



SUSTAINABILITY

REPORT 2023

ESG DATA INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED

for BES 6001 v3.1 Framework Standard for Responsible Sourcing



SUSTAINABILITY

REPORT 2023

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STRIVING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Welcome

This is Polyflor's 18th annual sustainability report, covering the company's environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance for 2022.

The data for this report has been independently verified for BES 6001 v3.1 to provide our stakeholders with complete transparency.

As a responsible manufacturer, Polyflor endeavours to reduce and minimise the environmental impact across all operations. Whilst reporting this and highlighting our focused objectives and guiding policies, integrity is important: Reporting remains impartial, and indications are made regarding future improvements.

"Sustainability at Polyflor is not the responsibility of just one person: It is very much a team effort throughout the entire company and involves listening to our customers and other external driving forces. Sustainability is driven by our board of Directors across all areas of the business and includes our environmental objectives and processes or quite simply, encouraging employees to 'do their bit' at home, in the community and in the workplace.

"Polyflor has always been industry leading with regards to its products and sustainability. We have used harvested rainwater for production since 1915 and have been recycling vinyl since we pioneered it in 1950. Polyflor was an early adopter of BRE with products first assessed on a Life Cycle Analysis in 2005 and we were the first commercial flooring manufacturer to achieve the BRE's standard for Responsible Sourcing, BES 6001, for many of our products. Other firsts as a flooring manufacturer included achieving GreenTag LCARate certification and rolling out a recycling initiative inclusive of site collections and distributor drop-off sites to suit all customer and waste volume requirements.

"Undoubtedly, recent years have presented significant challenges to our businesses, however, Polyflor has continued to perform well and has maintained a full focus on its sustainability objectives. Our investment in sustainability initiatives has continued throughout,

including our Recofloor recycling scheme which is widely regarded as one of the best examples of its type. Co-founded by Polyflor in 2009, Recofloor continues to significantly reduce the environmental impact of Polyflor and its customers and is a scheme we are very proud of.

"In 2022, Polyflor made further progress across a broad range of its objectives and was able to reduce carbon footprint across a number of key areas of the business, not least production and logistics. Of course, the business remains committed to continual improvement with sustainability at the heart of our operations and we look forward to reporting further significant progress next year."

Mark Halstead
Group Chief Executive, James Halstead PLC



Our Sustainability Journey...

...from 1915 to present day

1915

Lodge water is used on site to harvest rainwater for production.

1950

Post-production vinyl is recycled.

1992

ISO 9001 quality certificate attained.

1998

Polyflor launches low maintenance PUR for reduced environmental impact.

2000

Polyflor gains ISO 14001 environmental certification.

Polyflor signs up to the Vinyl 2010 commitment.

2005

Products are individually assessed by BRE Global, achieving A+.

First VOC emissions tests.

2007

Polyflor joins Recovinyl.

2009

Polyflor co-founds Recofloor, the waste vinyl flooring recycling scheme.

Recyclable paper packaging replaces plastic roll wrap.

Polyflor products go onto Ecospecifier database.

FloorScore® VOC certification is achieved.

2013

Product Specific and Generic EPD's are available.

Secura is launched – a Luxury Vinyl Sheet with PUR, available in multiple widths to reduce waste, which can be loose laid on areas up to 24m².

SA 8000 certification is achieved.

BES 6001 certification for Responsible Sourcing is obtained.

PVC Best Practice on Polyflor's homogeneous flooring ranges, verified by NCS International Pty Ltd.

2012

Expona Simplay, loose lay LVT is launched. Adhesive free for reduced environmental impact.

3rd party EN15804 EPDs available.

Indoor Air Comfort Gold VOC certification is available.

AFSSET indoor air quality labelling starts.

Recofloor has first Annual Awards Ceremony.

Certification is achieved.

2011

Polyflor's new fleet has Euro V compliant engines for reduced emissions.

Polyflor joins Vinyl Plus.

Polyflor improves its carbon footprint, reducing energy use by 43% and reducing carbon emissions by 15,236 tonnes.

2010

Products achieve GreenTag LCARate certification.

Recofloor is set up in Australia and New Zealand.

2014

Economiser installed on steam boiler increasing boiler water feed temperature to boiler, improving efficiency.

Camaro Loc PUR is launched – adhesive free for reduced environmental impact.

2015

Winner of 'Made in the North West – Green Company 2015'.

Floor Cleaning & Maintenance Course launched to promote sustainable cleaning and maximise longevity.

BS OHSAS 18001 is achieved.

2016

Recofloor wins the Let's Recycle Award for Excellence in Recycling & Waste Management.

Polyflor South Africa launches first official recycling scheme for the local vinyl flooring industry.

Bloc PUR is launched - a low maintenance and solid colour sheet flooring to minimise wastage.

2017

All Polyflor's HGVs are replaced with Euro VI engines for lower emissions.

Silentflor is launched – low maintenance, low VOC, environmentally certified and recyclable.

2022

7% less energy used.

4% decrease in production's GHG emissions.

46% less water used.

98% of total waste recycled or repurposed.

Singapore Green Building Product & Friendly Materials Eco Labels achieved.

Polyflor products listed on mindful MATERIALS.

GreenTag Product Specific EPDs for many of our products.

2021

11% reduction in GHG Emissions Intensity.

71% more post-consumer vinyl recycled.

2020

100% renewable electricity used.

21% decrease on water usage.

Fast Track collection of adhesive free ranges is launched.

2019

Energy reduced by 6%.

Recofloor's 10-Year Anniversary.

2018

Recofloor has a record year, recycling 570 tonnes of waste vinyl flooring from the UK. Recofloor Australia and New Zealand recycle 18.5 tonnes, more than double the previous year.

Palettone PUR is launched: 85% natural material and phthalate-free; 25% recycled material and 100% recyclable; certified for low VOC and positive LCA.

16% decrease on energy - lowest figure in 7 years.

Modern, electric forklift trucks replace diesel ones.

Over 100 years of minimising our footprint

Our Vision

Polyflor’s vision is to minimise carbon emissions, as well as being socially and economically responsible. The vision of our business model is fully encompassed by the Three Pillars of Sustainability, which focus on synergy between Environment, Society (people) and Economics.

The Three Pillars of SUSTAINABILITY



Key steps to achieve a more SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Our Credentials Guide

Sustainability & CSR

Environmental and Corporate Social Responsibility management ensures continual development and progress, where it matters. The external audits and certification listed, assure that this is our priority and that we will continue to report transparently on key metrics regarding our culture, operations and stakeholder engagement.

ISO 14001		ISO 14001 sets out the criteria for an Environmental Management System (EMS) and maps out a framework for a company to follow in setting up an effective EMS.
ISO 9001		ISO 9001 is a certified quality management system (QMS) for organisations who want to prove their ability to consistently provide products and services that meet the needs of relevant stakeholders.
BES 6001		BES 6001 is a framework Standard from BRE Global, for Responsible Sourcing, along with an associated independent third-party certification scheme. BES 6001 will help organisations manage and reduce the impacts throughout the supply chain. The scheme is recognised by the BREEAM family of certification schemes and the Code for Sustainable Homes where credits can be awarded for construction products independently certified through BES 6001 .
SA 8000		SA 8000 is an international certification standard that requires organisations to develop, maintain and apply socially acceptable practices in the workplace.
ISO 45001		ISO 45001 is a framework for an occupational health and safety management system.
Modern Slavery Act Statement This statement sets out the measures taken to prevent acts of modern slavery and human trafficking within its business and supply chains.		

What this means for you

Our certification gives you peace of mind on matters that matter to all of us as businesses and consumers. We all want to purchase best quality products and services from ethical, responsible and caring companies.

Environmental Life Cycle Analysis & Eco Labels

Environmental LCAs are important in understanding a product’s environmental performance over its entire journey, from materials sourced and used to the end of life. Every product has an environmental impact. An LCA therefore, helps identify each critical step, associated impact and performance.

BRE		The BRE (Building Research Establishment) is an independent organisation which evaluates the environmental impact of a product. Using a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) over a building life of 60 years, materials are assessed on their impact against a series of environmental criteria and performance is rated from A+ to E. Individual assessments relate to specific production data for the product, whereas generic ratings are derived from industry-wide production data and averaged.
IBU EPD		Polyflor’s product specific EPDs are verified by IBU (Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V.) - an independent, environmental organisation which works closely with construction and environmental authorities in Germany. Product specific EPDs available on www.ibu-epd.com/en/published-epds
ERFMI EPD		Generic EPDs are available via ERFMI (European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers’ Institute), which provide transparency on environmental impacts. Generic EPDs available on www.ibu-epd.com/en/published-epds
INIES FDES		INIES provides environmental and health declarations of products for evaluating the performance of construction works. The INIES FDES is an independent third-party audit. To view FDES , visit www.inies.fr
GreenTag		GreenTag is Ecospecifier’s Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) and Polyflor’s products are certificated to meet GreenTag requirements.
SGBP		The Singapore Green Building Product (SGBP) scheme is a certification for green building products and materials. It is based on scientific and engineering principles and built upon the collective knowledge and expertise of the building and construction industry.
Friendly Materials		Friendly Materials is an analytical assessment methodology that evaluates and objectively compares how building materials and building systems affect indoor areas: It promotes transparency within the building materials’ industry.

What this means for you

Our products’ LCAs and Eco Labels give you a better understanding of all the associated environmental impacts and how they perform, helping you to compare products and make informed choices for specification.

Our Credentials Guide

Recycling

Recycling has always been important to us and continues to be a top priority. In operating our own recycling schemes as well as being part of external recycling initiatives, we are committed to minimising this sector's environmental impact and embracing Circular Economy principals.

Recofloor		Polyflor is co-founder and owner of Recofloor the UK's leading recycling scheme for smooth and safety offcuts and uplifted smooth vinyl flooring. This scheme is also used in Australia, New Zealand and Iceland.
Polyflor RVF SA		The Polyflor Recycling Vinyl Flooring scheme is an independent recycling scheme in South Africa, collecting waste Polyflor vinyl flooring.
AgPR		We work with AgPR (Arbeitsgemeinschaft PVC-Bodenbelag) to reclaim recycled vinyl flooring waste from Germany/EU.
RecovinyI		RecovinyI is a PVC recycling scheme, set up to encourage companies to recycle post-consumer PVC. The aim of the scheme is to increase the amount of PVC recycled by establishing sustainable collection and processing arrangements.

What this means for you

Using one of our recycling schemes, or an affiliated scheme helps to avoid the concern of needlessly sending waste to landfill. You are improving your carbon footprint and could be saving money too. The Recofloor scheme, for instance, could save up to 70% for arranged collections (compared to landfill), or it is FOC when using one of our participating distributors. Recycling your Polyflor flooring helps with site waste management plans and may contribute towards credits for 'waste' on a BREEAM assessment.

Health

We want our floor coverings to be healthy for the environment and for our customers. Our ranges are non-shedding and do not harbour dust. They do not contain harmful substances; are UK REACH compliant and are certified to assure very low VOC emissions for best indoor air comfort and quality.

IAC		Indoor Air Comfort (IAC) product certification by Eurofins, provides compliance to low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) emissions requirements of European specifications. Indoor Air Comfort Gold certification shows a higher level of compliance, meeting criteria of many voluntary specifications issued by most relevant ecolabels and similar specifications in the EU. This is 'best in class' and good for indoor air quality, posing no risk to health.
FloorScore®		FloorScore® product certification by SCS Global, ensures that certified flooring meets strict indoor air quality (IAQ) emissions criteria of LEED; CHPS; The Green Guide for Health Care, and is recognised by a long list of healthy building programmes.
Afsset		Afsset (L'Agence Française de Sécurité Sanitaire de L'Environnement et du Travail) tests construction products compliance to the French Government's regulations regarding VOC and formaldehyde emissions.
M1		M1 is the short version name of the Finnish voluntary emission classification of building materials. M1 is the lowest VOC emission class of that system.
UK REACH	UK REACH	UK REACH is a European Union regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation & Restriction of Chemicals. No harmful substances added, such as formaldehyde; asbestos and heavy metals. Plasticisers used by Polyflor are not classified substances and do not need authorisation under UK REACH . A range of mostly non-phthalate and ortho-phthalate plasticisers used across Polyflor's vinyl collection.

What this means for you

You will also improve well-being and comfort with beautiful designs and clean indoor air quality, attainable through our low VOC products with further reduced VOC emissions from the maintenance regime.

Our Credentials Guide

Environmental Listings

Polyflor products are listed on various databases specifically for sustainable products, making specification options easier for green build projects.

mindful MATERIALS		Our products are listed on the mindful MATERIALS platform, a design industry initiative that enables manufacturers to clearly communicate transparency of products' sustainability and health via the product certification library.
DGNB		Our EPDs are listed on the DGNB database DGNB (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen e.V. / German Sustainable Building Council), which promotes sustainable and economically efficient buildings for the future.
BASTA		Polyflor has registered, approved products on the BASTA database, BASTA is a non-profit organisation owned by IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute and The Swedish Construction Federation.

What this means for you

These environmental listings offer another 3rd party validation for peace of mind, also making it easier for you to specify environmentally sound products for your project.

Memberships & Associations

We like to be in the mix and keep abreast of current or potential issues and challenges, both within the industry and on wider environmental matters. This enables us to engage with stakeholders and react better to customer demands.

VinylPlus		VinylPlus is the voluntary sustainable development programme of the European PVC industry. It aims to create a long-term sustainability framework for the entire PVC value chain.
PVC Stewardship (Australia)		Polyflor Australia is a signatory to The Vinyl Council of Australia Product Stewardship Program. This program has voluntary commitments focused on Best Practice Manufacturing, Safe and Sustainable use of additives, Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management, Resource Efficiency and Transparency and Engagement. The commitments ensure that the entire process from raw materials through to end of life of vinyl products is reviewed and addressed to minimise environmental and safety issues within the vinyl industry, on a local and global scale. Visit www.vinyl.org.au/sustainability/stewardship
Kaléi		Kaléi works with the government and informs its members on regulations and standards and partakes in environmental policy, with a commitment to sustainable development.
New Zealand Green Building Council		The Green Building Council is a non-profit, non-government, membership organisation covering more than 90 countries. The body's main aim is to facilitate dialogue between industry and government to promote sustainability in the construction sector.
UKRFA		UKRFA (United Kingdom Resilient Flooring Association) – UK trade association for the resilient flooring sector.
ERFMI		ERFMI (European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute) – ensures the maintenance of high ethical standard within the industry.
SAVA		The Southern African Vinyls Association (SAVA) is a representative body for the local vinyl industry fulfilling an active role in the sustainability of the industry.

What this means for you

By our involvement and networking with these key stakeholder organisations, we are part of these communities and can stay on top of issues that matter most to you and better meet your demands.

Sustainable Performance

For many decades Polyflor has been recognised as a leading global manufacturer of high quality, high performance sustainable floor coverings. We will continue to do good as a responsible and ethical manufacturer, whilst looking to continually improve.

POLYFLOR’S SUSTAINABILITY KPI’S FOR 2022*

*Data increases or decreases are compared with 2021.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In 2022, the company’s total direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (KGC02e) were 8,607,616 – a decrease of 12,376 (KG CO2e) on 2021. Against 2019 this was a significant decrease of 2,676,406 or **24%**; the same as taking 574 petrol-powered cars off the road for one year. Over the last 5 years, Polyflor has saved 3,272,117 (KGC02e), this was through onsite progress, and not offsetting.

Compared to 2021, Polyflor’s GHG emissions intensity increased by **22%**, as production was lower or less efficient in 2022, due to macro-economic factors.

Responsible Sourcing

- Achieved **92%** for bulk deliveries above the minimum load size of 23 tonnes (against **>90%** target).
- **44%** of our suppliers were within a 50-mile radius.
- **97%** of our suppliers have Modern Slavery Act Compliance certification (we expect this to be **100%** in 2023).
- Obtained BES 6001 ‘Excellent’ rating for Responsible Sourcing.

Production

- **100%** renewable electricity used.
- **7%** less energy used.
- Direct Greenhouse Gas Emissions (from natural gas) decreased by **4%**.
- **46%** reduction on water usage.
- Gross waste and net waste reduced by **20%** and **59%** respectively.
- Net waste as a percentage of tonnes manufactured was just **0.4%** - a **0.3%** improvement (against our target of **1.5%**).
- **98%** recycled or repurposed waste as a percentage of total site waste (best performance to date).
- 41 tonnes of glass were recycled into Polysafe ranges – a **14%** increase.

Logistics

- Kilometres travelled by the Polyflor fleet decreased by **1%**.
- **4%** increase in bulk load orders.
- Carbon emissions reduced by **2%** per mile and **14%** per tonne.
- Polyflor’s backhaul operations removed 366 HGV journeys from the road, saving 28,743 kgs of CO₂.

Closing the Loop

- 191 tonnes of post-consumer waste vinyl recycled back into Polyflor vinyl.
- 6904 tonnes of recycled vinyl used across Polyflor ranges.
- Recycled vinyl as a percentage of flooring manufactured was **17%** - highest figure than previous years.
- Recofloor collected 476 tonnes of vinyl waste flooring, a decrease of **18%**.
- 31 new companies/fitters joined Recofloor, a **19%** increase.
- Recofloor hosts its 11th Award Ceremony to reward its dedicated members.

Environmental Assessments

- GreenTag Product Specific EPDs for many of our products.

CSR

- Polyflor hosted 27 floor fitting courses on and off site (**35%** increase), training 275 delegates (**148%** increase).
- **4%** increase on total employees.
- Labour turnover reduced to **10%** - a decrease of **23%**.
- Increase of **7%** female employees and **20%** female managers.
- 13 new female employees recruited, but also 13 female employees with 20+ year’s service.
- **8%** increase on 25-Year Club membership.
- **200%** increase on apprenticeships.
- Loss Time Accidents (LTA) reduced by **18%**.
- Polyflor supported 7 charitable projects, donating nearly £4,800 and raising £415.

Our BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS



OUR 7 STEP PROCESS



Focus on LCA

Life Cycle Assessment or Analysis (LCA) is a comprehensive way to identify environmental impacts throughout a product or service’s life.

When it comes to looking at a product’s environmental performance, it is easy to be impressed with headline grabbing statements and emotional communications. Importantly, we must consider scientific fact and rational information when forming opinions, rather than making decisions based on perception. An LCA provides us with the measured and scientific approach we should take when considering environmental factors and places all flooring on a level playing field.

The benefits of using an LCA methodology enables the specifier to have a better understanding of all the environmental impacts and not just one aspect in isolation.

LCA is a method to measure and evaluate the environmental impacts associated with a product, system or activity, by assessing the energy and materials used and released to the environment over the life cycle.
UK Green Building Council

“Is this product better than that product ‘for planetary and human health?’ It is only at the product level that a valid answer is possible. Only at the product level can we answer questions like: what sort of impacts do the raw materials have; what energy sources are used during manufacture; what are the cleaning, maintenance or replacement schedule requirements; what end of life reuse or recycling options are available, or how ethical is the supply chain?”

“We need to stop genericising ‘materials’ and start putting individual products and processes under the microscope, making our product selections based on detailed knowledge of the WOL (whole-of-life) impacts of each range and each brand as they compare to one another.

“In our experience of doing just that and hundreds of LCAs for products to be certified, sometimes the results are counter-intuitive. What we think based on commonly accepted norms is more ‘sustainable’ is demonstrably not always so.”

David Baggs,
CEO & Program Director, Global GreenTag International Pty Ltd.
CEO & Technical Director, Integreco Pty Ltd., a Sustainable Project & Product Consultancy

DESIGN FOR LONG LIFE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

BRE A+ RATED PRODUCTS

ADHESIVE FREE OPTIONS FOR REUSE & CO₂ SAVINGS



SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

STEP 1

Future Proofing

Polyflor embraces technological enhancements whilst producing functional and aesthetic products which will perform for years to come. Embracing the circular economy from the outset, to minimise waste, is also crucial.

