



POLYFLOR™
COVERING THE WORLD



**ENVIRONMENTALLY
PREFERABLE FLOORING**
REPORT 2011

Our Vision

To develop an environmentally and economically 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



Mark Halstead
Group Chief Executive



Oldham site



Whitefield site

Our progress

Polyflor have for many decades been recognised as a leading global manufacturer of high quality, high performance floorcoverings. As pioneers in the field of commercial vinyl flooring, we were recently awarded a second Queen’s Award for Enterprise in the category of continuous product innovation and development.

We have demonstrated the same level of commitment and endeavour to minimise the impact of our manufacturing on the environment, whilst maximising the environmental and performance benefits of our flooring throughout its life.

This is the 6th major report on the progress of Polyflor against our environmental goals. As with the previous four reports, we set out to communicate to all our customers and stakeholders, clear and measurable environmental facts that can help to make an informed choice about the selection of flooring.

Since our last report, we are pleased to be able to report further positive progress in many areas and genuine milestone achievements. Polyflor agreed a new set of environmental objectives for 2010 and have placed them at the centre of operations, including monitoring progress by independent external audits as part of the ISO 14001 procedure.

We have been very conscious to report on our business and products in the most transparent and widest possible sense, rather than selected environmental highlights, in order to convey the extent to which environmental considerations permeate every level of Polyflor’s thinking.

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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.

A Greener Option

Vinyl can be 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.

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 the vinyl remains chemically inert without producing leachate.

A Safer Option

Vinyl is the most thoroughly researched and stringently 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.

"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 43% ethylene and 57% chlorine, 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.

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 formulation. 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. Plasticisers used by Polyflor are not classified substances (considered to be a concern for the environment or human safety) and therefore do not need authorisation under REACH.

Polyflor products also use calcium carbonate filler. The high abundance of this material in the earth's crust makes it a sustainable material. Additionally 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.



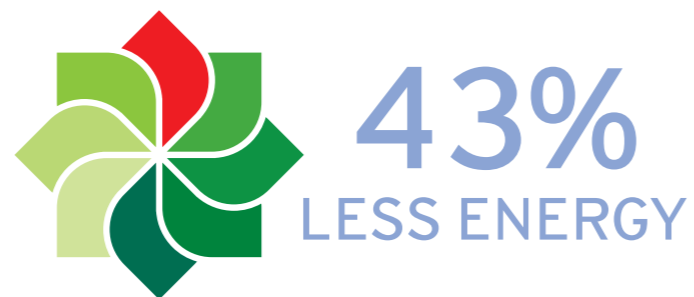
Energy Efficiency

The amount of energy required per m² of material produced has continued to fall year on year down to 2.85 KwHr per m², representing a 43% 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 & linoleum
- ◆ 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 43% in the last 10 years
- ◆ Carbon emissions reduced by 15,236 tonnes since 2000

Energy Saving Initiatives

- i) Installation of automatic shutdown systems to ensure machinery is switched off when not in use.
- ii) The implementation of lighting optimisers has continued across the site, which produces a saving of around 25% on energy used.
- iii) 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.
- iv) Installation of automatic lighting in the offices.

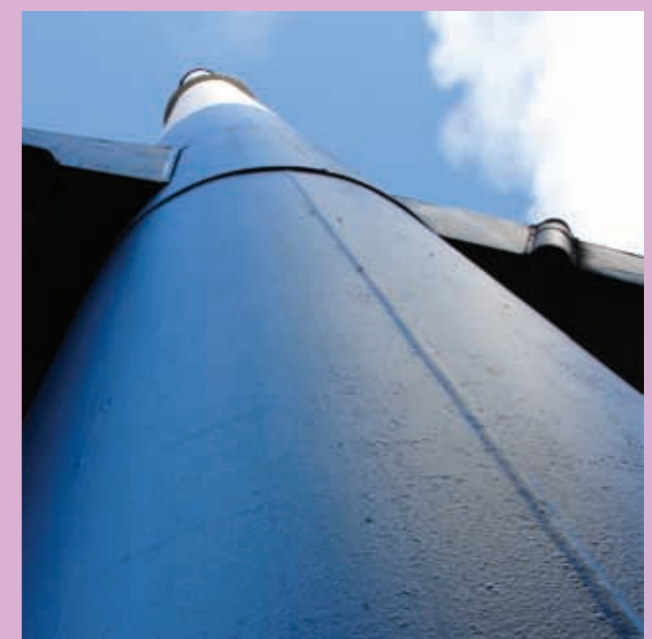


Polyflor site

Our carbon emissions have been reduced by 775 tonnes in 2008 and 1,091 tonnes in 2010. The total 15,236 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.

