Use Area Classification

Selecting a floorcovering that will satisfy the actual or expected service requirements is essential if a product is to perform up to the end user's expectations. With so much product information now available, it is hardly surprising that selection can sometimes be difficult.

Polyflor vinyl floorcoverings, for example, are manufactured in a range of thicknesses, with differing levels of filler and constructions, to suit a variety of applications. In addition, some vinyl floorings have specialist features such as acoustical, static control or slip-resisting properties. These are the variables from just one manufacturer!

So in order to help the end user and/or the building designer make an informed choice, all Polyflor products show the European Use Area Classification. The Use Area Classifications can only be claimed if the products meet the specified requirements of the performance criteria within the relevant Standard.

European Classification ISO 10874 / EN 685

This Standard describes the various levels of use area, the relevant icons and typical applications. These typical applications may vary from country to country as room usage varies and some applications may require a higher rated product.

The system has three specific use categories, with sub-divisions based on type and intensity of traffic. Individual ISO/EN product specifications detail the performance and physical criteria that a product must meet to achieve the classification – and products can meet the criteria of all three groups. When a higher classification number is claimed, the product will meet all the requirements of the lower classes in that group.

	Class	Symbol	Level of Use	Description	Examples of areas of use
domestic	21		Moderate	**Areas considered for residential use** Areas with low or intermittent use	Bedroom, dining room
domestic	22		General	Areas with medium use	Children's room, living room, entrance hall
domestic	23		Heavy	Areas with intense use	Kitchen, living room, corridor, office, entrance hall
commercial	31		Moderate	**Areas considered for public & commercial use** Areas with low or intermittent use	Bedroom, hotel, conference room, small office
commercial	32		General	Areas with medium traffic	Classroom, small office, hotel, boutique, conference room, doctor's practice
commercial	33		Heavy	Areas with heavy traffic	Corridor, department store, school, multi-purpose hall, open plan office, reception
commercial	34		Very Heavy	Areas with intense use	Airport, multi-purpose hall, counter hall, department store
industrial	41		Moderate	**Areas considered for light industrial use** Areas where work is mainly sedentary with occasional use of light vehicles	Electronic assembly, precision engineering
industrial	42		General	Areas where work is mainly standing and/or with vehicular traffic	Storage room, electronic assembly
industrial	43		Heavy	Other light industrial areas	Storage room, production hall

As can be seen in the above table Classes 21-23 mean a flooring is fit for domestic use, classes 31 to 34 indicate a flooring is fit for more intensive, 'commercial' use. Classes 41 to 43 indicate a flooring can be used in industrial environments.

While the first digit gives an idea of the general environment (2: domestic, 3: commercial, 4: industrial), the second digit further subdivides this usage into 'light' (1), 'moderate' (2), 'heavy' (3) and 'very heavy' (4).

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