Product Development & Design

We are continually reviewing alternatives and new ideas to improve our environments. Sustainability is always at the heart of our design process.

OUR GOAL

Contribution to the Built Environment:
To develop products that improve the quality and sustainability of the built environment.

Designing for the Circular Economy

Using Circular Economy principles, the design function must consider the following attributes of the floor covering to ensure ongoing best practice for sustainability.

Material sourcing and manufacturing

Healthier and local materials are sourced to improve the embedded carbon footprints of our ranges. To reduce our carbon footprint further, minimising waste begins here with the use of post-production and reclaimed post-consumer vinyl waste in our ranges. Recycled glass is also used in some of our Polysafe ranges. We also consider how our products can be packaged at design phase, to minimise packaging waste and use sustainable materials.

In a circular economy we stop waste being produced in the first place.

“As Group Design Manager it is crucial to innovate, and with each project comes specific, essential requirements. From the outset, the goals should always be to embrace technological enhancements whilst producing a functional and aesthetic product that can perform for years to come.”

“As an established, commercial business we are tasked with meeting customer desires in tandem with our sustainability goals. Therefore, the development process enables us to be alert to, but avoid any unnecessary trends, minimising rapidly dated designs to increase

OUR GOAL

Contribution to the Built Environment:
To develop “loose lay” (adhesive free) products with reduced environmental impact for ease of recycling.

Installation

Adhesive free ranges play a big part within the circular economy, as loose lay or lock options minimise environmental impact through reduced embedded CO₂ and can be reused (loose lay) or more easily and effectively recycled. Therefore, the product offering in our Fast Track collection has increased over recent years to reflect this.

In Use

All new ranges are launched with market leading, low maintenance benefits built in to minimise use of water, chemicals and energy – helping to reduce our customers' carbon footprint, natural resources and costs.

Reusing or Recycling

Polyflor ranges have always been recyclable, so since the 50's post-production waste has been reused. The increase of our loose lay offerings eases the facilitation of recycling uplifted vinyl (with the click products (loc ranges)), but importantly, our easy-to-install loose lay products can be reused as well as recycled.

longevity – style not fashion. This philosophy of minimising waste whilst maximising the life-cycle of the material is critical to our development process.

“A logical and correct understanding of each project provides the opportunity to both conserve resources and enhance the user experience, continuing to lead us on a more sustainable path.”

Craig Moorhouse
Group Design Manager, James Halstead PLC



Design for Life

More recent product launches have PUR and low VOC certification as standard and include aesthetics and features with a ‘design for life’ approach. For instance, aesthetics can be a relevant consideration for sustainability, as some decorative patterns or plainer designs help minimise waste and future-proof interiors, improving longevity.

Optimise waste reductions with non-directional patterns or plain designs

Palettone PUR
Smooth homogeneous sheet flooring with elegant, tonal highlights. Designed to stand the test of time aesthetically and performance-wise, demonstrating outstanding durability and abrasion resistance, achieving the highest abrasion wear rating Group T (EN 660 Part 2), EN ISO 10581 Type I.

Polysafe Stone fx PUR
Virtually invisible aluminium oxide particles are integrated throughout the performance layer to provide a safety flooring which is both functional and timelessly beautiful. These carborundum-free safety particles ensure that Polysafe Stone fx PUR offers full HSE compliance and sustainable wet slip resistance, achieving 36+ on the pendulum wet tests.

Polysafe Verona PUR: Pure Colours
The tonal decoration of this safety flooring will not date with a uniform appearance and matt surface finish, the collection is perfectly suited for installation within a wide range of environments but has been optimised with dementia friendly design schemes in mind and is DSDC certified. Our Pure Colours collection provides enhanced sustainable slip resistance of 45+ (slider 96) to ensure the underfoot safety of occupants for many years to come.



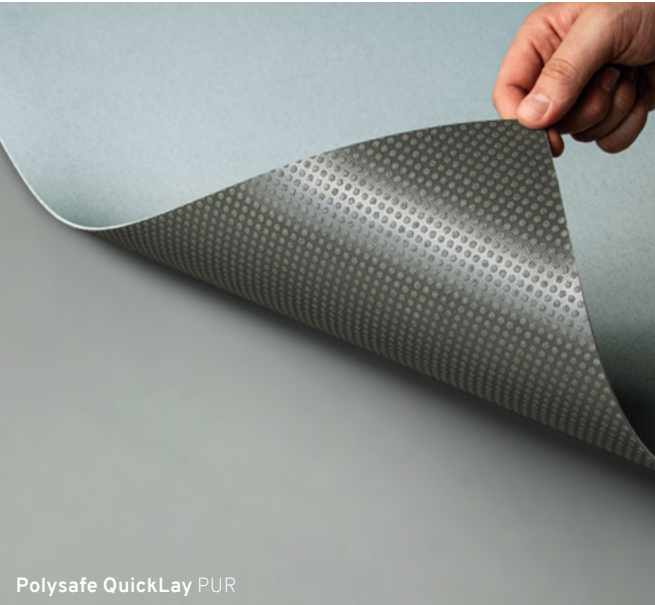
Palettone PUR

Adhesive free for CO₂ reductions and reuse

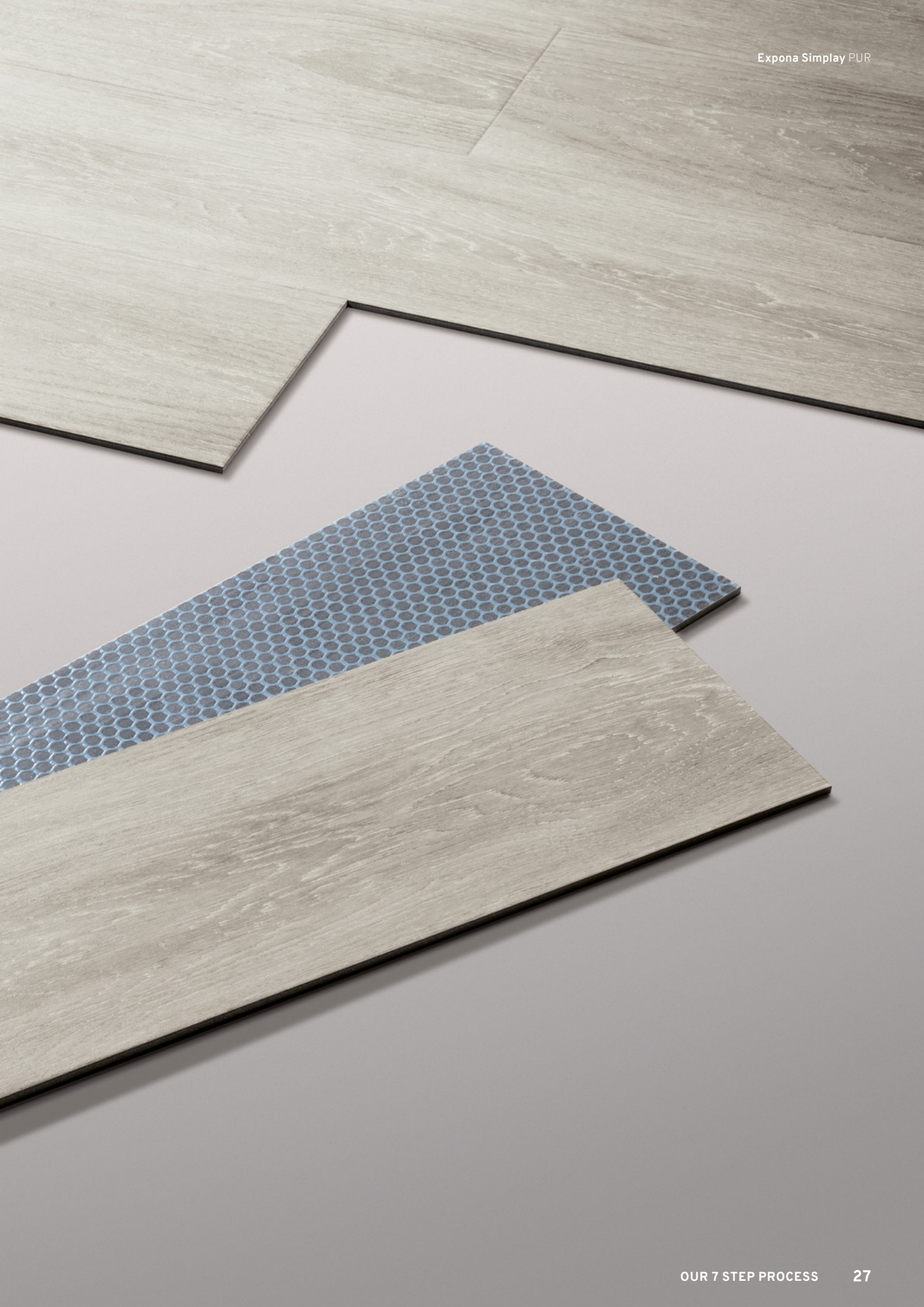
Polysafe QuickLay PUR
This loose lay safety flooring is designed for adhesive free installation and can be laid over a variety of existing subfloors. Polysafe QuickLay features contemporary understated colours with a decoration of tonal hues, optimised for specification within dementia friendly design schemes. Other areas of sustainability and longevity include enhanced sustainable slip resistance of 45+ (slider 96) and exclusive Polysafe PUR reinforcement for optimum appearance retention and superior cleaning benefits. Simply lift to reuse, repurpose, or recycle.

Expona Simplay PUR
Expona Simplay PUR is a collection of loose lay tiles replicating the natural beauty of wood, designed to reduce installation time and provide easy access to under floor utilities – so there’s no need to pull up and replace. Featuring PUR to assist a low maintenance regime during in-use, at the end this product can be reused or recycled.

Camaro Rigid Core PUR
An interlocking vinyl tile range, this luxury flooring uses classic wood designs for use in heavy commercial and residential interiors. This recyclable range is adhesive free and can be laid over most existing floor coverings, significantly reducing installation time and waste.



Polysafe QuickLay PUR



Expona Simplay PUR

BES 6001

RESPONSIBLE SOURCING
UP TO 3.5 ADDITIONAL
BREEAM POINTS

REACH COMPLIANT
NO RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES

LOCAL
SUPPLIERS

UP TO
85%
NATURAL
MATERIAL

UP TO
40%
RECYCLED
CONTENT

41
TONNES OF
RECYCLED
GLASS
IN POLYSAFE
PRODUCTS=
82,000
WINE BOTTLES



MATERIALS

STEP 2

Responsible Sourcing

Polyflor floor coverings contain a combination of ingredients which are clean, UK REACH compliant, sustainable, and recycled. The materials we use in our flooring are responsibly sourced and audited for our BES 6001 certification.

Benefits of Vinyl

Through modern manufacturing, vinyl has a low environmental impact and combined with its exceptional functionality and performance characteristics across many applications, no other material can perform as well or cost effectively as this multi-faceted champion.

Versatility

Chemically inert, safe, hygienic, and shatterproof, vinyl is necessary in everyday life and is vital in many industries, including healthcare: It is irreplaceable for most of its lifesaving applications such as surgical tubing, oxygen masks, containers for IV and dialysis fluids, IV sets, nasal cannulas, examination and surgical gloves, blood vessels for artificial kidneys, mattress covers and training manikins...

Vinyl, or PVC, is the most widely used polymer in building and construction applications with up to 70% of global annual PVC production used in this sector across many everyday building products, including pipes, cables, and windows for all construction projects. It is also present in facades, roofing and seating in stadiums all over the world.

Whether it is rigid or flexible, PVC is used in a range of long-life applications with lifespans ranging from 30 to 100 years in construction products such as cables, pipes and window profiles. PVC products are also low-maintenance and can remain in use for a long time before they reach end-of-life. Significantly, the unique composition of vinyl creates an extremely practical and durable flooring, which can have a life span in excess of 20 years. In fact, we have known cases of our flooring lasting for over 50 years.

Vinyl products contribute to greater building energy efficiency, cost savings, construction safety, lower embodied carbon and design versatility.

“PVC makes a major contribution to the quality, safety and cost-effectiveness of construction materials, as well as contributing to lower environmental impacts of completed projects. It is the most widely used polymer in building & construction applications and over 60% of Western Europe’s annual PVC production is used in this sector.”

PVC Europe

Environmental

Vinyl is an environmentally sound choice: Over its whole life cycle, vinyl floor covering performs comparably or better than alternative materials across a range of environmental impacts.

- Vinyl flooring is 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 significantly reduces energy intensive cleaning, plus the need for harsh chemical cleansers, polish, strippers and water usage is massively reduced, if needed at all.
- Vinyl 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 generating energy recovery.

Health & Safety

- Modern, clean PVC is a safe choice and is the most thoroughly researched and tested plastic, meeting all international health and safety standards as per the intended application.
- Vinyl is inherently fire resistant and once removed from an ignition source will self-extinguish. The fire resistance of vinyl is typically higher than lino or rubber.
 - It can provide the best slip resistance for underfoot safety.
 - Vinyl has low VOC emissions.

PVC is not a main contributor of dioxin emissions. Dioxins are toxic chemicals which occur as an unwanted by-product of some chemical reactions during manufacture or incineration, applicable to any product using heating or thermal processing. They also occur naturally in the environment, with natural fires and wood biodegradation. Power stations and the steel industry are the biggest man-made producers of dioxin emissions, with leisure items such as fireworks and BBQs also contributing. The annual dioxin concentration of the UK PVC industry is less than 140mg per annum, whereas a single tugboat in the North Sea is 70mg per annum.

10 PVC SUSTAINABILITY KPIs in Construction



Polyflor Materials

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.

OUR GOAL

Resource Use:
To recognise the need to source & use raw materials in the most appropriate & sustainable manner.

1. PVC Polymer

Polymer 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, everyday items. For example, 85% of medicines contain chlorine or use it in the production process. Chlorine is not emitted during production and remains chemically bound within vinyl throughout its life-cycle. Ethylene comes mainly from gas or oil, but from biomass also. Ethylene is also natural, given off by ripening fruit. Just 4% of barrel oil is used for all plastic products globally and vinyl flooring uses only a tiny fraction of this. Most oil is used for heating and travel consumption.

2. Filler

The level of fillers used in Polyflor vinyl can account for as much as 72%. Fillers come from calcium carbonate, such as chalk and limestone, which is a natural and sustainable material due to the abundance of it in the earth’s crust.

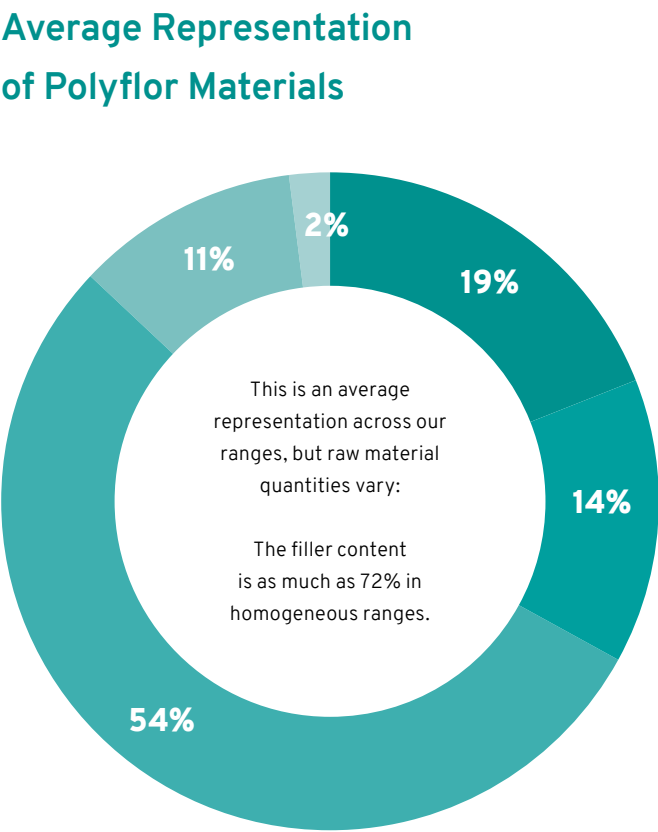
3. Plasticisers

Plasticisers are added to enhance the product performance characteristics through a range of operational temperatures and softening the vinyl is important in making it flexible and versatile. Plasticisers are safe to use and not classified under UK REACH. (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation & Restriction of Chemicals)

4. Other Materials

A small percentage of other ingredients such as stabilisers, pigments and inks are also used. All raw materials used by Polyflor are UK REACH compliant. Polyflor follows the strictest industry regulations ensuring no harmful substances to human health or the environment are used.

Recycled Content
Vinyl flooring is easily recycled, which subsequently minimises the use of raw materials. Polyflor flooring is 100% recyclable and contains up to 40% recycled content, which can be a combination of post-production vinyl, post-consumer vinyl and recycled glass (used with aggregates in Polysafe flooring). In 2022 we used 6,904 tonnes of recycled vinyl across our ranges and 41 tonnes of recycled glass in Polysafe products – that’s 82,000 wine bottles.



19%	PVC (57% Salt)
14%	PVC (43% Oil)
54%	Natural Fillers (Up to 72%)
11%	Plasticisers
2%	Other Materials (Renewable plasticiser, stabilisers, inks, pigments)

Our Sustainable Ingredients 2022

- Up to 40% recycled content included.
- 191 tonnes of recycled post-consumer vinyl used.
- 6713 tonnes of recycled post-production vinyl used.
- 41 tonnes of recycled glass in Polysafe products = 82,000 wine bottles.
- Polyflor products contain up to 85% natural materials.

“As the first resilient flooring manufacturer to achieve the BRE’s BES 6001, we are well placed to give our customers confidence that the products they are offered are responsibly sourced. Our clear objective is to use sustainable and responsibly sourced raw materials.

“Polyflor ranges are made using natural content, such as calcium carbonate, as well as other sustainable ingredients, such as vinyl and crushed glass, derived from internal and external waste streams. Furthermore, all raw materials considered undergo rigorous scrutiny and are safe and UK REACH compliant.

“We are committed to manufacturing flooring which is safe for the environment and people: Good material resource management is key in doing this and ensuring a sustainable future.”

Paul Smallman
Technical Director, Polyflor Ltd.

Responsible Sourcing

Responsible Sourcing includes social, ethical and environmental factors and how they are considered throughout the supply chain and design process. This is an important aspect of a product’s life cycle, involving strong organisation and leadership, compliance, and solid relationships.

Responsible Sourcing is defined in BS8902 – Responsible sourcing sector certification schemes for construction products – Specification as: ‘The management of sustainable development in the provision or procurement of a product.’ Sustainable development is further defined as: ‘An enduring, balanced approach to economic activity, environmental responsibility and social progress.’ **Source:** www.greenbooklive.com

How We Source Responsibly

Polyflor is certified to and rigorously audited on all aspects of responsible sourcing. Following on from our Quality Management System (QMS) ISO 9001, we achieved ISO 14001 in 2000. This sets out the criteria for an Environmental Management System (EMS) and maps out a framework for a company to follow in setting up an effective EMS. All environmental aspects, including the supply chain, are considered.

Most recently production achieved BES 6001 for responsible sourcing, and SA 8000 for decent and socially acceptable practices in the workplace.

What is BES 6001?

The BES 6001 standard, from BRE Global, is a means of securing certification to demonstrate through independent, third-party certification, that products certified against the scheme have been responsibly sourced. BES 6001 does not focus on a company’s site, but products or ranges manufactured at one or more sites.

BES 6001 is a framework standard for Responsible Sourcing which sets out requirements under three main headings: Organisational Management; Supply Chain Management and Environmental and Social Responsibility Management. To meet the standard, companies must satisfy certain compulsory elements. Additionally, there are higher levels of compliance that can result in a higher performance rating being awarded.

