attire to prevent them getting soaked on a match day - everyone knows Boundary Park is one of the coldest and wettest grounds in the football league! During the 2012-13 season, the football club also made an appeal for fans to donate their own time to help refurbish and clean the interior and exterior of the stadium to greatly help their football club in difficult times. Polyflor got in on the act and provided the club with some much needed new flooring for kiosk serveries, customer bar areas and the player's gym.

Another local community project Polyflor wanted to be involved in was Bury Hospice. The large, modern facility has 12 inpatient bedrooms and is a significant development in the local area, 76% funded from donations from the people of Bury. 750m² of Polyflor flooring was donated free of charge by long standing supporter of the hospice and Executive Chairman of James Halstead PLC, Geoffrey Halstead

Flooring Industry - Polyflor's involvement with the Recofloor scheme of which it is one of two founding and funding members, operates an education programme for the sector, engaging with flooring contractors and distributors about the scheme, the importance of it and why they should get involved. Recofloor is promoted at 'grass roots', providing information to more (floor laying) training colleges, apprentice schemes and Polyflor's (floor fitters') training school. Once signed up to Recofloor contractors are issued with a Certificate of Commitment. This helps prove their green credentials to potential customers whilst ensuring that they are doing their bit for the environment. The Recofloor scheme also has Gold, Silver and Bronze awards for customers, depending on the volume and quality of recycled material submitted. This has gained such prestige that some of our customers actually have targets within their job specs to increase their volumes next year, one customer who won a silver award in 2012 has a goal to achieve gold in 2013.

Education - We are involved at all levels of education with local schools and colleges. Polyflor supports schools by participating in work placements and the Young Enterprise Scheme and we actively support training colleges throughout the country as well as sponsoring FITA, the industry training body. We also have a dedicated training school on site, enabling contractors to learn best practice for fitting vinyl flooring.

Polyflor Australia
Polyflor Australia provided 180m² of Classic Mystique free of charge to Foundation House, a drug and alcohol treatment centre. It was felt that this was a worthy cause and was supported by the construction industry. Support was also given to The Lyn Rowe Project, where a new fully customised and automated home was built for Lyn Rowe, a thalidomide survivor and her parents. Polyflor Australia donated moisture barrier, floor prep, adhesive, Expona planks and Polysafe Corona, to provide the best possible and low maintenance flooring.

Polyflor New Zealand
Polyflor New Zealand donated vinyl flooring to The Cancer Society, New Zealand, who built a house in Masterton with all profits from the sale of the house going to The Cancer Society to help continue their research and support people living with cancer.

Internally at Polyflor
As a trusted family business, good corporate social responsibility is promoted within Polyflor and globally - from our CSR policy, health & safety policy, our compliance with EU Regulations regarding employees' rights and our audits for SA8000 accreditation. We provide family friendly flexibility and we have a dignity at work policy, preventing bullying at all levels. Polyflor staff are also encouraged and supported regarding personal development and training through MBAs, AAT and NVQs for example. Socially, we have our 25 and 40 year clubs for employees who have been with Polyflor for the respective number of years and there is a social club for all employees to join and partake in various activities and events, from sporting events to theatre trips.

We encourage environmental awareness, issuing a 'Green Guide' for employees - offering advice on reducing their carbon footprint at home and work. Responding to employee feedback, bike sheds were improved and showers were installed to encourage the local workforce to cycle to work.

The long and established relationships we have with customers are based on honesty and trust. It's important that we have this reputation, especially when communicating our environmental message. This is a sensitive subject so unsubstantiated or embellished claims would jeapordise our position and ethics.

The relationship with our suppliers is just as important - we have reliable and trusted suppliers. These relationships cannot be taken for granted and constant auditing by Polyflor ensures our suppliers are trading ethically – this is important to our customers. With regards to our suppliers, we are stringently audited by Achilles and SGS for ISO14001 certification. Achilles is a CSR audit which means we are included amongst other responsible manufacturers and suppliers of building products on the 'Building Confidence' list. This assures member companies including Sir Robert McAlpine, Bovis Lend Lease and Balfour Beatty, that suppliers on this list trade ethically, of which the suppliers they use themselves are also scrutinised, ensuring responsible sourcing of materials. Going forward Polyflor is working towards BES 6001 and SA 8000 company wide.

Polyflor Credentials

We continue to be involved with the development of products that will be environmentally sustainable, easier to use and multi-functional.

ISO 14001 certification since 2000

First manufacturer to achieve BRE Global A+ rating certification (ENP472, ENP415 & ENP429) across 28 key ranges within the homogeneous, safety, heterogeneous and LVT flooring categories

Registered approved products with Ecospecifier and BASTA, Green Tag Certified Gold (Green Rate Level A) and can also contribute to LEED® points

EN15804 EPDs verified by IBU

Active member of UK RFA and ERFMI

Member of the UK Green Building Council, Green Building Council of Australia and New Zealand Green Building Council

Fully support VinylPlus

Active member of EPFLOOR & Recovinyl

A founding and funding member of Recofloor vinyl take-back scheme
Winner of BCE Premier Award 2011

Up to 40% recycled content

Up to 85% sustainable material

Plasticisers used by Polyflor are not classified substances and do not need authorisation under REACH
non-phthalate options used in 2012 with this continuing in 2013

Passed the most stringent international VOC tests, including AgBB, Indoor Air Comfort Gold and FloorScore®

Polyflor is working with the Carbon Trust's Energy Management programme, which provides commercially viable solutions to help UK businesses and the public sector cut carbon, energy and costs

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James Halstead™ FLOORING

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