Environmental assessments

About BRE Global

Polyflor's product ranges predominantly have BRE specific ratings and achieve A+ in major use areas such as health and education. Where products have not been individually assessed, BRE generic ratings are available*, again achieving A+ in key areas.

Using a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) approach over a building life of 60 years, materials are assessed according to their impact on the following criteria:

Climate change – The planet's climate is changing through the increase of 'greenhouse gases', such as carbon dioxide and methane. These gases in the atmosphere are required to prevent our planet from freezing over by trapping heat from the sun's rays. Too much however, creates a greater barrier which absorbs more of the sun's rays and ultimately causes 'global warming'. This is happening at an unnaturally fast rate, largely due to human activity, predominantly caused by burning fossil fuels, deforestation and the vast increase of methane producing cattle.

Water extraction – In some areas water is becoming a scarce resource, so the use of 'new' water (not stored, recirculated or sea water) can cause damage and is therefore an environmental impact measured by the BRE.

Mineral resource extraction – This relates to the extraction of mineral materials, such as metal ores, aggregates and minerals. This is a resource issue caused by mining and quarrying which could prevent availability for future generations.

Stratospheric ozone depletion – Ozone depleting gases cause damage to stratospheric ozone or 'ozone layer', which enables harmful UVB light to penetrate through the filter, hitting the earth's surface.

Human toxicity – The emissions of some substances, such as heavy metals, can have impacts on human health. The BRE assesses levels of toxicity based on tolerable concentrations in air, water, air quality guidelines, tolerable daily intake and acceptable daily intake for human toxicity.

Ecotoxicity to freshwater & land – Environmental toxicity is measured as two separate impacts which examine land and freshwater eco systems. The emissions of some substances, such as heavy metals can have environmental impacts on the ecosystem.

Nuclear waste – Radioactivity can cause serious damage to human health, and as yet, no treatment or permanently secure storage solution exists for higher level radioactive wastes, such as that generated by the nuclear power industry and from decommissioning nuclear power stations.

Waste disposal – There are environmental issues associated with the loss of resource implied by the final disposal of waste. BRE uses an absolute measure based on the mass of any waste that is disposed of in landfill or incinerated.

Fossil fuel depletion – This impact category indicator is related to the use of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels provide a valuable source of energy and feedstock, but are a finite resource and their continued consumption will prevent use by future generations.

Eutrophication – Nitrates and phosphates are essential for life, but increased concentrations in water can encourage excessive growth of algae and reduce the oxygen within the water. Eutrophication can therefore be classified as the over-enrichment of water courses. Its occurrence can lead to damage of ecosystems, increasing mortality of aquatic fauna and flora and to loss of species dependent on low-nutrient environments. Emissions of ammonia, nitrates, nitrogen oxides and phosphorus to air or water all have an impact on eutrophication. Direct and indirect impacts of fertilisers are included in the method.

Photochemical ozone creation – In atmospheres containing nitrogen oxides (NOx, a common pollutant) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), ozone can be created in the presence of sunlight. Although ozone is critical in the high atmosphere to protect against ultraviolet (UV) light, low level ozone is implicated in impacts as diverse as crop damage and increased incidence of asthma and other respiratory complaints.

Acidification – Acidic gases such as sulphur dioxide (SO2) react with water in the atmosphere to form 'acid rain', a process known as acid deposition. When this rain falls, often a considerable distance from the original source of the gas, it causes ecosystem impairment of varying degree, depending upon the nature of the landscape ecosystems. Gases that cause acid deposition include ammonia, nitrogen oxides and sulphur oxides. It accounts only for acidification caused by SO2 and NOx. This includes acidification due to fertiliser.
Source: www.bre.co.uk

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.

National Scheme Operators (NSOs) develop and own country specific local schemes but are affiliated to BREEAM. BRE Global is the national scheme operato r 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.

Polyflor's product ranges predominantly have BRE product specific ratings & achieve **A+** in major use areas such as health & education

Where products have not been individually assessed, BRE generic ratings are available*, again achieving A+ in key areas

*This excludes the Polyflor Sport & Polyclad ranges.