Depending on a company’s performance against the criteria, ratings are awarded on a Pass; Good; Very Good and Excellent basis. **Polyflor sets the bar high, having been the only certified floor covering manufacturer to achieve an Excellent rating for Version 3 of the standard.** By achieving Excellent, Polyflor has satisfied the compulsory sections and conforms to the highest levels of compliance, which has been a massive undertaking for the company - involving production, all other internal departments and its supply chain. Certification is available on www.greenbooklive.com.

The Importance of BES 6001

The UK Contractor’s Group (representing over 30 leading construction companies who together account for a third of the UK construction industry turnover) state that: ‘UKCG members support and give preference to procuring products which are able to demonstrate compliance with a recognised responsible sourcing scheme, certified by a third party.’

BES 6001 is just that. It is an increasingly important and valuable standard for customers who are looking to procure flooring with sound environmental credentials and traceability, from socially aware and ethical suppliers. Without doubt, the standard can help customers make better informed decisions when selecting suppliers.

The hard work and challenges set out by the BES 6001 framework has driven us to scrutinize our own supply chain more than ever before with greater commitment to using trusted, local suppliers who are ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certified. Additionally, stringent and demanding environmental objectives have been set and managerial procedures and policies improved.

BES 6001 has also given Polyflor more direction with regards to social responsibility management – with a focus on internal procedures regarding employees, as well as how the company engages with our local communities and stakeholders in general.

Furthermore, the use of Polyflor products with BES 6001 certification and individual BRE ratings can potentially contribute significantly to the available points in section MAT 03 of a BREEAM Assessment. Where many companies typically contribute 1 point through an environmental management system such as ISO 14001, Polyflor can provide an additional 3.5 points for its BES 6001 Excellent certification. For more information on this, refer to the ‘Maximising BREEAM Credits with Polyflor’ pages in this document. BES 6001 also secures additional credits within the Code for Sustainable Homes.

The Vinyl Council of Australia Product Stewardship Program

Polyflor Australia is a signatory to The Vinyl Council of Australia Product Stewardship Program. This programme has voluntary commitments focused on Best Practice Manufacturing, Safe and Sustainable use of additives, Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management, Resource Efficiency and Transparency and Engagement. The commitments ensure that the entire process from raw materials through to end of life of vinyl products is reviewed and addressed to minimise environmental and safety issues within the vinyl industry, on a local and global scale. Visit www.vinyl.org.au/sustainability/stewardship

“The ultimate goal of sustainable sourcing is to build strong, long-term relationships with suppliers. Improving performance on environmental, social and ethical issues is vital to developing such relationships.”
Source: EcoVadis

Our Supply Chain

OUR GOAL

Supply Chain Management:
To communicate and work constructively with the supply chain to deliver sustainable policies and practices.

ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 are recognised globally and are standard practice for many organisations. As such, Polyflor prefers approved and trusted suppliers who are ISO 9001 and 14001 certified or have robust environmental procedures and where possible are local to our manufacturing sites. Polyflor also uses Quality Assessment Questionnaires, following up with regular meetings and audits.

Additionally, we have a responsible sourcing policy, plus SA 8000, ISO 45001 and BES 6001 certification for responsible sourcing. SA 8000 is an international, auditable social certification standard for decent workplaces, across all industrial sectors. It is based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights, conventions of the ILO, UN and national law, and spans industry and corporate codes to create a common language to measure social performance. BES 6001, as already highlighted, helps us manage and reduce impacts throughout the supply chain.

Polyflor’s parent company, James Halstead PLC, has a Modern Slavery Act Statement, underlining the steps taken to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking in its business and supply chains. Go to www.polyflor.com for more information.

As part of our ongoing BES 6001 objectives, we assess our suppliers on their business procedures and ethics as well as their commitment to the reduction of environmental impacts. With regards to the environmental impacts associated with suppliers’ transport operations to and from our business, we encourage the use of energy efficient vehicles and adequate driver training to improve vehicle fuel efficiencies. For main suppliers, Polyflor’s target score of more than 90% should be achieved on the following criteria: Supplier vehicles used to deliver raw materials to site have modern Euro V or Euro VI energy efficient engines and suppliers ensure that adequate driver training has been given to maximise fuel efficiency. In 2022, Polyflor’s suppliers achieved 85% for both criteria.

Another objective is purchasing in bulk to minimise the transport impacts of our products, ensuring >90% of bulk deliveries are above the minimum load size of 23 tonnes. In 2022 we achieved this again, with 92%.

Proximity of Suppliers

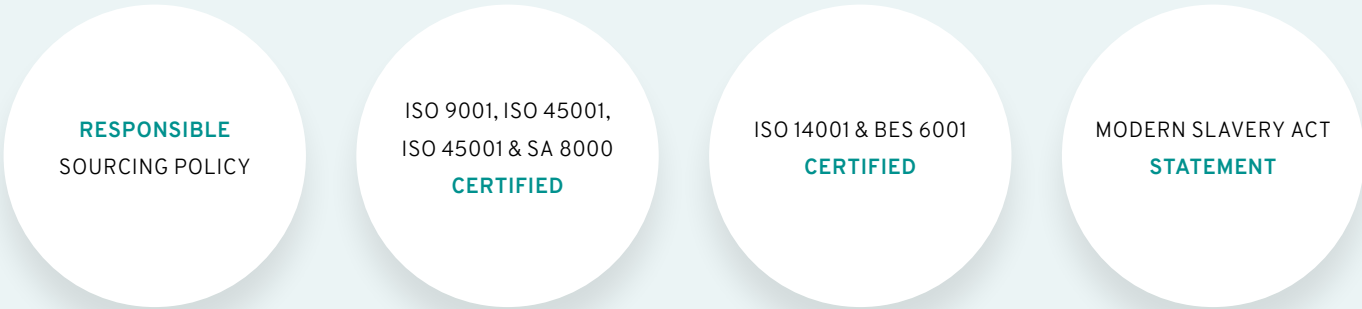


We also work with suppliers with the closest possible proximity to the Polyflor production sites. Our target is 85% of raw materials to be supplied within 500 miles of the factory. However, unlike previous years, we did not achieve this in 2022, with 68% of raw material suppliers being within a 500-mile radius. This reduction was due to the various macro-economic factors affecting supply chains in 2022. As a result, our supplier base was significantly broader and more geographically diverse than normal, which was essential to protect the security of raw material supply. We would like to reiterate that our objectives remain unchanged, and we continue to work towards increasing the percentage of our raw materials sourced within a 500 mile radius.

In 2022, 100% of Polyflor’s raw material suppliers achieved ISO 9001 (a 1% increase), 92% for ISO 14001 (3% increase), 89% achieved ISO 45001 (an increase of 9%) and 97% held Modern Slavery Act Compliance certification (a 1% reduction) – we expect this to be 100% in 2023.

SUPPLY CHAIN Summary 2022

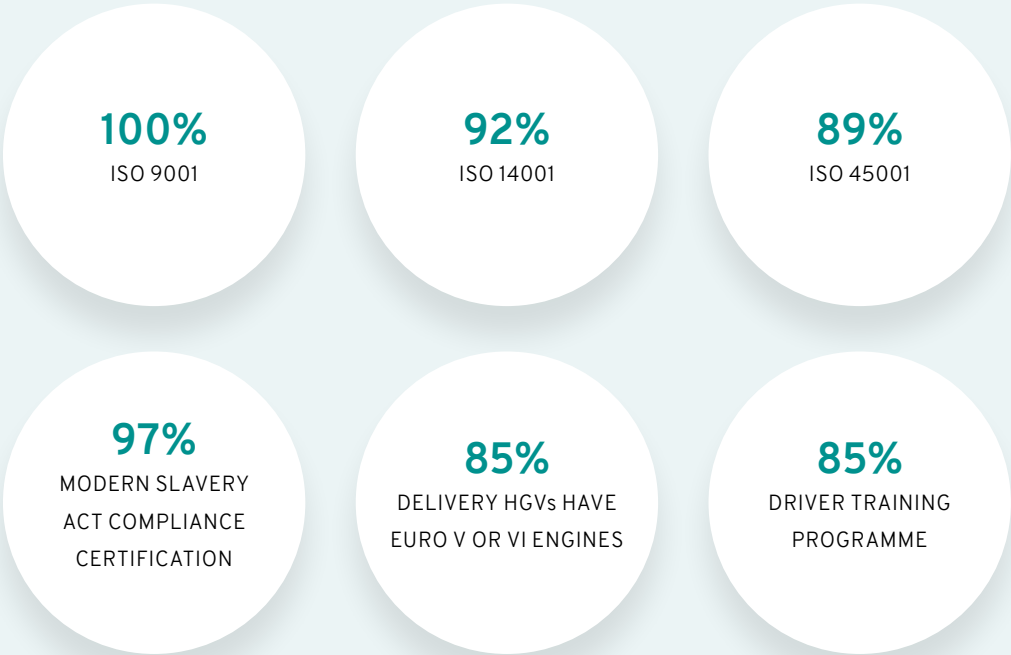
Polyflor



Database of approved and trusted suppliers, many of whom are local to our manufacturing sites.

Engagement Supplier Surveys and Quality Assessment Questionnaires are used and followed up with regular meetings and discussions with existing suppliers.

Our Suppliers (>90% Target)



We use local printing companies with sound environmental credentials, using solvent free inks, plus FSC, World Land Trust and Carbon Balance accredited paper sources.

100%
RENEWABLE
ELECTRICITY
WAS USED

7%
LESS
ENERGY

13,488
TONNES OF CO₂
SAVED SINCE 2017=

3,001
PETROL CARS OFF THE
ROAD FOR ONE YEAR

98%
OF TOTAL WASTE
WAS RECYCLED
OR REPURPOSED

59%
LESS NET
WASTE

96%
WATER SUPPLY FROM
RECYCLED WATER

46%
REDUCTION ON
WATER USAGE

ISO 14001
CERTIFIED MANUFACTURING



PRODUCTION

STEP 3

Protecting Resources

Our flooring is energy efficient to manufacture and minimises environmental impact and carbon emissions. We apply 'The 3 Rs' as we look to continuously reduce, recycle and reuse resources. Our use of renewable energy has also increased dramatically.

Energy Use

There is a direct connection between energy use and the environment. Energy consumed equals emissions being released into the atmosphere, which is why energy efficiency is crucial and why Polyflor sets out to minimise its energy consumption where possible and use renewable energy.

OUR GOAL

Polyflor Climate Change and Energy:
To use energy efficiently throughout the production process, reduce fossil fuel consumption and utilise renewable sources of energy to minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

Byproducts which come from traditional methods of power generation, include carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. Carbon dioxide, which accounts for most of the emissions, is a greenhouse gas. Carbon dioxide absorbs the sun's warmth and keeps heat in our atmosphere when it is released into the air. This 'greenhouse effect' is a naturally occurring phenomenon and required for survival on earth. However, as power plants burn more fuel to create more energy, the extra carbon waste traps too much heat, which can be detrimental. The known effects of greenhouse gas emissions include rising temperatures; heat waves and drought; higher sea levels; smog and acid rain; abnormal weather patterns and increased intensity of natural disasters.

In terms of climate change, vinyl has a low carbon footprint, which can be observed in EPDs (environmental product declarations).

2022 Performance

Due to the result of the company's hard work and compliance to its Climate Change and Energy Goal for 2022, Polyflor achieved many positives regarding its production's energy and emissions.

Energy use decreased by 7% compared to 2021 and 13% against 2019. Direct GHG (natural gas) emissions were reduced by 4% to 7,184 tonnes of CO₂ in 2022. Indirect Greenhouse Gas Emissions remained the same at zero (for electricity), given 100% of our electricity supply used on site was renewable, and aligned with our goal to utilise renewable sources of energy.

In 2022 Polyflor's production saved 270 tonnes of CO₂. That's the same as 32,843,514 smartphones being charged or 34 homes' energy use for one year.

Over the last six years, Polyflor has saved 14,633 tonnes of carbon emissions – the same weight as 150 blue whales or 78 Boeing 747s.

How we are Improving

- A selection of Polyflor's ongoing investment in energy-saving equipment and projects - from which, the environment is now reaping the rewards - is highlighted below:
- Replaced old chillers on 2 production lines with energy efficient modern chillers with free cooling technology, which can reduce energy by up to 70%.
 - Installed LEAP ESP (low energy abatement plant) on 1 of the production lines.
 - More daylight ports were installed to maximise natural lighting.
 - Existing lighting was replaced with new LED lighting, operated with sensors, throughout the production halls and warehousing.
 - Weekend switch off schedules were issued for Whitefield plants.
 - Energy incidents are raised and corrected.
 - Objectives, such as air leak, steam trap and thermal imaging surveys are carried out at regular intervals.

DON'T FORGET!

Typical life-cycle of 20-25 years meaning fewer replacements = less energy to produce flooring for the life of the building.

Summary 2022

- Zero Indirect GHG for electricity: 100% renewable electricity used
- Direct GHG (natural gas) emissions decreased by 4% with 7,184 tonnes of CO₂.
- 270 tonnes of CO₂ saved

Water Use

Water is a natural resource which must be protected. Water usage can be high in many manufacturing plants, but Polyflor has taken numerous steps to ensure that this is minimised and that we continue to adhere to our Trade Effluence License.

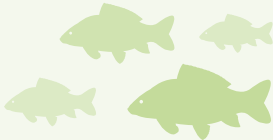
OUR GOAL

Polyflor Water:
To use water efficiently to minimise demand on potable water supplies and treat process water and site run-off effectively to mitigate against pollution risks.

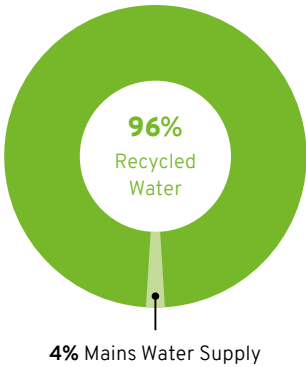
At the Whitefield site, rainwater is collected and stored in a designated area known as 'lodge water' and is used for cooling. Following its use, it is returned into the lodge. Lodge water is used to substitute mains water supply, and so just 4% of water consumed by manufacturing coming from the mains supply.

DID YOU KNOW?

500+ Carp
live in lodge water



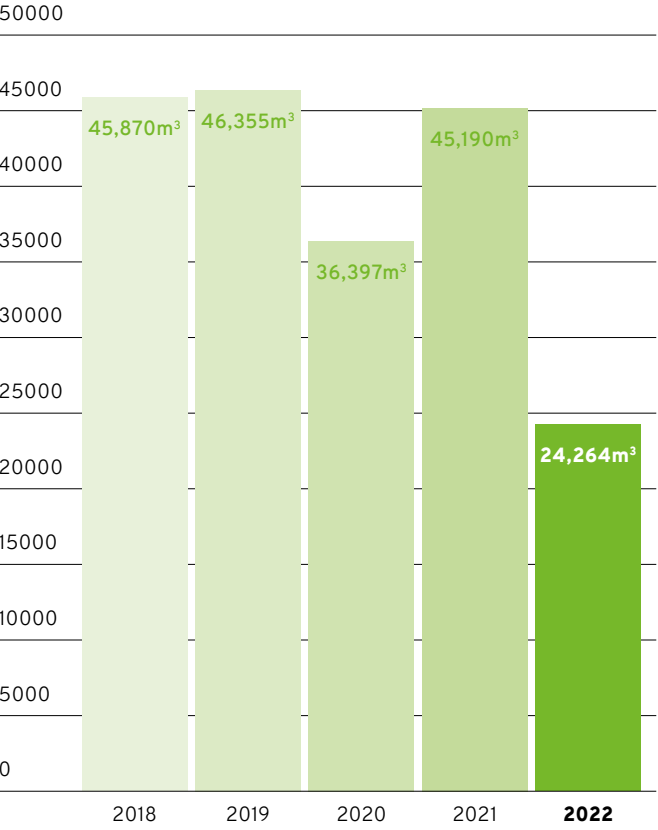
Water Source



Water used on site from the mains supply is largely for steam and cooling tower usage and is linked to overall production volumes.

2022 saw a significant decrease in water use against 2021 due to a number of factors including the ongoing initiatives to reduce water use in manufacturing and a proactive approach to identifying and rapidly resolving water leaks across our production facilities.

Total Water Used



How we are Improving

- Across our sites we have many steps in place to minimise water usage throughout production, including the following:
- A filtering system filters lodge water for one of the cooling towers, with the aim of substituting mains water with lodge water for process cooling. This will potentially reduce annual mains water usage by 10%-15%.
 - Part of Whitefield's factory's guttering is linked up to an underground water collection tank that has a 22,000-litre water collection. Our target to harvest 30% of the rainwater from the roof has been surpassed and we are now collecting 50%. This water is used on a jet washing facility, but may also be used elsewhere, such as the cooling towers and production line. Based on average rainfall, the system can harvest 1.3 million litres of water per year.
 - Optimisation of steam pressure.
 - Improvement of the efficiency of pumps and automatic controls.
 - Regular steam trap surveys.
 - Optimisation of cooling water temperature.

Waste Management

Waste Management continues to be an important part of Polyflor’s ongoing sustainability objectives within its BES 6001 and ISO 14001 management systems. Waste minimisation from the outset is pivotal with recycling and repurposing being integral to Polyflor’s waste management process.

OUR GOAL

Polyflor Waste Management:
To manage all waste streams effectively by adopting the waste reduction hierarchy and minimise waste incinerated and disposed of to landfill without energy or material recovery.

Polyflor Waste Hierarchy

In accordance with BES 6001, Polyflor’s objectives to reduce waste to landfill in 2022 included recycling post-production waste and returned post-consumer waste; actively managing and promoting the Recofloor vinyl take-back scheme and applying a Waste Hierarchy to all Polyflor waste streams. Moving waste streams up the hierarchy is important but limiting the potential for waste at the outset will continue to be a priority, working to the ethos of ‘**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**’.

PREFERABLE	Prevention	Using less material in design and manufacture; keeping products for longer; re-use and using less hazardous materials.
	Preparing for Reuse	Checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing whole items or spare parts.
	Recycling	Turning waste into a new substance or product. Includes composting if it meets quality protocols.
	Other Uses	Includes anaerobic digestion; incineration with energy recovery; gasification and pyrolysis which produce energy and materials from waste.
AVOID	Disposal	Landfill and incineration without energy recovery.

All post-production waste vinyl is recycled, either back into new Polyflor flooring or sent to a third-party recycler.

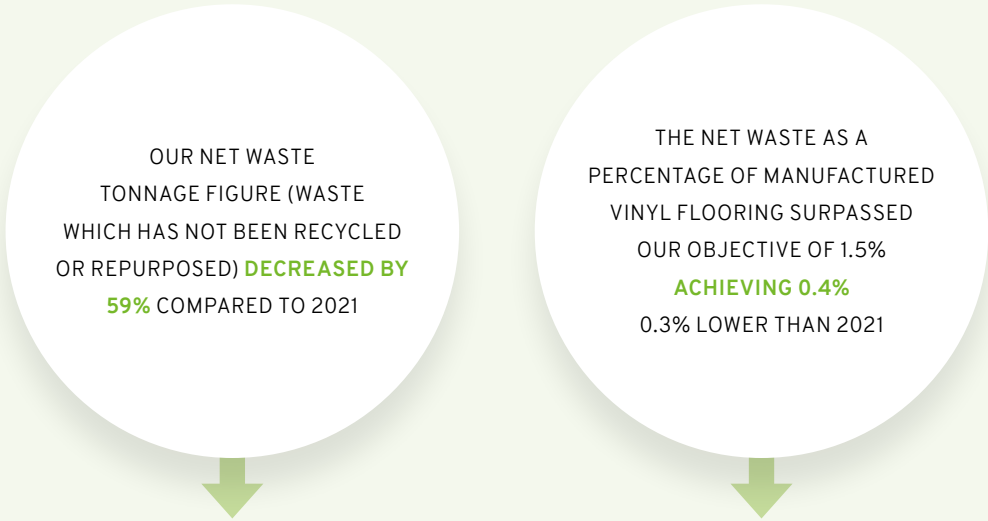
Polyflor WASTE FACTS 2022

Gross Waste

Supporting our objective to reduce waste from the outset, 2022 was a successful year in terms of significantly reducing both our gross and net waste.