We are currently in the process of working with UMIST to measure and analyse the overall total carbon emissions produced by our business to give a context to the progress of our reductions and also to better enable the company to set challenging targets for ourselves in further reducing our emissions.

The addition of renewable energy facilities at the manufacturing site is being investigated.



15,236 tonne reduction in carbon





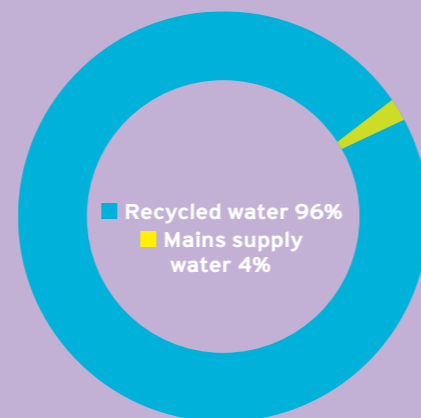
Water Reduction

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 2010 there has been continual progress on site in reducing both wet and dry waste.

New initiatives on recycling meant that dry waste has fallen from 7.5% of production volume in 2002 to 3.3% in 2010, equating to a reduction in dry waste of 47% in eight years. Wet waste in 2010 was 98 tonnes, an impressive 85% reduction when compared to 2000's figures.

Waste Recycled

Waste recycled in 2010 included:



*Plasticiser condensate from factory ovens

As production increases in the future, major investment is being made on site to improve storage and handling facilities for any subsequent waste. Furthermore, Polyflor continues to seek out ways of reducing waste to zero through limiting the potential for waste at the outset and subsequently reusing or recycling.



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
- ◆ Average content of 25% recycled material
- ◆ 10,628 tonnes of production waste and 365 tonnes of post consumer waste recycled in 2010
- ◆ 179 tonnes of dry waste (excluding vinyl waste) was recycled in 2010
- ◆ 164 tonnes of wet waste was recycled in 2010

There can be few materials better suited to recycling than vinyl flooring. Vinyl is 100% recyclable and can in fact be recycled many times over without losing any of its performance properties, furthermore recycled vinyl requires 85% less energy to manufacture than virgin PVC.

The figure of 25% average recycled material is made up of both production waste and post consumer waste. We believe that quoting an average percentage is far more helpful to our customers than using the highest figure we achieved on one particular range or production run.

Polyflor remains an active supporter of Vinyl Plus and its European wide targets for recycling vinyl, following on from Vinyl 2010. Polyflor is one of two founder and funding members of Recofloor, the industry vinyl take-back scheme. This is a nationwide recovery scheme, which encourages vinyl waste being recycled rather than scrapped and sent to landfill.

Sampling

Polyflor use large amounts of material to produce samples to show our products to our customers. Over the last two years we have also been collecting and recycling all waste material from our sampling scheme, colour sorting it and putting it back into new flooring. This material is included in the tonnage figures stated.

Safety Flooring

Safety flooring which contains hard aggregates has in the past been challenging to recycle, due to the difficulty of processing materials such as silicon carbide through machinery and the risk of damage. However, much progress has recently been made both by Polyflor and within the industry, with post production and post consumer waste, including off-cuts, samples and old stock safety flooring now being successfully recycled back into new product. Additionally, recycled glass is now also combined with the aggregates used in many of our Polysafe products.

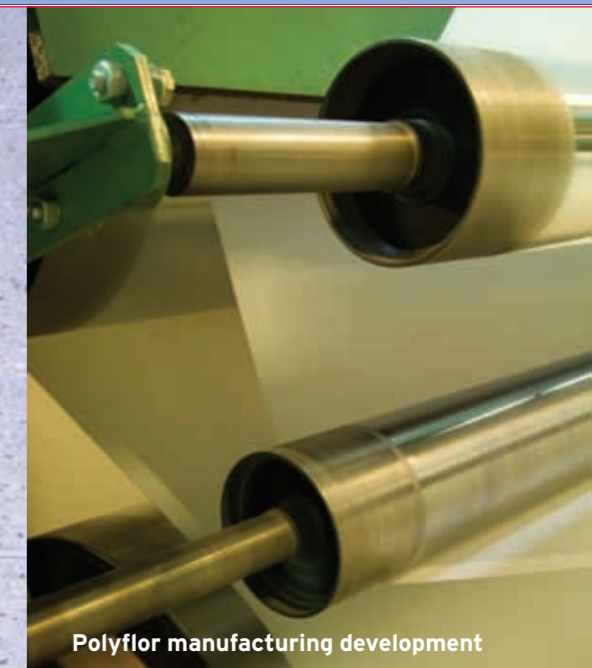
In the Future

Polyflor 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.