BRE Individually Assessed Ratings

Independent, third-party certification is always important as its impartiality reassures customers that our products will perform as expected and is why Polyflor has had most of its product ranges individually assessed by BRE Global.

Each product which is certificated by BRE Global has undergone an LCA (life cycle analysis) 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.

The BRE Global rating scheme is categorised by end use areas, as the environmental impact in each can vary. Various products are 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. Additionally, life spans vary depending on the sector which affects the environmental impact: For example, an assumption that domestic flooring is replaced more frequently due to trends.

Polyflor's safety, homogeneous, heterogeneous and LVT ranges have been individually assessed by BRE Global to measure their environmental impact. The ratings are A+ to E, with A+ being the best rating, having achieved the lowest ecopoints. A better rating helps to maximise a building's BREEAM score, which is achievable through our 30 A+ ratings. Overall, Polyflor's certified ratings are impressive, particularly in the key areas of health and education, where BREEAM ratings are linked to government funding.

SAFETY	Cert.	Health	Education	Retail (fashion)	Retail (Durability)	Office	Domestic
Polysafe Quattro PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Astral PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Mosaic 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 Ecomax	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Verona PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Wood fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Wood fx Acoustix PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Hydro	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Hydro Evolve	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Apex	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Polysafe Ultima	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A	A	B
Expona Control PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A	A	A
HOMOGENEOUS	**Cert.**	**Health**	**Education**	**Retail (fashion)**	**Retail (Durability)**	**Office**	**Domestic**
Palettone PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
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
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	**Cert.**	**Health**	**Education**	**Retail (fashion)**	**Retail (Durability)**	**Office**	**Domestic**
Forest fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Expona Flow PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Secura	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Silentflor	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Acoustix Forest fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
LVT	**Cert.**	**Health**	**Education**	**Retail (fashion)**	**Retail (Durability)**	**Office**	**Domestic**
Expona Commercial PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Expona Design PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A	B	B
Bevel Line PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
Camaro PUR	ENP429	*	*	A+	A+	A	A
Colonia PUR	ENP429	*	*	*	*	*	A

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

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For verification and more information on our certification and environmental profiles, visit www.greenbooklive.com and click on the 'search GBL' link: Enter 'Polyflor' into the Company Name search box enter the BRE certificate number 472; 415 or 429 (without the ENP prefix) into the 'Cert No' search box.

BRE Generic Ratings

Where Polyflor products have not been individually certificated by BRE Global, generic ratings are available. As these products have not been individually assessed, the product data provided to the BRE is generic – it is industry standard data from key European manufacturers.

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. On average vinyl flooring achieves a generic BRE Global A+ rating for most types of vinyl across the categories shown below:

Standard	Homogeneous EN 649 EN ISO 10581	Heterogeneous EN 649 EN ISO 10582	Acoustic EN 651	LVS EN 653	LVT EN 649	Safety EN 13845	Rubber (profiled) EN 12199
Health	A+	A+	A+	-	A+	A+	A+
Element	821570038	821570039	821570053	-	821570054	821570055	821570057
Education	A+	A+	A+	-	A+	A+	A+
Element	821570065	821570066	821570010	-	821570013	921570010	821570015
Commercial	A	A	A	-	A	A	A
Element	821570038	821570039	821570041	-	821570042	821570043	821570045
Retail	A+/A+	A+/A+	A+/A	-	A+/A	A+/A	A+/A+
Element	821570038	821570039	821570053	-	821570054	821570055	821570057
Domestic	A	A	A	A+	A	B	A
Element	821570065	821570066	821570010	821570002	821570013	921570010	821570015

For more detail about how these ratings are arrived at by BRE Global visit **www.bre.co.uk/greenguide**

The following Polyflor ranges are not individually assessed by BRE Global, but can be included within the appropriate generic ratings:

HOMOGENEOUS
Polyflor SD
Finesse SD
OHMega EC
Polyflor EC
Polyflor ROF
Polyflex Plus PU
Palettone SD

LVT
Expona Simplay PUR
Camaro Loc PU
Affinity2[55]

LVS
Designatex

SAFETY
Polysafe QuickLay PUR
Polysafe Verona PUR Pure Colours

RUBBER (profiled)
Noppe Stud Tile