Net Waste



Recycling

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

Post-production waste vinyl is generated on site from scrap material produced during and after production, this comprises vinyl chippings, clean trims and offcuts as well as recovered dust.

In 2022 we also recycled 41 tonnes of post-consumer waste glass (14% more than 2021) combined with aggregates and used in the production of some of our Polysafe products. **That is the same as around 82,000 wine bottles diverted from landfill.**

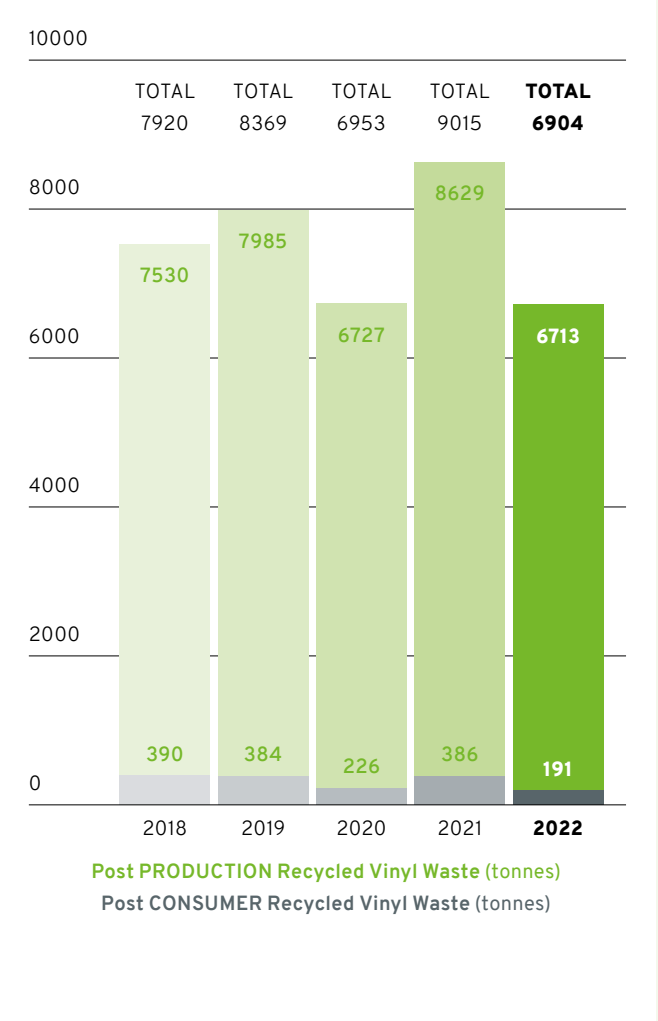
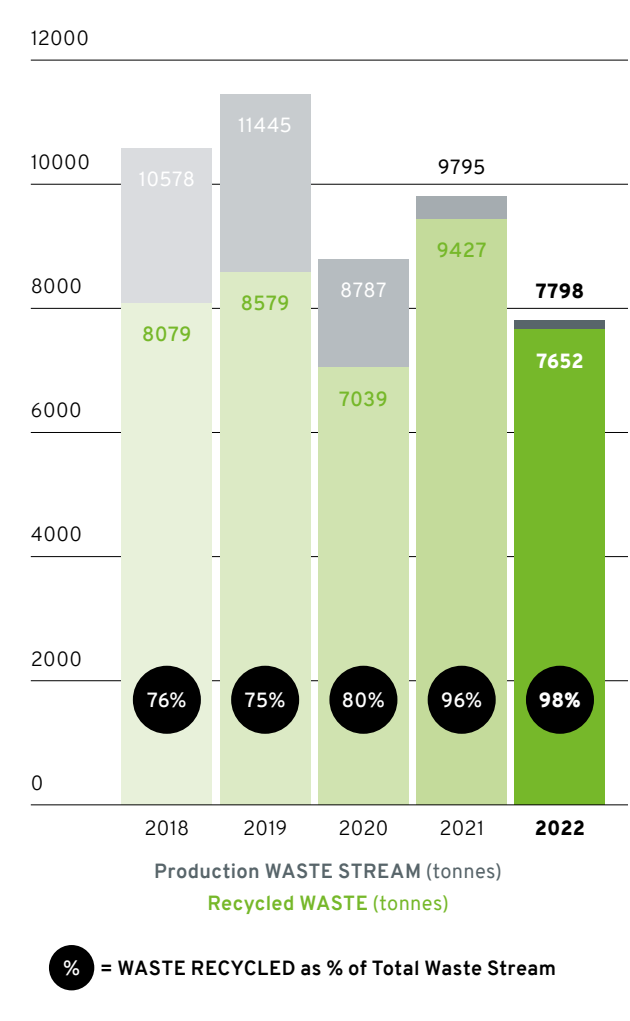
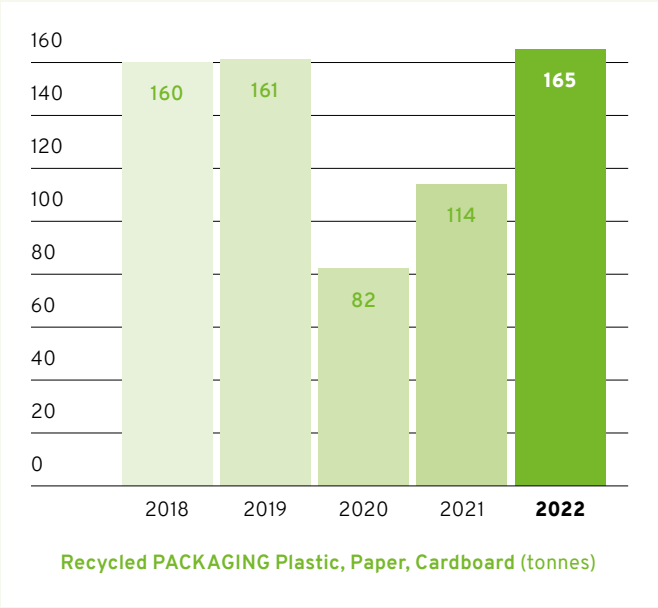
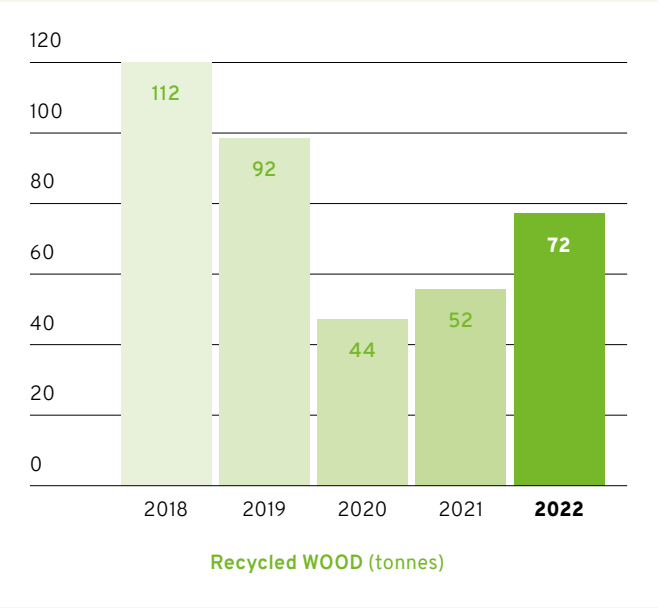
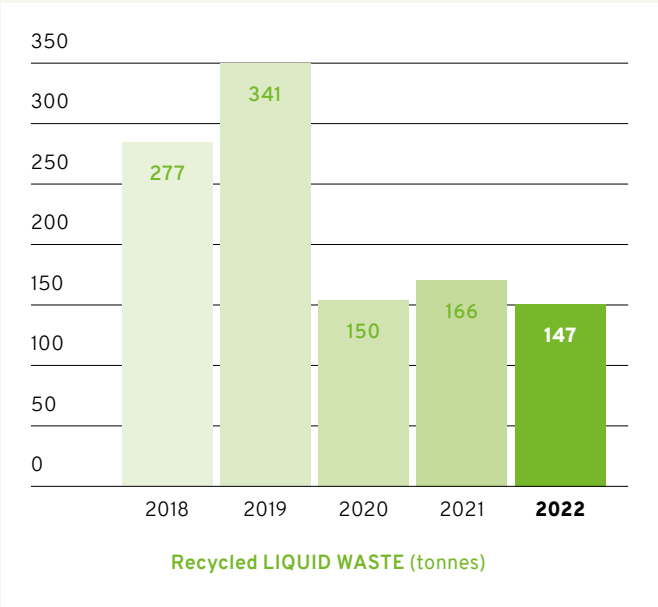
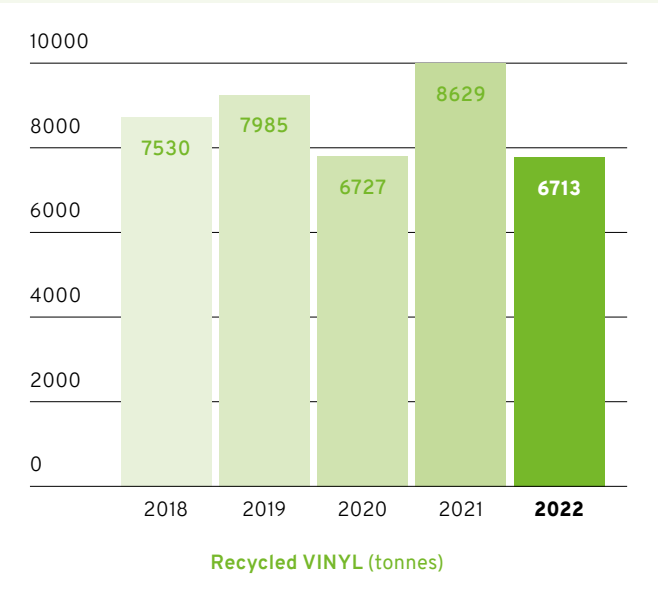
Over the last 5 years, Polyflor has recycled 369 tonnes of glass into Polysafe – that’s 738,000 wine bottles

Post-consumer vinyl waste is returned to Polyflor via the Recofloor recycling scheme, which operates throughout the UK, Eire, Australia and New Zealand. Post-consumer waste that is recycled back into Polyflor flooring is fully controlled and UK REACH compliant.

It is evident that there can be few materials better suited to recycling than vinyl flooring. Vinyl is 100% recyclable and can be recycled many times over without losing performance properties. Furthermore, **recycled vinyl requires 85% less energy to manufacture than virgin PVC.**

It is important to note that 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.

Total Production Waste Recycled (Tonnes)



Our vinyl flooring

100%
RECYCLABLE

UP TO

40%
RECYCLED
MATERIAL CONTENT

UP TO

5%
POST-CONSUMER
RECYCLED CONTENT

In Summary

2022 remained a positive year for our waste management process. Polyflor recycled or repurposed 19% less than the previous year but 9% more than 2020.

Despite a decline in recycled and repurposed waste in 2022, the gap between total waste and waste recycled was extremely narrow, with 98% of the total waste stream being recycled or repurposed – a 2% increase on 2021.

Apart from liquid waste, recycling for other production waste, including packaging and wood increased. Waste vinyl recycled in 2022 fell, however. Post-consumer and post-production tonnages recycled back into Polyflor flooring decreased by 51% and 21% respectively. Total vinyl recycled back into new flooring dropped by 23%. However, recycled vinyl as a percentage of flooring manufactured was 17% - a higher figure than in many of our previous years.

How we’re Improving

Very little waste goes to landfill: Safety flooring goes to a recycling specialist to convert into road safety items. Waste liquids are sent for treatment where the water fraction is separated, and the remainder is used for energy generation. General waste is sent to a sorting site which picks out valuable materials for recycling or reuse, with the rest being sent for energy recovery.

Investment is repeatedly made to improve storage and handling facilities for waste on site, with further sorting bays introduced onto the ‘Waste Yard’. We have also organised visits to waste sites to help our production departments understand the importance of sorting waste.

This improvement will continue, and recycling will remain an important part of our waste management process, including the support provided to the Recofloor recycling scheme and other international vinyl recycling schemes.

EFFICIENT FLEET

HGVs WITH MODERN VI ENGINES

366

HGV JOURNEYS
REMOVED FROM
BACK HAULING

4%

INCREASE IN
BULK LOAD
ORDERS

14%

REDUCTION OF CO₂
EMISSIONS PER
TONNE DISPATCHED

PRODUCT WRAPPED IN RECYCLED & RECYCLABLE PAPER

ELECTRIC FORKLIFT TRUCKS USED



LOGISTICS

STEP 4

Reducing Footprints

We are responsible within the supply chain, and our floor coverings are distributed efficiently through our own well managed fleet and distribution network. We recognise social and environmental impacts of all transportation, therefore adopting appropriate strategies to minimise our carbon footprint.

Warehousing & Packaging

The appropriate storage and packaging of Polyflor’s vast product portfolio is important to us and our customers. Minimising waste, CO₂ and using sustainable packaging, whilst ensuring that our product remains in the warehouse and arrives undamaged is critical.

Warehousing

Polyflor has 3 warehouse units to optimise stock handling for greater supply chain efficiency. At these sites, energy efficient LED lighting has been installed to reduce environmental impact. In 2019, Polyflor replaced 16 of its diesel forklift trucks with electric ones and any remaining diesel FLT’s are under review for replacement this year. Each year an electric forklift truck saves 3,025 kg of CO₂ emissions compared to the diesel FLT’s and additional benefits include being cleaner and quieter, for improved air quality and reduced noise pollution on and around the sites.

Packaging

Ongoing objectives for BES 6001 include assessing current and new packaging to ensure it has the best fit in terms of recycled content and recyclability, as well as minimising double wrapping or potential for damage.

Polyflor flooring is packed in the most effective manner to provide necessary protection, whilst minimising waste. We have minimised the use of plastic, with most of our product packaging being a mix of FSC, recycled and recyclable paper and cardboard. Plastic shrink wrap is still used for palletisation, but recycling of various elements of our packaging waste is organised on site.

As a manufacturer of high-quality vinyl flooring, it is Polyflor’s responsibility to clearly label its product with the CE & UKCA Marks and declare conformity with all the legal requirements to achieve the markings. Polyflor therefore ensures the validity for that product to be sold throughout the European Economic Area (EEA).

- EN 14041, the European standard relevant to the CE mark for floor coverings, has been adopted and is now legally binding. Essential characteristics specified within EN 14041 include:
- Reaction to fire
 - Content of dangerous substances
 - Emission of dangerous substances into indoor air
 - Water tightness
 - Slip resistance (EN 13893)
 - Electrical behaviour
 - Thermal resistance (thermal conductivity)

Once the product is placed on the market with a CE mark the manufacturer must issue and sign a Declaration of Performance, made available in the official language(s) of the member state into which the product is intended to be sold.

As with the CE mark, the UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) marking is a new UK product marking that is used for goods being placed on the market in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland). The UKCA mark, BS EN 14041, works in the same way as the CE mark and covers most goods which previously required the CE marking.



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.

OUR GOAL

Transport Impacts:
To recognise the social and environmental impacts of all transportation and the need to adopt appropriate strategies to reduce adverse impacts, including but not limited to i) Fuel usage / efficiency; ii) Normal emissions to air, land and water; iii) Accidental emissions to air, land and water; iv) Noise; v) Packaging.

Distribution Network

As a UK manufacturer, Polyflor distributes product from its central distribution centre in the North-West of England through a network of distributors throughout the UK and around the world – responsible for regional and local delivery. This model ensures efficiency through the transportation of full, bulk loads.

Transportation

Polyflor operates its own transport fleet in the UK which is frequently maintained and updated to ensure the most fuel-efficient vehicles are used. As such, all Polyflor HGVs have modern Euro VI engines. In addition to improving the HGV fleet, further reductions of the fleet’s environmental impact are achievable through driver efficiencies, using the shortest routes possible and increasing bulk loading and backhauling volumes. Alternative transport methodologies and technology are constantly reviewed.

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

2022 Overview

Polyflor continued to perform well in relation to logistical operations and will continue to do so in line with ongoing BES 6001 and ISO 14001 environmental objectives. These objectives are reinforced within UK Transport Planning – all personnel within the department are conversant with SEMP 3, Schedule of Requirements for Transport Procedures and the Reduction of Transport Impacts.

Monitoring our Fleet & Logistics

Renewing all the fleet to Euro VI engines, meant that changes to the telematics reporting criteria were implemented to improve miles per gallon. Polyflor HGV fleet replaced all 14 Articulated Units in November 2020, to increase MPG figures and further reduce carbon emissions.

The 19 vehicles in Polyflor’s fleet collectively travelled 1,659,595 kilometers, a 1% decrease, and used 463,395 litres of fuel a 1% increase compared to 2021. This produced 1,251 tonnes of carbon emissions, which was an increase of 2%.

Polyflor increased bulk load orders by 4%: Combined with the reduced travel, carbon emissions decreased by 2%, from 1.18 kgs to 1.16 kgs per mile and 14%, from 28.95 kgs to 24.79 kgs per tonne.

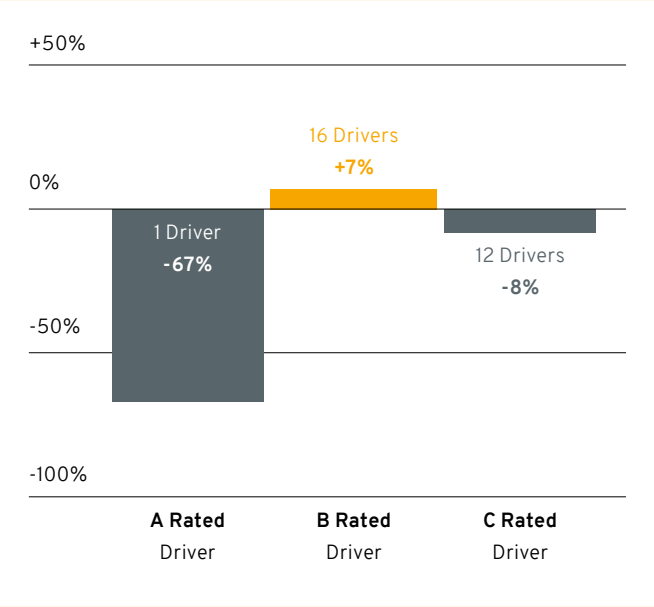
Furthermore, Polyflor’s backhaul operations removed 366 unnecessary HGV journeys from the road network in 2022, which made additional CO₂ savings of 28,743 kgs.



Based on the new emissions levels, it would take over thirty Euro VI engines to create the same NOx levels as one Euro 0 engine from 1993.

Monitoring our Drivers

The telematics function within the Polyflor HGV fleet monitored and assessed vehicle and driver efficiencies. As part of this function, driver CPC Training and MAN Driver Training were used to facilitate Polyflor’s driver assessment process. In 2022, our total number of active drivers went from 31 to 29, with a 100% increase in dedicated Driver Trainers. There was an overall KPI ‘C Rating’ on the MAN KPI system being achieved, although there was an increase of B rated drivers against the previous year.



TRAINING ACADEMY

ENSURING BEST PRACTICE

POLYFLOR HAS PROVIDED
FLOOR FITTING TRAINING TO

1,845

INDUSTRY ASSOCIATES
OVER THE LAST 12 YEARS

ADHESIVE FREE

FLOORING RANGES CAN BE
REUSED OR RECYCLED

CAMARO™
RIGID CORE
INTERLOCKING LVT COLLECTION

Polysafe™ QuickLay PUR

CAMARO™
LOC
INTERLOCKING LVT COLLECTION

EnCORE
RIGID LOC
ACOUSTIC LUXURY VINYL FLOORING

ARCHITEX
Textile backed luxury vinyl sheet flooring

Secura
luxury vinyl sheet flooring

EXPONA® SIMPLAY

Designatex
Textile backed luxury vinyl sheet flooring



INSTALLATION

STEP 5

Sustainable Fit

Polyflor is reducing environmental impacts associated with installation through healthier adhesives, adhesive-free installation and promoting correct installation for a long-lasting, well performing vinyl floor covering.