Opposite: Recycling around the Polyflor site





Polyflor manufacturing development

Transport and 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 endeavour the latest and most fuel efficient vehicles are used. The 13 LGVs in the fleet feature Euro 4 compliant engines, all of which are to be renewed this year to Euro 5 for lower emissions.

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

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, reducing plastic roll wrap in favour of using more paper packaging. Eventually plastic roll wrap will be reduced to zero, saving 96 tonnes of waste material.



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 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.

For a number of years our R&D commitment to environmental matters has been significant and increasing year on year. Last year almost 5000 man hours were assigned to related projects. In terms of affiliations we have been working with Manchester University's Chemical Engineering team on carbon footprint models to understand how we can minimise the environmental impact of our processes.



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 covered. 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.



Kilmarnock College

Dean Clough Cookery School

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 is significantly reduced.

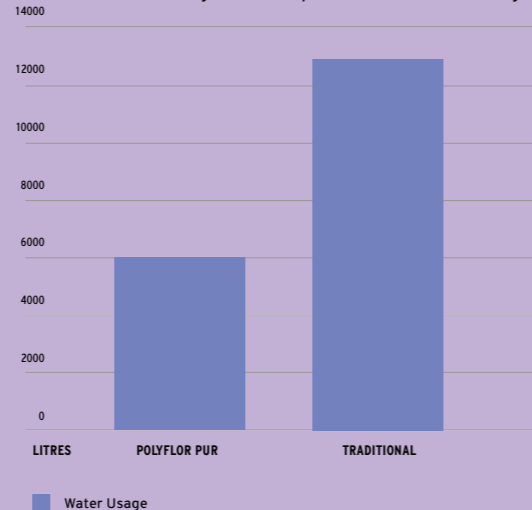
All new ranges are launched with the greatest maintenance and environmental benefits built in and existing ranges have had these benefits added. Continuously improving technologies enables flooring to raise the standard in terms of durability, maintenance and performance, sought by the customer.

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



Source: The British Institute of Cleaning Science



Infection Control

- ◆ A very positive contribution to creating a clean and hygienic indoor environment
- ◆ Seamless welding and coving is critical in infection control
- ◆ Independent tests demonstrate that the growth of bacteria such as MRSA is inhibited on Polyflor flooring

Polyflor vinyl floorings play a significant role in creating and maintaining a hygienic environment within healthcare, and consequent to that, an important role in the global fight against Hospital Acquired Infections.

In addition to the independent certification concerning the inhibition of bacterial growth on the floor, vinyl flooring exemplifies the case that it is the multifaceted elements of performance, installation method, maintenance and inherent product features that all combine to offer positive benefits in terms of creating a safer, more hygienic environment.



Thames Primary School



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 certificates available upon request.

- ◆ Passed all the most stringent international VOC emissions tests, including FloorScore®
- ◆ No negative contribution to indoor air quality

Indoor air quality is, quite rightly, a key environmental 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 and doesn't have a strong odour.

All of our flooring ranges have already passed key international standards but over the last two years we have reformulated all our ranges to ensure their level of VOC emissions is 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 very strictly set, acceptable levels of the AgBB test method.

Polyflor has also achieved FloorScore® certification in accordance with SCSEC-10.2-2007 'Indoor Air Quality Performance' through the Scientific Certification Systems Indoor Air Quality Programme, conforming to Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) criteria and California 01350 Specification. The following specific product ranges have been evaluated: 2000 PUR; Mystique PUR; Classic Mystique PUR; Prestige PUR; XL PU; Standard XL; Pearlazzo PUR; Polysafe Standard; Vogue Ultra PUR; Hydro; Mosaic PUR; Corona PUR; Ast ral PUR and Ultimate (Ultima); Bevel Line PU; Camaro Studioflor PU; Colonia Homeline; Expona Design and Kudos PU.



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 silicone carbide and recycled glass, along with the surface emboss which provides the required roughness to create the necessary friction.

CONTROLLABLE

Environment → Floor material → Contamination

Use → Behaviour → Footwear

PREDICTABLE

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.

Fire Performance

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 Cf1 to EN 13501-1 (4.5kw/m or greater).

Product Stewardship

It is important that we are responsible in the chain of custody of our products and we are proactively seeking to recover and recycle waste vinyl flooring for a closed-loop life cycle.