Sustainable Planning & Installation

Polyflor continues to develop and improve ways to plan and install flooring ranges, with sustainability in mind.

Planning

Effective planning using Polyflor’s range of BIM objects enables cost efficiencies throughout the design process: It allows the specifier to review how different variables affect the function and performance of the product, facilitating a more-informed product selection, which can improve the installation and in-use phases, and economic sustainability.

While accelerating project delivery timings and reducing order errors, it increases the accuracy of specifications and critically minimises wastage.

OUR GOAL

Contribution to the Built Environment:
To develop “loose lay” products with reduced environmental impact for ease of recycling.

Installation

Polyflor has increased the use of sustainable adhesives and adhesive-free vinyl flooring. In fact, Polyflor launched a ‘Fast Track’ collection, comprising adhesive-free loose-lay or click ranges including Camaro Loc, Camaro Rigid Core, Expona EnCore Rigid Loc, Expona Simplay, Secura, Architex, Designatex and Polysafe QuickLay. The Fast Track collection does not require adhesives, providing additional environmental benefits, such as the embedded carbon footprint and further reductions in VOC emissions. Furthermore, the loose-lay ranges (excluding the click ranges – Camaro Loc, Camaro Rigid Core and EnCore Rigid Loc) are reusable as well as recyclable.

With the use of solvent free adhesives across our collection of floor coverings, Polyflor is continually in collaboration with the recommended adhesive manufacturers which offer benefits on the health of the installer, the environment and life cycle of the product. Many of Polyflor’s approved adhesives meet the EC1, EC1 plus and/or Blue Angel certification, this ensures they meet the requirements of LEED and BREEM.

Training & Best Practice

Polyflor currently offers various training courses at our purpose-built Training Academy in Manchester. This is aimed at improving the skill and knowledge sets of installers – this in turn increases the longevity of the floor covering as a quality installation is imperative to ensuring a Polyflor product achieves and exceeds its expected 20-year life. A correct installation facilitates a longer life for the product, reducing repair or renewal costs. More information is on the next page.

Additionally, the Polyflor Technical Information Manual is available on the Polyflor website which relates to BS8203, the installation of resilient floor coverings code of practice. This is a guide on how to install the floor covering to appropriate standards, aimed at enhancing the knowledge of installers, architects etc. Visit www.polyflor.com/technical for more information.



Polyflor Training Academy

Ensuring that we go one step further as a responsible company, it is important that we go beyond producing best quality product and add to our value chain by encouraging best practice throughout the flooring sector also.

Correct installation is crucial to the performance and longevity of Polyflor vinyl flooring. This has significant value economically and sustainably.

The established Training Academy, based at Polyflor Head Office, Manchester, contributes positively to the value chain and continued to deliver high quality 1-4 day training courses throughout 2021 at the purpose-built facility. Again, this was done safely, ensuring plenty of space for each delegate.

Clearly there were periods where we were unable to carry out training, due to Covid-19. However, once courses were opened-up again, they were done so safely with no more than 4 attendees per session, to enable safe, distanced working practices.

The comprehensive training courses from Polyflor, are suited to most skill levels, whether a floor layer with previous experience of laying resilient flooring or an apprentice just starting out in the trade. The courses prepare for everyday scenarios and offer a comprehensive insight into laying the perfect vinyl floor; preparing sub-floors; conditioning; using the correct adhesives to setting-out and fitting.

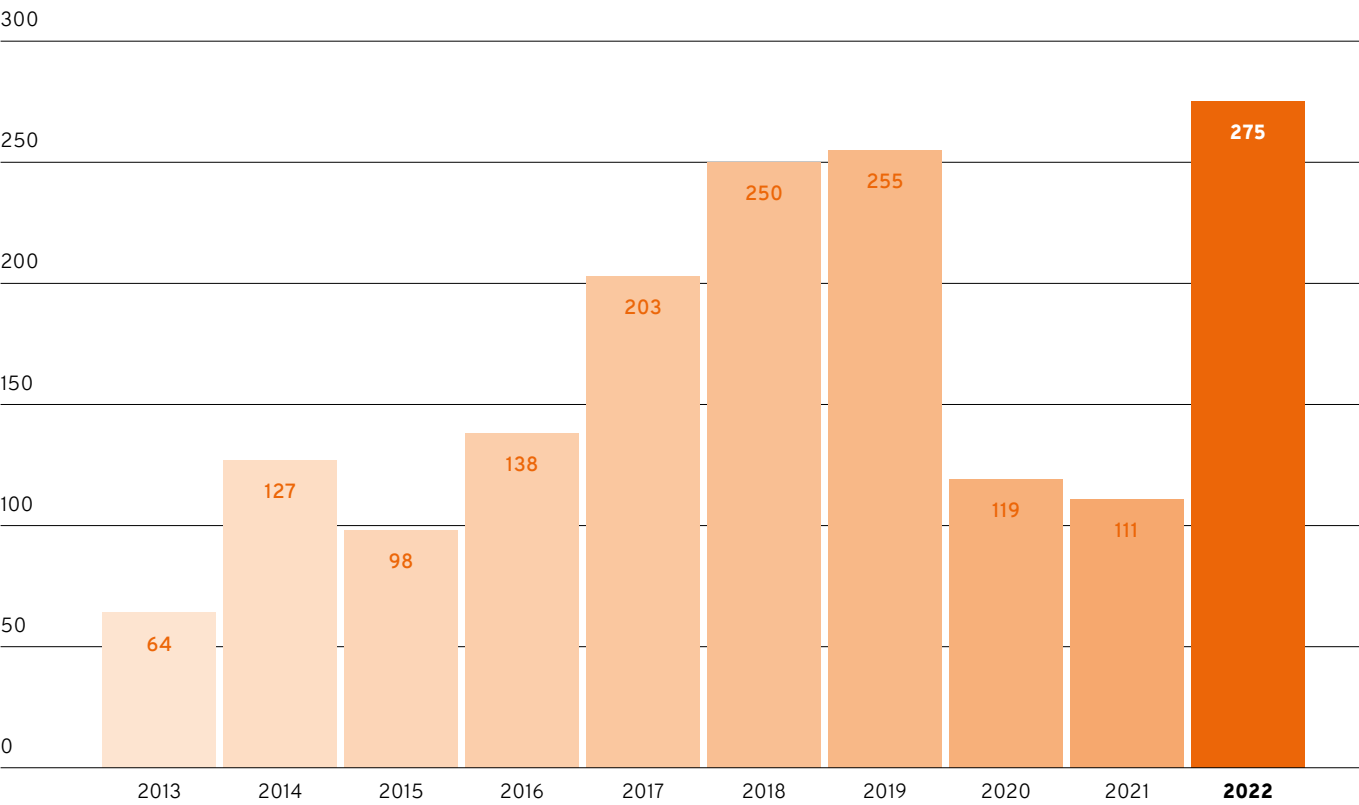
Throughout 2022 Polyflor ran 27 courses – 35% more than 2021. Of which, 21 were on site courses and 6 were off site. In total, 275 delegates attended – a 148% increase, and the biggest volume of attendees since the Training Academy started. Of the 21 on-site training courses held at Whitefield’s Training Academy, 202 delegates were trained, inclusive of 19 Polyflor employees. 73 delegates were trained off-site.

Over the last 12 years Polyflor has provided valuable floor fitting training to 1,845 industry associates.

“Very worthwhile and would recommend it to other fitters.”

Adrian Price - MG Carpets

Polyflor Training Academy Attendee Figures



POLYFLOR
PUR=
LESS
ENERGY
& CHEMICALS

55%
LESS WATER

UP TO
60%
MAINTENANCE
COST SAVING

EXTREMELY
DURABLE
WITH LESS
REPLACEMENTS

20-25+
YEAR LIFE ON
MANY RANGES

LIFETIME
POLISH
FREE

LOW VOC
INDOOR AIR COMFORT
GOLD; FLOORSORE;
AGB; AFSSET; M1



IN USE

STEP 6

Zero Compromise

Accounting for a significant part of our flooring's environmental impact, the in use phase is an important element of the life cycle, given the typical 20-25 year lifespan of most of our products. Low maintenance and low VOC, our floor coverings are fit for purpose without compromising on the environment.

Fit for Purpose

Choosing a quality, fully functional and beautiful floor covering which will stand the test of time is important. Polyflor delivers on this whilst also achieving zero compromise on the environment. A truly fit for purpose flooring, meeting all expectations.

Zero Compromise

Accounting for a significant proportion of a resilient floor covering’s environmental impact, the in-use phase is important within a product’s life cycle, given the potential 20 to 25-year plus lifespan. Therefore, all aspects of this phase are considered, ensuring product is not only timelessly stylish but designed with the latest standards and requirements in mind. Polyflor flooring is functional and practical with low maintenance assured, whilst also safe for human and environmental health with low VOC a prerequisite.

- **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.**

Use Areas

The majority of Polyflor 2.0mm floor coverings obtain the highest Use Area Classification of 23/34/43 to EN 685, making them suitable for heavy domestic, very heavy commercial and heavy or 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 fused together and is inherently more flexible and easily self-coved. This flexibility also means that vinyl has much better recovery from indentation.

Longevity

Effective maintenance and longevity are elements of the product’s life-cycle that Polyflor are keen to constantly develop and improve. So much so, Polyflor offers a Floor Cleaning & Maintenance Course to promote sustainable cleaning processes and educate how to maximise Polyflor floor coverings’ longevity.

Polyflor vinyl floor coverings are exceptionally durable with a lifespan of 20-25 years or more, if suitably maintained. Although in many instances it has been known to last much longer than this:

Polyflor Standard XL was installed in 1974 at Palmerston North Hospital, New Zealand, where it still looks great today!

In 1968, 650m² of Polyflor Standard XL in Black Cherry and Mushroom was installed in the George Civic Centre, South Africa, where it has stood the test of time for 50 years and still looks great. In fact, this floor received an award for the ‘Longest Lifespan Installation’ at the South African Flooring Awards in 2014. With great installation and proper maintenance, it is proven just how durable Polyflor vinyl flooring is.

Safety Performance

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

Fire Performance

Vinyl is engineered to provide the best fire performance characteristics of all resilient flooring materials. Vinyl flooring is slow to ignite in a fire compared to other materials – 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).

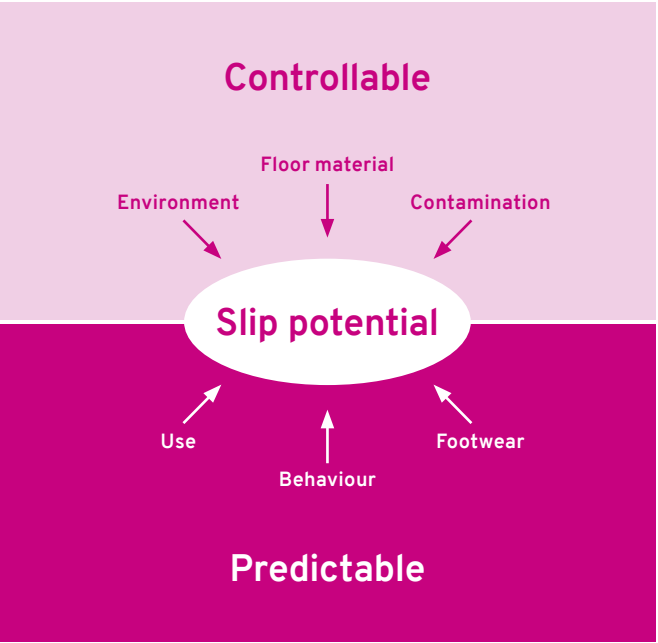
Sustainable Slip Resistance

Polyflor safety flooring can be used in a variety of internal use areas and this also includes locations where hazards are potentially much higher, for instance in kitchens, stairwells and showers where slipping is likely if incorrect flooring is specified and where the consequences of doing so are the most dangerous.

Polysafe flooring is fully compliant with both Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and UK Slip Group Guidelines, offering sustainable wet slip resistance. Using the portable Pendulum Test machine which is advocated by the HSE to measure slip resistance, Polysafe ranges all meet a value in the wet of least 36+, thereby achieving a low slip potential. The Pendulum is the accepted test to denote a floor’s classification as a safety floor rather than relying purely on the ex-factory R values offered by the Ramp Test. Meeting the European standard for particle-based safety flooring – EN 13845, all Polysafe ranges pass the 50,000 cycles abrasion test to the standard, ensuring longevity of slip resistant performance. Ranges are also independently assessed by the British Board of Agrément to provide an assurance of performance for the guaranteed life.

The use of Polysafe flooring helps to reduce the potential for accidents and injuries due to its slip resistance properties. The particles contained within the full performance layer of the product create foot to floor contact in wet conditions and are made up of a combination of aggregates including quartz, aluminium oxide, silicon carbide and recycled glass. Polysafe’s distinctive surface emboss also combines with these particles to provide the required roughness to ensure continual friction in wet areas. All recent additions to the Polysafe portfolio meet all the usual Polysafe credentials but include particles that are carborundum-free and virtually invisible once installed to ensure both a high clarity and safe surface.

For Polysafe, design and functionality go hand in hand with ease of cleaning and most ranges in the collection featuring the exclusive Polysafe PUR maintenance enhancement to provide superior cleaning benefits and the optimum in appearance retention.



Slips and Trips

- Slips and trips are the single most common cause of major injuries in the UK workplace, accounting for 1 in 3 major injuries every year.
- 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.

Source: HSE research

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.

Low Maintenance

Ease of maintenance is an important factor when selecting a floor covering. End users want to keep their flooring in excellent condition and enhance longevity, but also benefit from a cost-effective and simple cleaning regime.

Simply Market Leading Low Maintenance

A poor maintenance regime damages aesthetics, impairs performance, shortens the durability and creates hygiene problems in critical areas. The in-use phase of the resilient flooring life cycle accounts for a significant proportion of its environmental impact, given Polyflor floor covering’s potential 20–25-year life span. Therefore, this can be greatly affected.

In recognition of this, Polyflor provides low maintenance options throughout the product portfolio. We use a straightforward approach to avoid confusing our customers: Our easy to clean PU and PUR ranges ensure the use of polish, water, strippers and chemical cleansers are significantly reduced, thus contributing to significant maintenance cost savings for the life of the floor. Our PUR message is as simple as the maintenance regime.

All new ranges are launched with market leading maintenance benefits built in and existing ranges have had these benefits added, where not originally in place. Continuously improving technologies enables flooring to raise the standard in terms of durability, maintenance and performance, sought by the customer.

The non-PUR (open surface) product required a wearing surface, achieved by applying two or three coats of emulsion polish on the surface to enable the same cleaning regime as a PUR treated product. The polish, therefore, creates a smooth surface that doesn’t collect dirt easily, akin to a PUR. Traditional polish application in a busy

environment, such as a hospital, would require the polish to be stripped off and reapplied three to four times a year. In doing so, a polish stripper (chemical alkaline stripper) must be utilised with plenty of water for rinsing the ensuing residues off the surface ahead of applying new polish. PUR does not require polish and therefore uses over half the amount of water.

Daily and periodic maintenance also use less water and chemicals; if PUR floors are kept clean as we recommend, then daily cleaning is typically a damp (not wet) mop using a (chemically neutral) cleaning agent.

“Polyflor products are extremely durable; surface scuffs and scratches can be removed, and the original appearance of the product restored without ergonomic strain or the use of any chemicals. Flooring can be repaired easily and simply by cutting in and seam welding to achieve a seamless finish.”

John Buchanan
International Technical Manager, Polyflor Ltd

A Simple Approach to Market Leading Low Maintenance

Our Low Maintenance Features

- PUR reinforcement is cross-linked and UV cured for superior cleaning benefits, enhanced protection and optimum appearance retention.
- Environmentally sustainable using less energy, polish, water and cleansing chemicals.
- Polyflor homogeneous PUR is polish free for life and Polysafe PUR should never be polished.
- Polysafe PUR achieves superior cleaning benefits and facilitates easier soil release, whilst enabling optimum appearance retention.
- Economically sustainable, with up to 60% maintenance cost savings over a 20+ year life when compared to untreated vinyl flooring.*

*48% cost saving for smooth PUR ranges and 60% for Polysafe PUR ranges. Calculations based on tests carried out by the BCC. Cleaning operations of PUR product against a non-coated product were costed.

Creating Clean & Hygienic Environments

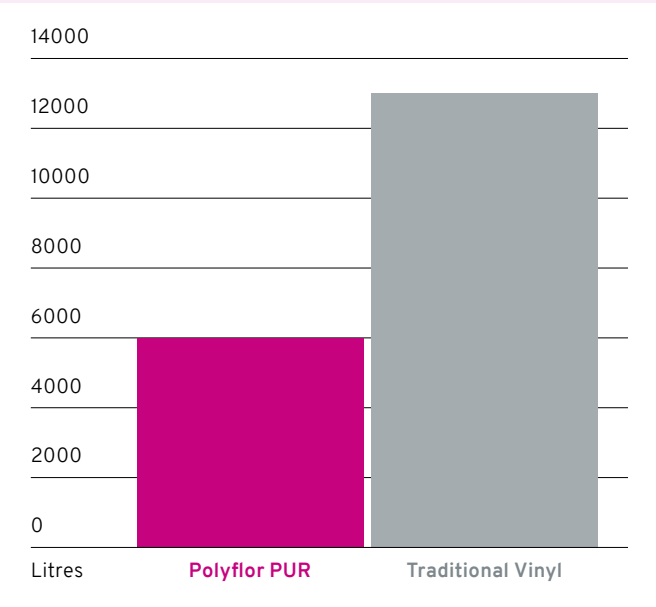
More than ever, it is crucial that our environments are clean and hygienic. Vinyl sheet flooring can be welded at the seams, forming an impervious base that facilitates ease of cleaning by eliminating gaps and cracks where dirt and bacteria can gather.

PUR, LVT PUR and Polysafe safety PUR ranges are compatible for use with the most-commonly used alco-based hand gels, some of which have a very high concentration of ethanol.

Discuss this further with our experienced Customer Technical Services Department by emailing tech@polyflor.com.

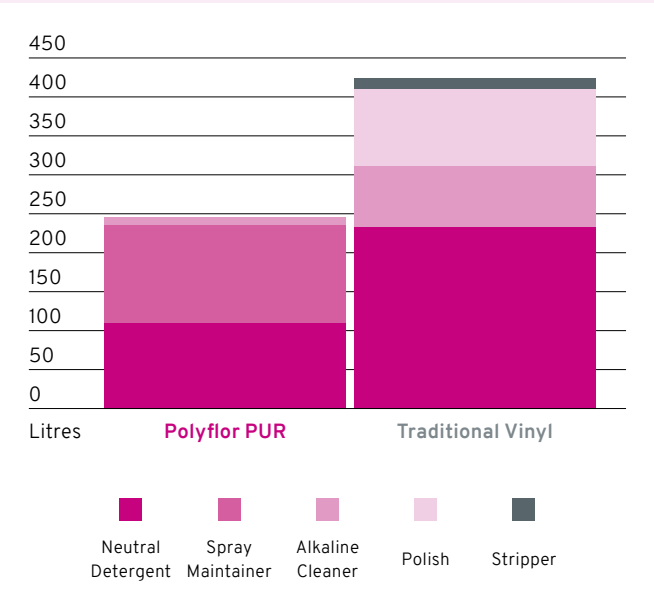
55% Less Water

WATER USAGE
1 year 1000m² Polyflor PUR vs Traditional Vinyl (Litres)



Polish Free for Life

CHEMICAL USAGE
1 year 1000m² Polyflor PUR vs Traditional Vinyl (Litres)



Floor Cleaning & Maintenance Course

Adding to the Value Chain, Polyflor continued its free, Floor Cleaning & Maintenance Course, aimed at facilities management staff and others in the healthcare, education, housing, retail and commercial sectors. The day-long course aims to educate how to get the best from a Polyflor vinyl floor covering by using the correct cleaning methods and products. Correct maintenance facilitates a longer life, reducing costs and frequency of purchasing new flooring.

Indoor Air Quality

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

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) is an important consideration at specification. However, increased emphasis is now being made on major contributors such as poor ventilation, rather than building products such as flooring, which generally have insignificant VOC emissions.

A recent report, ‘Every Breath We Take: the lifelong impact of air pollution’, by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and the Royal College of Physicians and Child Health (RCPCH), warns of hidden dangers that everyday products such as personal hygiene, DIY, cleaning, faulty boilers, fly sprays and even air fresheners contribute to poor indoor air quality.

Dr Andrew Goddard, the Royal College of Physicians lead for the report, said: “Taking action to tackle air pollution in the UK will reduce the pain and suffering for many people with long term chronic health conditions, not to mention lessening the long term demands on our NHS.”

Our flooring ranges have passed key international standards, but we continuously look to reformulate our ranges to ensure their VOC emissions are kept to the lowest levels achievable. Polyflor ranges have undergone many independent and rigorous VOC tests and have approval certification for the following: AGB; Swedish B.P.D (FLEC test); Finland M1 test; Afsset A+ and FloorScore®. The most recent test

method by Eurofins, is ‘Indoor Air Comfort’. This test method is the most comprehensive and stringent within the industry, worldwide, and tests for all known emissions. Polyflor products tested to date have achieved Indoor Air Comfort Gold. Additionally, Polyflor products conform to health and safety standard EN 14041:2004 via an E1 Declaration, which confirms that formaldehyde is not used in any Polyflor vinyl products.

Polyflor vinyl is favoured for its superior ‘cleanability’ over other flooring products and is used in the strictest of hygiene zones throughout hospitals. An additional benefit of Polyflor’s low maintenance PUR products is the minimised VOC emissions from reduced cleaning chemicals.

Along with positive VOC test results there is no evidence to suggest that vinyl flooring contributes to common allergies such as asthma or dust allergies. It is non-shedding, where most allergies are caused by airborne dust (clean room test certification for non-shedding is available on most ranges).

IAQ should be considered when selecting building products and for the reasons provided, Polyflor vinyl flooring makes a significant contribution towards creating indoor environments with very low VOC emissions: Low VOC emissions is a prerequisite of the WELL Building Standard™. Our certified products will also contribute towards the Health & well-being (HEA 02) Credit on a BREEAM® project, the EQ Credit: Low Emitting Materials on a LEED® project and points on the IEQ-VOC section of a Green Star® project.

Polyflor IAQ Benefits

- No negative contribution to indoor air quality.
- Passed all the most stringent international VOC emissions tests, including Indoor Air Comfort Gold, FloorScore®, M1 and Afsset.
- E1 Declaration conformance to EN 14041:2004.
- Reduced VOC emissions by low maintenance routine (less cleaning chemicals).
- Adhesive free ranges reduce emissions further.
- Meets WELL Building Standard®.
- Contributes to BREEAM®, LEED®, and Green Star® projects.



POLYFLOR IS A COFOUNDER OF RECOFLOOR

TAKE WASTE
POLYFLOR TO
DISTRIBUTORS'
**DROP OFF
SITES FOC**

OR
70%
COST SAVING
THROUGH
ARRANGED
COLLECTIONS

6,445
TONNES OF
POST-CONSUMER
WASTE VINYL
COLLECTED
SINCE 2009=

301
FOOTBALL
PITCHES
THAT'S
7,560
TONNES OF CO₂=
1,973
CARS OFF
THE ROAD

100%
RECYCLABLE



CLOSING THE LOOP

STEP 7

Recycling

We have been recycling our post-production waste vinyl since the 1950s and now collect and recycle post-consumer waste vinyl too. Many of our floor coverings can be reused, but if not, they are recyclable through the Recofloor take back scheme or other initiatives and outlets.

Stewardship Commitment

A concern we all have is that plastic (and any other waste) should not be in our seas and oceans, this has a massive ecological impact and the UK, along with other developed nations, must set an example of best practice. Polyflor is committed to being part of the solution, not the problem.

The Circular Economy Package

The Circular Economy Package has introduced new European regulation to recycle 70% of waste and to decrease landfill by targets of 30% and 50% in 2020 and 2025 respectively. It is expected that landfill bans for recyclable waste will be binding by 2025.

Polyflor is fully committed to the recycling of its post-production waste and its post-consumer waste, supporting voluntary industry-wide commitments. Polyflor is an active member of 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®, 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 recycling 900,000 tonnes per year of PVC by 2025 and 1 million tonnes by 2030.

In 2021, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 810,775 tonnes of PVC waste were recycled through VinylPlus®, the voluntary commitment to sustainable development of the European PVC industry.

The resilient flooring industry in Europe is represented by the European Resilient Flooring Manufacturers' Institute (ERFMI), of which Polyflor is a member. For PVC alone, ERFMI members recycled more than 130,000 tonnes in 2019.

Revinylfloor is the circular economy platform for PVC flooring managed under the umbrella of ERFMI, which is working towards post-consumer technologies to tackle vinyl flooring waste. Revinylfloor has received co-funding from VinylPlus® to help develop a more circular economy for

PVC flooring and pursue research in the identification, sorting and recycling of PVC floor coverings.

ERFMI is currently involved with several projects aligned with Circular Plastics Alliance principles, which are seeking solutions for legacy additives in vinyl flooring that present challenges for recycling post-consumer material. ERFMI's involvement includes contributing expertise to the EU project Circular Flooring, which is researching recycling end-of-life PVC floor coverings using the Fraunhofer CreaSolv® Process. The project runs until May 2023 and aims to assess the technical and commercial feasibility of this recycling process for PVC floor coverings at an industrial scale.

“We and our members are very committed to working towards achieving a circular economy for our industry and that’s one of the cornerstones of our roadmap. We are working with the other signatories from across the plastics value chain to reach the goals laid down in the Circular Plastics Alliance.”

Jane Gardner
Managing Director, ERFMI



Polyflor’s Commitment

In a bid to address and tackle the waste problem within the construction industry, Polyflor tackled this head on by becoming a proud co-owner of Recofloor, the waste vinyl flooring recycling scheme which is available throughout the UK with operations in Australia, New Zealand and Iceland. 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 and contributes to Polyflor’s value chain.

Recycling for Polyflor is easy and something we have been doing since day one, back in the 1950s.

Polyflor also uses recycled glass, which is post-consumer waste combined with the aggregates into many of the Polysafe ranges. In 2022 41 tonnes of recycled glass went into some Polysafe products, a 14% increase on 2021 – that’s 82,000 wine bottles.

Polyflor will stay committed to recycling end of life vinyl through VinylPlus® and the Recofloor scheme, as well as other international schemes. 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. Naturally we will continue to recycle our own post-production waste vinyl, as we have done since the 1950s.

DID YOU KNOW?

41 Tonnes
of recycled glass went into some
Polysafe products in 2022

That’s the equivalent of
82,000 Wine Bottles





Recofloor

In line with Circular Economy principles, Polyflor has a take-back scheme which uses reverse logistics to recover and recycle its post-consumer waste vinyl flooring.

The Recofloor scheme significantly helps minimise the environmental impact of our products' life cycles and the industry's as a whole, not only through closing the loop and preventing landfill but also reducing CO₂ emissions.

Over the last 13 years, Recofloor has been playing a valuable role in assisting floor fitters with efficiently recycling their waste vinyl flooring. Opportunities have been created for distributors to add value to their service by becoming drop-off sites for Recofloor. It has helped specifiers reach their sustainability objectives towards achieving zero avoidable waste, whilst also helping them work towards their carbon net zero goals.

About Recofloor

- Polyflor is a cofounding and funding member of Recofloor, the industry's leading vinyl take-back scheme for recycling end of life post-consumer vinyl flooring in the UK.
- Polyflor invests a great deal into Recofloor and helps drive its success by continually promoting it and engaging with customers.
- Through Recofloor, Polyflor can recycle smooth (homogeneous, heterogeneous, LVT, loose lay) and safety installation offcuts, smooth uplifted flooring and old stock roll-ends and samples.
- This material is recovered and recycled into new flooring or other useful products such as traffic cones.
- Customers must register with the scheme and then request branded collection containers for their waste vinyl.
- Regardless of waste material volumes, there is an outlet accessible for everyone:
- **Small volumes** - Drop-off sites at distributors are available FOC.
- **Large volumes** - Collected on pallets directly from live projects on timed collections or collected from contractors' sites. There are collection fees but compared to the standard landfill cost of £98.60 per tonne, these nominal fees can save up to 70%.

For more information go to
www.polyflor.com/sustainability

Alternatively contact Recofloor directly on
0161 355 7618 or www.recofloor.org

"At the construction site 8% of the material is assumed to be wasted."

BRE Global

"Recofloor is much more than just a collection scheme; its whole ethos also forms a core part of many companies' sustainability commitments in the flooring sector."

Carla Eslava
Recofloor Scheme Manager

"It's surprising how much waste can be generated. Sorting our installation waste is an important daily task at the warehouse; 12 fitters striving to make a difference to our environment. The Recofloor brand is a huge part of our business, which carries a lot of weight with larger building companies. For example, Skanska recognises our commitment to recycling as we can show them our Recofloor certificate as evidence that we are 100% committed to recycling our vinyl flooring waste."

Mark Purnell
Managing Director, Fantasy Flooring

WHAT WE Take Back

✓
POST INSTALLATION
CLEAN VINYL OFFCUTS
(SAFETY AND ALL SMOOTH
INCLUDING LVT)

✓
OLD STOCK VINYL
ROLL-ENDS &
SAMPLES (SMOOTH
OR SAFETY VINYL)

✓
SMOOTH UPLIFTED
FLOORING DEPENDING
ON CONDITION
AND QUALITY

✓
PLEASE ENSURE
MATERIAL FOR
COLLECTION IS AS
CLEAN AS POSSIBLE

Recofloor's Journey

Since 2009 Recofloor has achieved a great deal and is now the industry leading facilitator for efficiently reclaiming vinyl flooring, with 536 members on board and 58 registered distributors nationwide, acting as drop-off sites for the scheme.

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. Since then, Recofloor has won numerous awards including the prestigious Gold Award in the International Green Apple Environment Awards 2013, for Environmental Best Practice. Recofloor's 'Cost Calculator', was a great initiative and continues to help contractors calculate how much it would cost to send their waste to landfill and the savings they will generate by using Recofloor instead.

Volumes are consistently strong, with 6,445 tonnes having been collected since the scheme started in 2009. This volume equals 2,148,333m² or 53,708 x 20m rolls of Polyflor Palettone PUR floor covering - that's enough vinyl waste flooring to cover 301 football pitches. This has had a positive impact on CO₂ carbon emissions too, saving 7,560 tonnes of CO₂ - the same as taking 1,973 cars off the road.

Our customers are the true stars, who have embraced and supported this unique scheme. Distributors' involvement has 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 today, there are 58 drop-off sites nationwide. The drop-off sites have also facilitated Recofloor's collection and recycling process. Furthermore, CO₂ emissions have been reduced by minimising needless drop-off and pick-up journeys.

Recofloor Timeline 2009 - 2022

- 2009** Recofloor is co-founded by Polyflor
- 2010** Winners of the CIWM Award for Innovative Practice (SME)
- 2011** First year that more than 450 tonnes are collected in a year
- 2012** First annual Recofloor Awards Event
- 2012** BCE Award winner for Environmental Leadership
- 2013** Green Apple, Gold Award winner for Environmental Best Practice
- 2014** Recofloor reaches the milestone of 2000 tonnes collected
- 2014** Winners of M.E.N Environmental Awards
- 2015** Over 100 new members join Recofloor
- 2016** letsrecycle.com winners for Excellence in Recycling & Waste Management Awards
- 2017** Recofloor reaches the milestone of 3,000 tonnes collected
- 2018** Recofloor recycles record 570 tonnes in a year
- 2020** Recofloor reaches the milestone of 5,000 tonnes collected
- 2021** The 10th Recofloor Awards honour its dedicated members
- 2022** Recofloor reaches the milestone of 6,000 tonnes collected

Recofloor Awards



WINNER

Let's Recycle Award –
Excellence in
Recycling & Waste
Management 2016



WINNER

MEN (Manchester
Evening News)
Environmental Business
of the Year Award 2014



WINNER

Gold International Green
Apple Environment Awards
2013, for Environmental
Best Practice



WINNER

BCE (Business
Commitment to
the Environment)
Premier Award 2011



WINNER

CIWM (Chartered Institute of Wastes
Management) Award for Environmental
Excellence in the category of SME
Innovative Practice, 2010

6,445
TONNES OF
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THE ROAD

What Happens to the Collected Material?

Returning clean offcuts via Recofloor is the best and most sustainable way of ensuring that they can be recycled, and the material gets another life.

The scrap material is either collected from distributors in the large bins, or we collect from a live site or contractor’s premises in the bulk bags we provide. This material comes back to Polyflor for sorting and gets categorised accordingly.

The returned installation offcuts, loose lay uplift and roll ends or sample waste can be reprocessed and recycled back into new flooring, ensuring a ‘circular’ flow of materials. Generally, this contributes to around 25% of our floor coverings’ content.

Uplifted smooth and any post-consumer vinyl flooring not suitable for recycling into new flooring can also be reprocessed and used again. This waste vinyl is recycled into downgraded products such as traffic cones, traffic management products, fencing blocks and advertising sign bases where it is given a long and useful ‘second life’, stopping it going into landfill.

The uplifted waste goes to third parties, such as Oldham-based Heyside Plastics Ltd, where its two factories recycle 300 tonnes of waste vinyl and produce 300 tonnes of new products from that material per week - thousands of traffic management products, including traffic cone bases, speed bumps and fencing blocks are manufactured on a weekly basis.

8mm chips are extruded to form a ‘dough’ at a temperature of 200°C. This hot ball of black plastic is then weighed and compression-moulded on the tool to form one of the mentioned products.

“The material arrives at our back door in Recofloor bulk bags and is shredded or granulated into 8mm chips. These are extruded, compression-moulded and formed into new products that leave through the front door. It’s an end-to-end recycling and manufacturing process.”

Matt Pryce
MD, Heyside Plastics Ltd.



- 1 Uplifted flooring or offcuts
- 2 Placed in bags
- 3 Collected for recycling
- 4a Recycled into new flooring
- 4b Recycled into useful products

Recofloor in 2022

2022 Key Targets

- A collection forecast of 600 tonnes.
- Commence the overhaul of the bins for the Southern members.
- Celebrate the Recofloor Awards event to recognise members efforts during 2021.
- Deliver communication and engagement campaigns to strengthen awareness of Recofloor within and outside the flooring sector.

2022 Actual

Typically, Recofloor has increased tonnage volumes collected year on year and with this in mind, our goal was to achieve 600 tonnes. Despite our best efforts we hit 476 tonnes in total, missing our target by 124 tonnes, due to socio-economic and market-specific factors of 2022 – some of which are outlined below:

- A decrease in stock clearance from distributors.
- Changes in the way distributors operate, with many providing a delivery service to customers post-pandemic.
- Innovations with flooring have meant that less waste is produced during the installation process.

“The Recofloor service is very convenient for us, especially for contractors who want to drop off small amounts of flooring and it all helps to save money.”

Nathan Campling
Director, Eden Flooring and Interiors

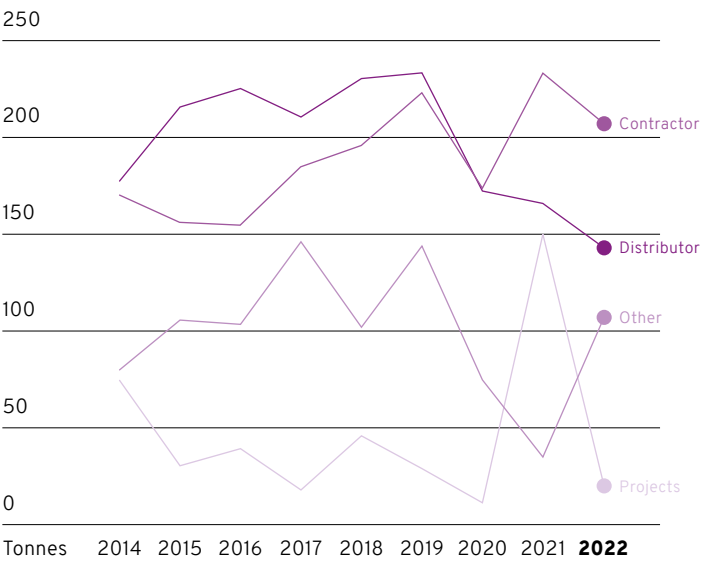
“The reduced disposal cost and the positive effect on the environment proved very appealing to the main contractor.

“We had 4 days to uplift and screed which was achievable with the prompt collection by Recofloor.”

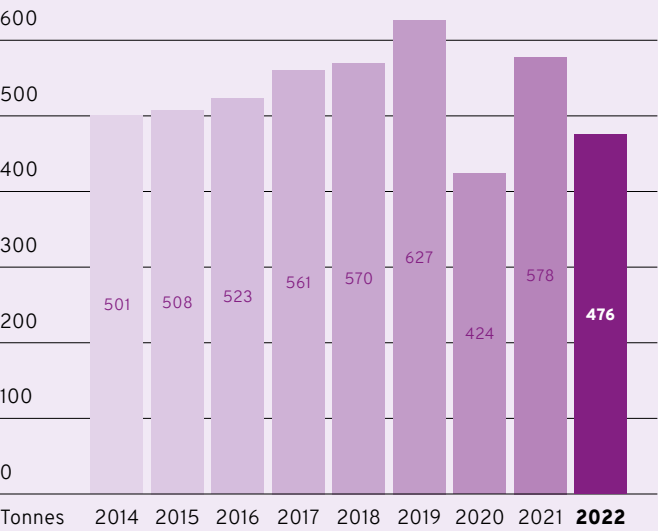
Tony Brown
Managing Director, FMI Contracts

Volume by Type of Site 2014-2022

Contractor and distributor engagement remained the main driving force of the volumes collected, although distributor volumes declined by 16%, probably attributed to the change in circumstances. Contractor volumes also decreased in 2022 but this was marginal, by just 9% compared to 2021.

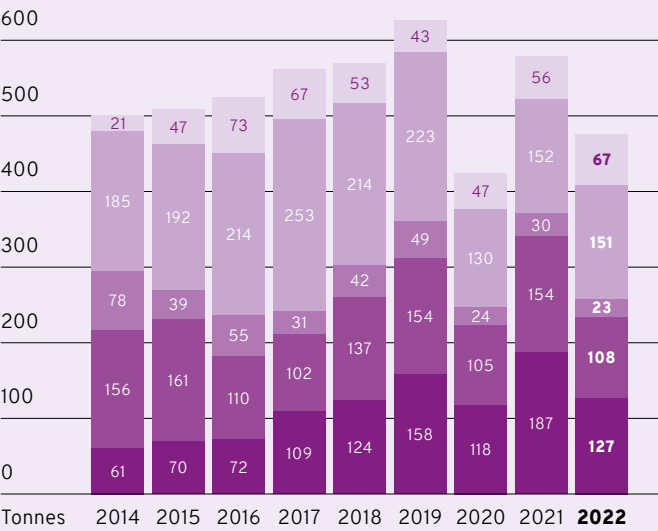


Tonnes Collected 2014-2022

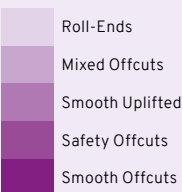


Volumes collected during 2022 were 18% lower than 2020, but 12% higher than 2020. The graph above shows the total figures since Recofloor’s launch in 2009.