- ◆ One of two founder & funding members of Recofloor, the industry vinyl take back scheme for recycling end of life vinyl flooring
- ◆ Installation off-cuts, end-of-life flooring and old stock roll-ends recovered and recycled into new flooring or traffic calming products for example

Post-Consumer Waste

Polyflor is dedicated to Recovinyl, the organisation set up by the voluntary European-wide Vinyl 2010, a ten year commitment to divert from landfill and recycle 240,000 tonnes of post consumer construction waste vinyl by 2010. It is expected that this figure was met and even exceeded (this cannot be confirmed until all data has been fully audited) and now work continues with Vinyl Plus. Again, this scheme targets the vinyl industry for construction as a whole, including windows and piping as well as flooring.

Some of the greatest progress Polyflor has made in the last couple of years has been the collection and recycling back into vinyl flooring of post consumer waste. This is waste from installation on site or uplifted flooring and old stock roll-ends or samples, which is re-used in new flooring or recycled into other items including traffic cones and road barriers.

The Recofloor Scheme

The challenge with post consumer waste has been getting the material back, rather than actually recycling it. Along with ad hoc take-back efforts, Polyflor is one of two founder and funding members of Recofloor, the unique industry vinyl take-back scheme.

With the involvement of wholesalers and contractors, the main aim is to increase common collection points and drop-off sites, for ease and efficiency and without additional and unnecessary journeys. Recofloor's objectives would be less meaningful if the carbon footprint was then heavily impacted on, so waste comes back to Polyflor for sorting, depending on the location of drop-off sites and collection points (although Polyflor collects from anywhere on a backload if suitable). The closed loop scheme is explained below.



What is Collected?

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



Why Take Part?

Some of the earlier challenges of recovering waste material have been overcome as Recofloor becomes widely accepted and is seen as a positive step, with recycling a normal aspect of projects. Increasingly customers are keen to see their flooring recycled at the end of its life and for those who take part in the scheme, certificates of commitment are awarded to impress and gain new contracts with their green credentials. Recofloor comes at an important time given the Government's recent legislation of site waste management plans.



In the Future

Polyflor will stay committed to recycling end of life vinyl through Vinyl Plus and the Recofloor scheme, which joined the voluntary WRAP led 'Halving Waste to Landfill' initiative, which aims to halve construction waste sent to landfill by 2012. 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.

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 a 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 have established schemes to collect and recover vinyl waste from site. This material may either be delivered to Polyflor on return transport for recycling or 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.

Post installation waste is collected from **Australia** and brought back to Polyflor UK on a back load, for recycling. **South Africa** has set up a local collection scheme and whilst in the early stages, it is running 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 in Ireland, 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.



BRE Global Ratings

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.



BRE Global Certification

Polyflor's homogeneous, heterogeneous, LVT and safety 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 A+ ratings.

SAFETY	Certificate	Health	Education	Retail	Industrial Shed	Office	Domestic
Polysafe Astral PUR	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A	A	B
Polysafe Mosaic PUR	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Corona PUR	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A	A	B
Polysafe Hydro	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A	A	B
Polysafe Standard	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Strata	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Ultima	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A	B	B
Polysafe Vogue Ultra PUR	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Wood FX PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Wood FX Acoustic PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A

HOMOGENEOUS	Certificate	Education	Retail	Industrial Shed	Office	Domestic
2000 PUR	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A+	A
Classic Mystique PUR	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A+	A
Mystique PUR	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A+	A
Prestige PUR	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A+	A
Standard XL	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A+	A
XL PU	ENP336	A+	A+	A+	A+	A

HETEROGENEOUS	Certificate	Education	Retail	Industrial Shed	Office	Domestic
Forest FX PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A
Stone FX PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A
Forest FX Acoustic PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A
Gallery FX Acoustic PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A

LVT	Certificate	Education	Retail	Industrial Shed	Office	Domestic
Expona Design	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A	B
Kudos	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A+	A
Bevel Line	ENP429	A+	A	A+	A	B
Camaro Flooring Collection	ENP429	*	*	A+	*	A
Colonia Homeline	ENP429	*	*	*	*	A

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

The homogeneous PUR product group in particular offers a further significant environmental benefit. The polyurethane reinforcement facilitates a polish-free maintenance regime for its lifetime, greatly reducing chemical usage and reducing water usage by 55% compared to traditional maintenance regimes.

The new 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 ENP336, ENP415 and ENP429, visit www.greenbooklive.com and enter 'Polyflor' into the search box.



BRE Global Generic Ratings

Where Polyflor products have not been individually certified 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 an A+ rating for most vinyl varieties across the categories shown below.