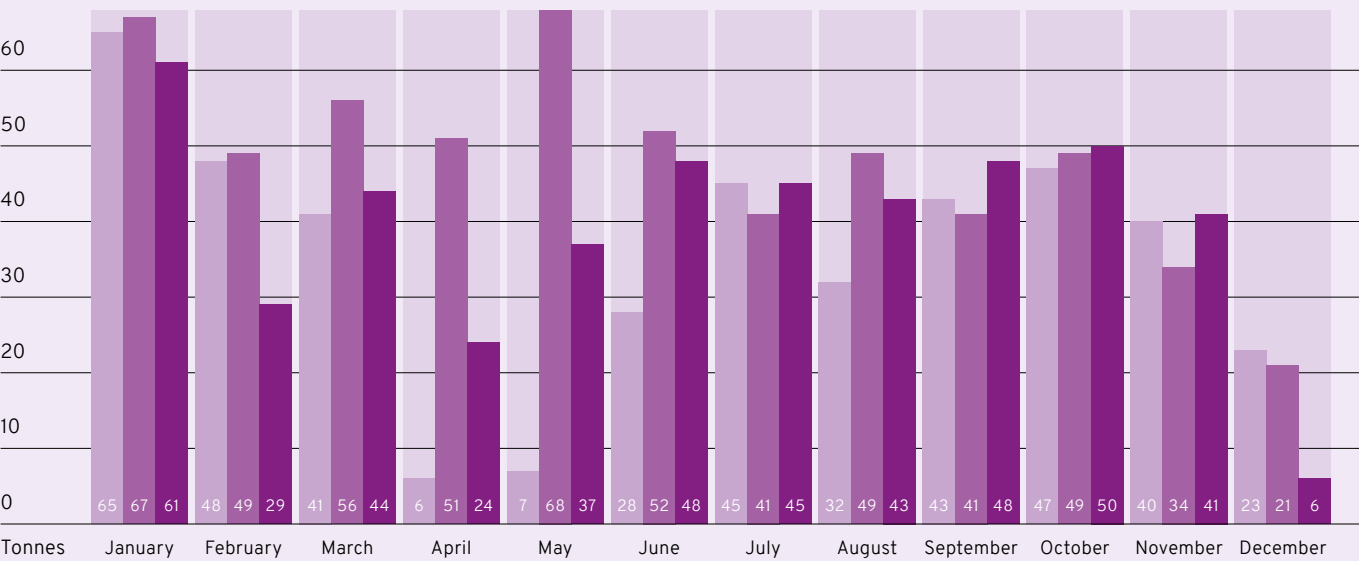
Type of Material Collected 2014-2022



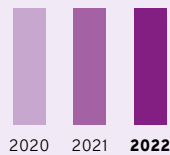
Post-installation offcuts (inclusive of roll ends) remained the main type of material collected, representing 95% of the total volumes collected in 2022. The only growth came from the collection of roll ends, a 20% increase on the previous year.



Tonnes Collected by Month 2020-2022



This shows the monthly volumes collected over the last three years. The best month in 2022 was January, which is typically a good month for volumes, year on year.



Recofloor 2022 KPI Roundup

Recycling PVC flooring through Recofloor is estimated to save 1.17 tonnes of CO₂ for every tonne of flooring recycled.

Collections & Logistics

476
TONNES WERE COLLECTED IN 2022,
18% DECREASE ON 2021 FORECAST
AND ON PREVIOUS YEAR

95%
OF MATERIAL COLLECTED WAS
POST-INSTALLATION OFFCUTS,
INCLUDING ROLL-ENDS

78%
OF VOLUMES COLLECTED
CAME FROM CONTRACTORS
AND DISTRIBUTORS

Members

31
COMPANIES/FITTERS JOINED
THE SCHEME, A 19% INCREASE

536
MEMBERS REGISTERED,
A 6% INCREASE

Marketing

30%
OPEN RATE ON FREQUENTLY
ISSUED E-NEWS

THE MAIN AWARDS EVENT TOOK
PLACE AT TWICKENHAM RFU
WITH GUEST HOST BRIAN MOORE.
WINNERS WERE PRESENTED WITH
TROPHIES AND CERTIFICATES.

INCREASED USE OF AND
PRESENCE ON LINKEDIN, TWITTER
AND FACEBOOK PLATFORMS

Why Take Part?

- The drop-off sites are free of charge. For non-timed collections and timed collections from live projects there are nominal fees of around **£30** and **£60** per tonne respectively, which could save our members up to **70%** by recycling through Recofloor, rather than landfilling (costing **£98.60** per tonne)
- Recofloor ties in with site waste management requirements
- Certificates of commitment are awarded to impress and gain new contracts
- Recofloor Awards – Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates are issued to members who have significantly recycled, as well as awards for numerous categories such as ‘Distributor of the Year’; ‘Contractor of the Year’ and ‘Construction Project of the Year’
- Customers are keen to see their waste flooring recycled
- Recofloor can be specified as an outlet for vinyl waste in tenders
- Could help achieve extra points on BREEAM & LEED assessments
- Recycling PVC flooring through Recofloor is estimated to save **1.17** tonnes of CO₂ for every tonne of flooring recycled

“Recofloor has definitely had a direct influence on my company securing a lot of contracts with local authorities and NHS Trusts who are also looking to further their green credentials with their sustainability targets.

“Recofloor is an extension of our team, helping us to deliver a quality service to our clients. All our employees are fully briefed on Recofloor, what it means to both them and us and what we’re trying to achieve. We have regular Toolbox Talks to discuss different issues, one of which being the Recofloor scheme. All new starters on their induction are fully briefed on what it is, how we do it and how we recycle.

“In this industry, it’s important to have integrity and you can’t demonstrate that much more than in helping to save the planet.”

Anthony Francis
Managing Director, Mayfield Floors.

“I think the Recofloor scheme is brilliant; recycling is the best thing that should happen to old vinyl. I take any vinyl out of the skips, put it into the Recofloor bags and ask the fitters to check for contaminants in their bags too. We do save on disposal costs through the scheme; four bags cost £30 each versus £250 for a skip of the same size – so that’s a 50% saving and vinyl is not going into landfill.”

Jeff Abbott
Warehouse Manager, Top Floors, Ipswich

2023 Key Targets

- A forecast collection of 500 tonnes.
- Continue with delivery of the core activities, including attending events and meetings when required.
- Maintain members’ level of engagement by multi-touch communication, incentives and a fit for purpose collection service.



2022 Recofloor Awards

For the 11th year running, the annual awards rewarded members for their hard work and efforts in recycling vinyl waste flooring.

2022’s event was hosted by England and British Lions Rugby Union legend, Brian Moore, at Twickenham Stadium, London.



“In times when the planet is under threat in all sorts of ways, anything that can help stop landfilling and recycle materials is absolutely welcome. And the fact that Recofloor and the awards scheme is helping that is even more welcome.

“Hearing about the volumes involved in terms of contracts and in terms of amounts of CO₂ saved, it’s significant and we just need this to be replicated in every other industry to try to find ways not to add to what is already a very difficult problem.

“We can’t be asking other countries to make sacrifices to help save the planet if we ourselves are not making efforts. It’s only when you say we’re doing our bit, then please do yours. And if you can’t persuade people, then you’ve tried. But what else are you supposed to do? It’s for our kids and grandkids, we’ll be long gone when the crunch time comes. We’ve only got one world; what sort of legacy do you want to leave?”

Brian Moore
Guest Host

CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

Kilworth Flooring & Furnishing Co. Ltd



“After my son, Will’s, success in being named Recofloor Champion at the 2021 Recofloor Awards, it was motivation for us to push a bit harder with our recycling efforts. It’s really satisfying to see those things come to fruition so quickly and we’re delighted to have won this award.”

Neil Stanway
Managing Director, Kilworth Flooring & Furnishing Co. Ltd

Highly Commended New Homes Flooring Ltd

DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR

Nutland Carpet Accessories Ltd



“We are absolutely thrilled to win Recofloor’s Distributor of the Year Award for 2022. Obviously, the past few years have been a challenging time for everyone, but it has been great to see how committed our customers have still been to this recycling scheme.”

James Smith
Managing Director, Nutland Carpet Accessories Ltd, Chancellors Ford

Highly Commended Lee Floorstok, Ltd, Liverpool

DROP-OFF SITE USER OF THE YEAR

Absolute Flooring (SW) Ltd



“Winning this award for the second time comes as a welcome surprise and we are very proud to be continuing our great work with Recofloor for 2022 and beyond. Absolute Flooring is grateful to be able to work so closely with both Recofloor and Fitwell Flooring in Redruth to keep pushing to recycle even more of our leftover materials that would otherwise be sent directly to landfill.

“We are immensely proud as a company to do such great work with Recofloor and it gives us a boost to keep doing what we are doing.”

Ben Clarkson
Surveyor, Absolute Flooring (SW) Ltd

Highly Commended Commercial Flooring Bristol Ltd

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

MacGregor Flooring Company Ltd,
Louisa Jordan Hospital



“We are extremely happy to win such a prestigious award. Macgregor Flooring Company believes in the recycling of vinyl and what Recofloor has achieved over the years.

“Recofloor has saved us a lot of money by using the take back scheme. We recycle everything we possibly can and have done so for a long time.

“More than three years ago we were lucky to receive a large grant from Zero Waste Scotland to start our Circular Economy Adventure and we understand more than anything that the world is running out of natural resources and why recycling is a must.”

Hamish MacGregor
Chairman/CEO, MacGregor Flooring Company

Highly Commended Floorings Frome Ltd, Blenheim Hall

RECOFLOOR CHAMPION

Neil Stanway - Kilworth Flooring
& Furnishing Company Ltd



“Having joined Recofloor in 2019, in 2020 we were Highly Commended as Best Newcomer, and following year we were Highly Commended in the Contractor of the Year category. So, it was just nice to see the progression of the efforts come through and to end up being, not the ‘bridesmaid’ this time, but the ‘bride’. It’s an honour to receive this award.”

Neil Stanway
Managing Director, Kilworth Flooring & Furnishing Co. Ltd

Highly Commended Commercial Flooring Bristol Ltd

BEST NEWCOMER

Rome Flooring Ltd



“I feel honoured and very grateful about winning this award.”

Mitchell Purnell
Rome Flooring Ltd

RECOGNITION AWARD

Birch Distribution, Sheffield



“As a long-standing member of Recofloor, it’s great to receive this award and nice to be recognised for playing our part in recycling the waste vinyl.

“We’ve filled a few football pitches over the years with the volumes we’ve not sent to landfill through taking part in Recofloor and we’re continuing to get the recycling message to all our contractors.”

Nigel Maude, Branch Manager
Birch Distribution Ltd, Sheffield

LONGSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Middlesex Flooring Ltd



“We’ve been with Recofloor since it started, and it’s been easy working with the scheme. We’re a smallish company so we’ve always done our bit since it started, and I think we’re up to about 26 tonnes now.

“The scheme is simple to use and definitely every little bit helps. We’re very pleased to win the award; it’s good for business and it’s good to be recognised for doing your bit.”

Craig Gargan, Managing Director
Middlesex Flooring Ltd

BRAND AMBASSADOR

Mariusz Janczewski - First Call Flooring



“It’s great to win this award and quite helpful as we do a lot of commercial work, like schools, in the Bristol area. We’re proud to have won this award and it is of big value to us as we can demonstrate our recycling credentials to our customers, which will help us to get more work.”

Mariusz Janczewski
Managing Director, First Call Flooring Ltd

Highly Commended Absolute Flooring (SW) Ltd



Recofloor Case Study

Project: **Louisa Jordan Hospital – Decommissioning**

Location: **Glasgow**

SQM: **12,300m²**

Product: **Polyflor QuickLay PUR**

“At the start of the pandemic MacGregor Flooring Company were asked to be part of the team responsible for turning the Scottish Exhibition Centre into a temporary hospital, which was later named the Louisa Jordan Hospital. Due to the nature of this project and the extremely tight time frames that we were working under there were no product specifications or detailed tender documents to work with. In tandem with our partners, we proposed the use of the Polyflor QuickLay product as we knew this could be reused or recycled, which was extremely important as this was only a temporary hospital.

“In May 2021, we were drafted back in to lift the flooring that had been laid at the start of the pandemic. In total we lifted around 12,300m² of product. 800m² was reused gifted to local charities within the Glasgow area. The remaining 11,500m² was recycled via the Recofloor scheme. Our team worked across the course of a week to re-lift the material, palletise and wrap it to keep it safe before collection.

“Although, it may have been easier to dispose of the lifted material, this was never an option for us at MacGregor Flooring Company.

“We proudly recycle materials wherever we can and are always looking for new ways to recycle more.”

MacGregor Flooring Company

2 Recorded Recofloor collections

22 PALLETS=	41 PALLETS=
7.62	13.22
TONNES	TONNES



International Schemes

At present, our collections predominantly 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 progress in recycling, even where distances are large, and logistics of any recycling operation are more complex. National legislation and local attitudes also play a major part in the implementation and success of recycling.

South Africa

Polyflor South Africa’s initiative, the Polyflor Recycling Vinyl Flooring scheme, made progress in 2022 with 3.3 tonnes of Polyflor waste vinyl redirected for recycling.

Polyflor SA will continue to develop its scheme, look at new collaborations and provide contractors with specially branded bags for them to place their offcuts in and return to the company’s head office, where the waste will be weighed and recorded before it is collected by recyclers.

Central Europe

In Germany, the AgPR (Arbeitsgemeinschaft PVC-Bodenbelag) vinyl recycling facility has been in use for 30 years and collects post-consumer floor covering waste in Austria, France, Germany and Switzerland. From this waste, AgPR produces a finely ground powder, which is used to produce new PVC construction products. If suitable it is sent to AgPR shareholders, including Polyflor, one of its four shareholders. www.agpr.de

North America

There are over 100 vinyl recyclers in the U.S. and Canada. The Vinyl Institute’s website provides a recycling directory that identifies recyclers by state and province. Polyflor vinyl can be recycled through many of these channels. Go to www.vinylinfo.org/recycling-directory for more information.

Scandinavia

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 uses established schemes, to collect and recover vinyl waste from site. This material can be delivered to Polyflor on return transport for recycling, but typically (and more practically) the waste is sent to other local vinyl flooring manufacturers for them to recycle into new flooring. In Germany the AgPR (Arbeitsgemeinschaft PVC-Bodenbelag) - www.agpr.de - 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.

Recofloor Australia & New Zealand

Australia and New Zealand continue to use Recofloor bins made from recyclable material, which can be reused to collect further waste vinyl flooring or recycled. The bins can be sent out to customers to their place of business and once the bins are full, they are collected. Alternatively, waste vinyl flooring can be taken to one of the 5 drop-off sites in Australia and 9 drop-off sites in New Zealand.

“The Recofloor Programme assists in a number of ways. OzFlor was the first Contractor in Australia to take up the Recofloor Programme and we have found that during large project negotiations, the Environmental benefits of this scheme have often got us over the line. With the vinyl waste being 100% recyclable, it can also contribute to a building’s GreenStar rating. The bins don’t take up too much space in my warehouse and I would highly recommend this programme to anyone wanting to reduce vinyl waste costs and excess landfill.”

Brett Grogan
Managing Director, OzFlor Pty Ltd., Australia

France

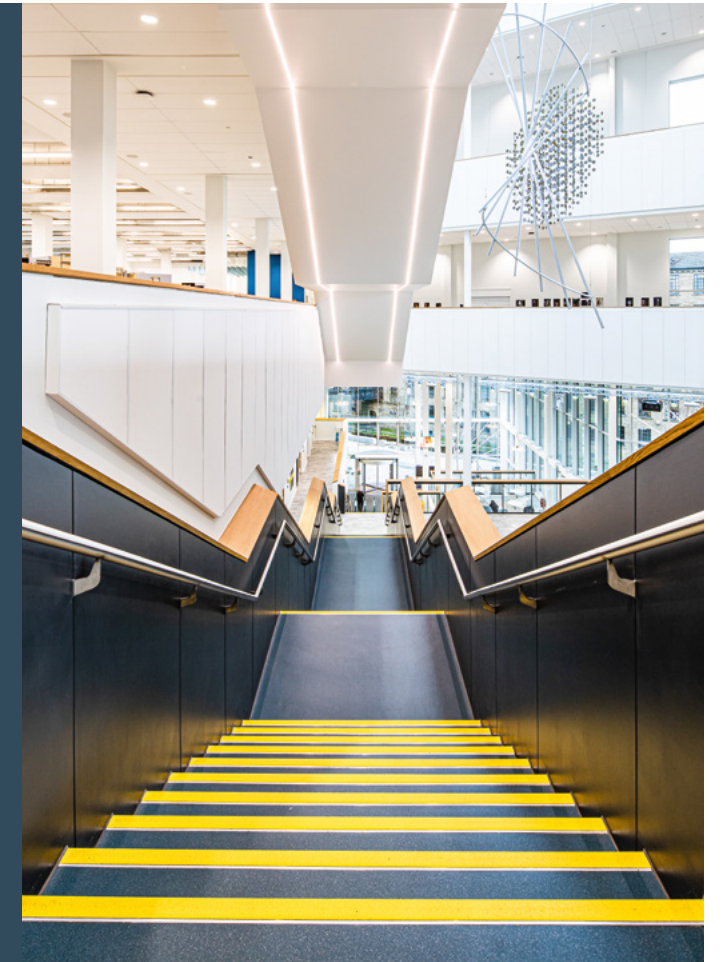
As a current member of Kaléi (Entreprises de Revêtements Techniques et Décoratifs) James Halstead France (Polyflor’s French subsidiary company) helps finance the French vinyl flooring recycling scheme, PVC Next, along with four other manufacturers who are Kaléi members. A large number of major French contractors have now officially registered with PVC Next. Thereafter, smooth vinyl flooring offcuts and certain uplifted smooth vinyl flooring can be recycled at one of 16 approved collection points throughout the country. By depositing waste material at one of the scheme’s professional waste management sites, a variable fee is applied - depending on region - of €40-€50 per m2. This is more cost effective than landfill and benefits the contractor by providing them with marketable credentials as well as contributing towards points on LEED, BREEAM and HQE buildings. Tonnage since 2020 has levelled out at around the 600 tonnes per annum.

However, 2023 will bring change to recycling vinyl flooring in France: The French EPR Extended Producer Responsibility (REP) will commence in May, thus replacing the PVC Next initiative for organising collections and recycling. We have chosen Valobat as our eco-organisation partner, which will be one of three to have been certified. 8.95€ per tonne is the eco-contribution which will be charged to begin with.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

PRODUCT ASSESSMENTS

82



GREEN BUILDINGS

92



PRODUCT ASSESSMENTS

Barbara Hepworth Building, University of Huddersfield achieved "BREEAM Excellent".



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

Water extraction

Mineral resource extraction

Stratospheric ozone depletion

Human toxicity

Ecotoxicity to freshwater & land

Nuclear waste

Waste disposal

Fossil fuel depletion

Eutrophication

Photochemical ozone creation

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.

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 Tecnológico de Galicia is the NSO for Spain (BREEAM ES) and the Norwegian Green Building Council is the NSO for Norway (BREEAM NOR). These schemes comply with the requirements established by the Code for a Sustainable Built Environment.

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 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 35 A+ ratings.