Standard	Homogeneous EN 649	Heterogeneous EN 649	Acoustic EN 651	LVT EN 649	Safety EN13845	Rubber (Smooth) EN1817	Rubber (Profiled) EN12199	Linoleum EN548
Health	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+
Element	821570038	821570039	821570053	821570054	821570055	821570056	821570057	821570058
Education	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+	A+
Element	821570065	821570066	821570010	821570013	821570010	821570014	821570015	821570017
Commercial	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Element	821570038	821570039	821570041	821570042	821570043	821570044	821570045	821570047
Retail	A+/A+	A+/A+	A+/A	A+/A	A+/A+	A+/A+	A+/A+	A+/A+
Element	821570038	821570039	821570053	821570054	821570055	821570056	821570057	821570058
Domestic	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A
Element	821570065	821570066	821570010	821570013	821570010	821570014	821570015	821570017

For more detail about how these ratings are arrived at by BRE Global visit www.thegreenguide.org.uk.

About the BRE & BREEAM Assessment Method

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 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 above 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 bench mark for environmental excellence and ensures that reliable and comparable information is available between competing products, thus eliminating the confusion of varying claims, making specification much easier.

Using A+ rated flooring products will have a beneficial impact on a BREEAM score (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method), when undergoing a BREEAM assessment.



LEED®

For North America, Polyflor have produced a separate guide to demonstrate where Polyflor floorcoverings have the potential to contribute to LEED® points,

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 and atmosphere

EA1 - Energy & Atmosphere - optimise energy performance

Polyflor flooring is energy efficient in the production phase of its life cycle, using 43% less energy than 10 years ago and in that time reducing carbon emissions by 15,236 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 and 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)

Dedicated to the 'Halving Waste to Landfill' commitment, the Recofloor scheme (of which Polyflor is one of two founder members) 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 + 1/2 pre-consumer)

MR Credit 4.2: 20% Recycled content (post-consumer + 1/2 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 2010 we recycled 10,628 tonnes of production waste and over 365 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 and luxury vinyl tile ranges evaluated - certificates for these products are available at www.scs-certified.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 floor 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:



Due to the strong performance in minimising environmental impact in these categories, Polyflor products, including Prestige PUR, Mystique PUR, Classic Mystique PUR, 2000 PUR and XL PU are listed on the Ecospecifier database of environmentally preferable materials, providing architects, planners and specifiers, for example, with an easier and effective way to select a more sustainable product. In addition to this, Polyflor has become the first commercial flooring organisation in Australia and New Zealand to achieve Ecospecifier's Gold 'Green Tag' LCARate certification in its homogeneous and safety ranges. Importantly, Polyflor vinyl flooring also achieves a GreenRate level 'A', scoring maximum points when specified.

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 repeatedly evaluated as being an environmentally beneficial choice of flooring.



Corporate Social Responsibility

"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

Internally at Polyflor

Good corporate social responsibility is promoted within Polyflor - 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 also like to encourage environmental awareness and as part of a wider campaign Polyflor issued a 'Green Guide' for employees, which offers advice on reducing their carbon footprint at home and work. Following on from employee questionnaire feedback, bike sheds were improved and showers were installed to encourage the local workforce to travel to work by bicycle.



Supporting the wider community

Responsible sourcing is important to Polyflor so full assessments are made regarding suppliers' CSR and environmental policies. They should also be ISO 14001 accredited or working to achieve this.

Polyflor is one of two founder members of Recofloor, the industry funded vinyl take-back scheme. Through this scheme we have signed up to the voluntary agreement led by WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme), to halve construction waste sent to landfill by 2012.

We have 24 hour manufacturing in operation in a residential area, so steps have been taken to significantly reduce noise pollution and emissions. £500,000 has been invested on the Polyflor site to accomplish this, including acoustic engineering within the factory. Lorries must also turn their engines off during evening and early morning deliveries and collections.



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 Credentials

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

- ISO 14001 accreditation since 2000
- First manufacturer to achieve BRE Global A+ rating certification (ENP336, ENP415 & ENP429) across 24 key ranges within the homogeneous, safety, heterogeneous and LVT flooring categories
- Registered approved products with Ecospecifier and BASTA, Green Tag Certified Gold and also contribute to LEED® points
- 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 supported the Vinyl 2010 Commitment and will continue supporting Vinyl Plus
- Active member of EPFLOOR & Recovinyl
- One of two founder and funding members of Recofloor vinyl take-back scheme
 - Recofloor committed to 'Halving Waste to Landfill'
 - Runner up in the Sustainable FM Awards 2010
 - Winner of CIWM Award for Innovative Practice (SME) 2010
- Plasticisers used by Polyflor are not classified substances and do not need authorisation under REACH
- Passed the most stringent international VOC tests, including AgBB 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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