Product Type	Product Range	Cert.	Health	Education	Retail (fashion)	Retail (durability)	Office	Domestic
HOMOGENEOUS	Palettone PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Pearlazzo PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Prestige PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Classic Mystique PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	2000 PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	XL PU	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Standard XL	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
HETEROGENEOUS	Expona Flow PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Bloc PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Forest fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Silentflor PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Acoustix Forest fx PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Designatex PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Secura PUR	ENP415	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
SAFETY	Polysafe Verona PUR: <i>Original</i>	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Verona PUR: <i>Pure Colours</i>	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Standard PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Stone fx PUR	ENP415	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 Mosaic PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Vogue Ultra PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Astral PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Expona Control PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A	A	A
	Polysafe Quattro PUR	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Hydro Evolve	ENP472	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Polysafe Hydro	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
LVT	Expona Commercial PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Expona Bevel Line PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A+	A	A
	Expona Design PUR	ENP429	A+	A+	A+	A	A	B
	Affinity2 ⁵⁵ 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 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 EN 10581 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	LVS EN 653	ACOUSTIC EN 651	SAFETY EN 13845	LVT EN 649	RUBBER (PROFILED) EN 12199
HEALTH	A+	A+	-	A+	A+	A+	A+
Element	821570038	821570039	-	821570053	821570055	821570054	821570057
EDUCATION	A+	A+	-	A+	A+	A+	A+
Element	821570065	821570066	-	821570010	921570010	821570013	821570015
COMMERCIAL	A	A	-	A	A	A	A
Element	821570038	821570039	-	821570041	821570043	821570042	821570045
RETAIL	A+/A+	A+/A+	-	A+/A+	A+/A+	A+/A+	A+/A+
Element	821570038	821570039	-	821570053	821570055	821570054	821570057
DOMESTIC	A	A	A	A	B	A	A
Element	821570065	821570066	821570002	821570010	921570010	821570013	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	HETEROGENEOUS	SAFETY	LVT	RUBBER (PROFILED)
Palettone SD	Architex PUR	Polysafe QuickLay PUR	Expona Simplay PUR	SaarFloor Noppe Stud Tile
Finesse SD	-	-	Camaro Loc PUR	-
Polyflor SD	-	-	-	-
OHMega EC	-	-	-	-
Polyflor EC	-	-	-	-
Conductive ROF	-	-	-	-
Polyflex Plus PU	-	-	-	-



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 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 standard EN 15804 Sustainability of Construction Works - Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) - with the aim of creating ONE worldwide harmonised standard for reporting of environmental performance.

EPDs provide transparent information about Polyflor products and their impact on the environment, based on the following 7 Environmental Impact Indicators:

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

Good to Know

- ✓ EPDs 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
- ✓ EN 15804 creates harmonisation of schemes such as BREEAM (UK), DGNB (Germany), FDES / HQE (France) and Green Tag (Australia)
- ✓ Since 2013, EPDs are part of the Construction Products’ Regulation (CPR)
- ✓ Our EPDs are available via product specific GreenTag and IBU EPDs, generic ERFMI EPDs and INIES FDES

EPD benefits

A benefit of specifying a product with an EPD is that it supports the environmental goals of the stakeholders from design to use, but importantly, the construction or retrofit projects including SKA Ratings, Green Star and HQE. Specifically, extra points can be gained on BREEAM and LEED assessments:

- One bonus ‘uplift’ point can be awarded for the use of one of our ranges where a product specific BRE environmental profile or 3rd party verified EN 15804 (ISO 14025) compliant EPD is available.
- Polyflor ranges can contribute to the LEED v4 score through specific environmental product declarations (EPD), which can provide 1 point; or generic EPDs which may contribute 0.5 points.

Polyflor EN 15804 EPDs

Products can be individually assessed, or generic profiling is available. Polyflor contributes to the EN 15804 generic data set for the creation of ERFMI EPDs and INIES FDES. The following categories all have EPDs and most have FDES:

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

The datasets used on generic and specific EPDs have been independently verified by Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. (IBU) and both generic and product specific EPDs are written to the rules and standards according to EN 15804 and ISO 14025. Polyflor EPDs are listed on systems such as the IBU and DGNB (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen e.V. / German Sustainable Building Council) navigator databases. INIES FDES are available on the INIES database.

NEW FOR 2022: Along with Polyflor’s IBU Product Specific EPDs, Polyflor has product specific EPDs for many of its product ranges, verified by GreenTag.

How to access Polyflor EPDs

- For generic and product specific EPDs, visit www.polyflor.com/sustainability or www.ibu-epd.com/en/published-epds
- To view GreenTag Product Specific EPDs, visit www.globalgreentag.com
- To view FDES, visit www.inies.fr

Product Type	Ranges	GreenTag Product Specific EPD	IBU Product Specific EPD	ERFMI Generic EPD	INIES FDES
Homogeneous	Palettone PUR	PLF:HP5:2022	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	Pearlazzo PUR	PLF HP3 2021EP	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	2000 PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	Classic Mystique PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	Prestige PUR	PLF HP2 2021EP	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	Standard XL	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	XL PU	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	Polyflex Plus PU	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	Palettone SD	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	Polyflor SD	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	Finesse SD	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	OHmega EC	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
Heterogeneous	Polyflor EC	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	Polyflor ROF	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013111-E	3-1413:2018
	Forest fx PUR	PLF H3 2021EP	-	EPD-ERF-2013211-E	3-1407:2018
Safety	Expona Flow PUR	PLF H1 2021EP	-	EPD-ERF-2013211-E	3-1407:2018
	Bloc PUR	PLF H2 2021EP	-	EPD-ERF-2013211-E	3-1407:2018
	Polysafe Quattro	PLF HW3 2021EP	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe QuickLay PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Astral PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Mosaic PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Vogue Ultra PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Standard PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Wood fx PUR	PLF S1 2021EP	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Wood fx Acoustix PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Stone fx PUR	PLF S2 2021EP	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Verona PUR: <i>Original</i>	PLF H2 2021EP	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Verona PUR: <i>Pure Colours</i>	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Hydro	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Hydro Evolve	PLF HW2 2021EP	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Ultima	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Polysafe Apex	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
	Expona Control PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013611-E	-
Acoustic	Silentflor PUR	PLF A2 2021EP	-	EPD-ERF-2013311-E	3-1408:2018
	Acoustix Forest fx PUR	PLF A1 2021EP	-	EPD-ERF-2013311-E	3-1408:2018
LVS	Architex PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013211-E	3-1407:2018
	Secura PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013411-E	-
	Designatex PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013411-E	-
LVT	Expona SimpLay PUR	-	EPD-JHA-20140178-ICA1-EN	-	3-1414:2018
	Expona Design PUR	-	EPD-JHP-2013111-E	-	3-1414:2018
	Expona Commercial PUR	-	EPD-JHP-2013211-E	-	3-1414:2018
	Expona Bevel Line PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013511-E	3-1414:2018
	Affinity 2 ⁵⁵ PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013511-E	3-1414:2018
	Camaro PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013511-E	3-1414:2018
	Colonia PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013511-E	3-1414:2018
	Camaro Loc PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-2013511-E	3-1414:2018
	Camaro Rigid Core PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-20180185-CCI1-EN	3-1414:2018
	Expona EnCore Rigid Loc PUR	-	-	EPD-ERF-20180185-CCI1-EN	3-1414:2018

The Global GreenTag^{Cert™} scheme operated by Global GreenTag P/L is a third-party ecolabel programme that rates sustainable products for the built environment.

The assessment of products is based on a life cycle approach and measuring the impact of products and their ingredients, outlined in the following critical areas:

- Reduction of energy & greenhouse gases
- Habitat & land degradation
- Toxicity to land, air & water
- Resource depletion & efficiency
- Human health & ethical employment

Polyflor was the first commercial vinyl floor covering organisation to achieve Global GreenTag LCARate[™] certification across its key ranges. GreenTag's LCARate[™] is an EPD and is a sustainability rating system

based on life cycle analysis (LCA) and EcoPOINT score. The LCA ratings are split into four categories for easy product selection: Bronze (Good); Silver (Very Good); Gold (Excellent) and Platinum (World Leading). Polyflor's ranges perform very well, achieving LCARate[™] Silver PLUS and Gold PLUS (the 'PLUS' denotes the link to additional certification via the GreenRate[™] system).

In addition to the Global GreenTag LCARate[™], Polyflor achieves GreenRate[™] Level A across these certified ranges. Maximum points are scored in the Materials 'Sustainable Products' and IEQ-VOC sections of the Green Star[®] rating tools. For example, a GreenRate[™] Level A achieves 100% of available credit points in sustainable products and refurbishment products.

Product Type	Product Range	LCA Rate [™]	Green Rate [™]	EcoPOINT
HOMOGENEOUS	Palettone PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.46
	Pearlazzo PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.47
	Prestige PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.47
	Classic Mystique PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.48
	2000 PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.48
	XL PU	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.46
	Standard XL	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.37
HETEROGENEOUS	Expona Flow PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.50
	Bloc PUR	Silver PLUS	Level A	0.52
	Forest fx PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.50
	Silentflor PUR	Silver PLUS	Level A	0.53
	Acoustix Forest fx PUR	Silver PLUS	Level A	0.53
SAFETY	Polysafe Verona PUR: <i>Pure Colours</i>	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.50
	Polysafe Standard PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.46
	Polysafe Stone fx PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.47
	Polysafe Wood fx PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.47
	Polysafe Wood fx Acoustix PUR	Silver PLUS	Level A	0.53
	Polysafe Vogue Ultra PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.44
	Expona Control PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.39
	Polysafe Quattro PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.46
	Polysafe Hydro Evolve	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.48
	Polysafe Apex	Silver PLUS	Level A	0.58
LVT	Expona Commercial PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.46
	Expona Design PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.44
	Affinity2 ^{ss} PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.44
	Camaro PUR	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.44
	Expona Domestic*	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.44
	Expona Superplank*	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.42
	The Native Collection*	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.46
	Genero Design Plus*	Gold PLUS	Level A	0.46

*Available only in Australia. To view certificates visit www.globalgreentag.com/products



GREEN BUILDINGS

Barbara Hepworth Building, University of Huddersfield achieved "BREEAM Excellent".





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.

Building Research Establishment’s Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) is the longest standing and most widely used environmental assessment method for buildings in the UK, with brand recognition globally.

Credits are awarded according to performance in 10 different categories for measuring sustainability: Management; Health & Wellbeing; Energy; Transport; Water; Materials; Waste; Land Use & Ecology; Pollution; Innovation (extra). They are then added together to produce an overall score for the building on a scale shown opposite:

Materials

The Materials section makes up 12.5% of the overall scoring, offering 12 credits in total. Polyflor contributes to MAT 01 and MAT 03.

6 CREDITS total for MAT 01

(depending on building type)

MAT 01: Life Cycle Impact

Aim:
To recognise and encourage the use of construction materials with a low environmental impact (including embodied carbon) over the full life cycle of the building.

3 points:
Using BRE A+ rated product – Polyflor can contribute towards a maximum 3 points for floor finishes when one of our A+ rated products is used. Note: 2 points are available for A rated product and 1 point for B rated product.

1 point:
Bonus ‘uplift’ point – This can be awarded for the use of one of our ranges where a product specific BRE environmental profile or 3rd party verified EN 15804 compliant EPD is available.

Points awarded for each material type are then added up and weighted to award credits for this section of the project.

Polyflor products can contribute to the maximum available material points in the MAT 01 section for floor coverings.

3 CREDITS total for MAT 03

MAT 03: Responsible Sourcing for Materials

Aim:
To recognise and encourage the specification of responsibly sourced materials for key building elements. 80% by mass of materials that make up elements must be responsibly sourced.

3.5 points:
BES 6001 ‘Excellent’ – Polyflor can contribute 3.5 points for the use of ranges which are certified to BES 6001, achieving ‘Excellent’.

1 point:
EMS certified – Polyflor can also contribute 1 additional point for having ISO 14001 environmental management system certification.

Use of Polyflor ranges with BES 6001 ‘Excellent’ and ISO 14001 certification, contribute 4.5 out of a maximum of 5 points (90% of available points) towards the award of 3 credits in MAT 03. Floor finishes are considered with all other fittings such as windows and doors on a mass basis for the fittings part of the credit.

The data from the whole building is then weighted and buildings achieving greater than 54% of the available points are awarded a maximum of 3 credits.

Use of Polyflor ranges can significantly contribute to credits in MAT 03.

1. Outstanding

Less than top 1% of UK new non-domestic buildings (innovator).

2. Excellent

Top 10% of UK new non-domestic buildings (best practice).

3. Very Good

Top 25% of UK new non-domestic buildings (advanced good practice).

4. Good

Top 50% of UK new non-domestic buildings (intermediate good practice).

5. Pass

Top 75% of UK new non-domestic buildings (standard good practice).

Polyflor products can contribute to the award of BREEAM credits within the following categories – Materials, Waste and Health & Well-being

Waste

The Waste section makes up 7.5% of the overall scoring, offering 7 credits in total. Polyflor can contribute to the credits available to flooring for WST 01 and will contribute towards a maximum score for ‘diversion of resources from landfill’.

4 CREDITS total for WST 01

plus 1 Exemplary Level credit

WST 01: Construction Waste Management

Aim:
To promote resource efficiency via the effective management and reduction of construction waste.

1 credit:
Diversion of Resources from Landfill – Use the Recofloor take-back scheme in conjunction with a site waste management plan (SWMP) to remove waste vinyl flooring from the construction project. This can contribute towards the available credit on a BREEAM assessment.

Exemplary Level Credit:
Available where demolition and non-demolition waste is kept to under challenging volumes/tonnages (85% by volume and 95% by weight) and diverted from landfill. Use of the Recofloor scheme can help achieve this for flooring demolition waste and non-demolition waste, as the material is taken back and recycled.

Use of Polyflor materials and the Recofloor Scheme demonstrates diversion from landfill, potentially contributing towards 1 credit for diversion of resources from landfill and 1 exemplary level credit.

Health & Wellbeing

The Health & Wellbeing section makes up 15% of the overall scoring, offering 10 credits in total. Polyflor can contribute towards 1 credit for HEA 02: Indoor Air Quality.

6 CREDITS total for HEA 02

HEA 02: Indoor Air Quality

Aim:
To recognise and encourage a healthy environment through specification and installation of appropriate ventilation, equipment and finishes.

1 credit:
Minimising sources of VOCs and formaldehyde – Polyflor can contribute towards this credit through demonstrating conformance to EN 14041:2004. Polyflor floor coverings are UK REACH compliant and do not contain formaldehyde, conforming to the E1 declaration. All Polyflor products have low VOC emissions.

The use of Polyflor materials can contribute towards 1 Health & Wellbeing credit for minimising sources of VOC and Formaldehyde.

SKA Rating®

Operated by RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors), SKA Rating is an environmental assessment method, benchmark and standard for sustainable fit-outs. Where BREEAM® and LEED® focus on the environmental impact of the whole building, SKA is a benchmark and standard for non-domestic fit-outs, including Retail, Office and Higher Education.

Around 11% of the UK construction sector is involved in fit-outs and many buildings, particularly for retail and office, can have up to 40 fit-outs during their life-cycle.

SKA rating helps landlords and tenants assess fit-out projects against a set of sustainability good practice criteria, comprising of over a hundred measures, incorporating energy, CO₂ emissions, materials, waste, water, wellbeing, pollution and transport. The percentage score for the assessment across the given criteria, provides the fit-out project with a Bronze; Silver or Gold label. These ratings are reached by achieving 25%; 50% and 75% respectively, of the measures in scope.

Along with Polyflor's many credentials including ISO 14001, BES 6001, plus its low maintenance and low VOC emissions, Polyflor products can positively contribute to SKA assessments within the Soft Flooring category and can potentially meet all or at the very least (and the minimum requirement), one of the following criteria:

- ✓ Are reused; Some Polyflor ranges can be reused, including loose-lay products, Expona Simplay PUR and Polysafe QuickLay PUR.
- ✓ If new, are manufactured with at least 50% recycled content (measured by mass) and 100% recyclable content (designed for deconstruction with components that can be recycled; Some Polyflor products may contain around 50% recycled material and are all 100% recyclable.
- ✓ Have an A or A+ rating in BRE's Green Book Live database for the office / retail / education scheme; The majority of Polyflor products are individually assessed by BRE and achieve A and A+ ratings.
- ✓ Have an A or A+ rating in BRE's The Green Guide to Specification for the office / retail / education scheme; Polyflor products without Green Book Live ratings achieve generic A and A+ ratings.
- ✓ Are manufactured from 50% renewable and natural products; Some Polyflor products contain up to 85% natural material, which includes renewables. This can include fillers used, for example.
- ✓ Are supplied with an environmental product declaration, written in accordance with ISO 14025 standards; The vast majority of Polyflor ranges have EN 15804 EPDs written to standard ISO 14025.

For more information about SKA Ratings, please contact us at info@polyflor.com or visit www.rics.org



LEED®

Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED®) is a sustainable building certification programme that rewards best-in-class building strategies and practices. Stringent criteria are set which a building project must meet to achieve LEED® certification. In doing so, specifiers will seek to use the most sustainable options available for the project.

There are four levels of certification available:

Certified	Silver	Gold	Platinum
40-49	50-59	60-79	80+ points

Polyflor can contribute to points on a LEED® project. The number of points achieved throughout the entire build establishes the level of LEED® certification for that project.

In 2017, the top 10% of LEED® certified companies achieved a Platinum rating, with 44% certified companies achieving a Gold rating; 30% achieved Silver and 14% obtained a Certified rating. Today there are more than 96,000 LEED projects in 167 countries and territories.

How Polyflor can contribute on a LEED® project

Materials & Resources

MR Credit:
Construction and Demolition Waste Management
Polyflor is 100% recyclable and post-consumer waste, including offcuts and smooth uplifted waste can be recycled. Alternatively, our Expona Simplay, Secura and Designatex can be reused as they do not require adhesive for installation.

The Recofloor scheme (of which Polyflor is a founding and funding member) complies with site waste management legislation and diverts vinyl flooring waste (offcuts and uplifted) from going to landfill. Recycle or salvage 50% of the waste for 1 point, or 75% for 2 points.

MR Credit:
Building Product Disclosure and Optimisation
Sourcing of Raw Materials (Bio-based Content)

Polyflor flooring contains up to 85% sustainable materials and uses bio-based ingredients. **1 point available.**

MR Credit:
Building Product Disclosure and Optimisation
Environmental Product Declarations.

Polyflor can contribute to the LEED® credit through its product-specific environmental product declaration (EPD), which can provide **1 point**; or **0.5 points** for a generic EPD.

MR Credit:
Building Product Disclosure and Optimisation
Sourcing of Raw Materials (Recycled Content).

Polyflor flooring contains up to 40% recycled material, which typically includes post-consumer waste from the project site as well as pre-consumer (or post-production) waste, including process and sampling waste for instance. **1 point available.**

Indoor Environmental Quality

EQ Credit:
Low Emitting Materials
Option 1, Product Calculation CDPH Compliant
Option 2, Budget Calculation CDPH Compliant

Polyflor can contribute to both options of this credit through certification of its low emitting products. VOC certification is available via Indoor Air Comfort, Indoor Air Comfort Gold and FloorScore® certification (Polyflor's certificates are available online at www.polyflor.com, www.eurofins.com and www.scscertified.com). Along with other materials used on the project, Polyflor products can contribute towards **1-3 points**.

For quick referencing and ease of specification, Polyflor has LEED® Points PDFs available digitally, across all product ranges. Request via info@polyflor.com or speak to our Customer Technical Services Department on **+44 (0)161 767 1912**.

WELL Building Standard™

The WELL Building Standard™ (WELL) is a performance-based system for measuring, certifying and monitoring aspects of a building that impacts human health and wellbeing.



The 3 aspects relating to Polyflor floor coverings include Air, Comfort and Mind.

Polyflor complies with its principals.

Air

The WELL Building Standard™ (WELL) determines requirements in buildings that reduce or minimise the sources of indoor air pollution.

01 Air Quality Standards:

Indoor air pollution can lead to a variety of symptoms and health conditions. Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), combustion by-products and airborne particles can trigger nausea, headaches, asthma, respiratory irritation and allergies.

Polyflor meets these conditions and can supply confirmation letters and VOC certification including FloorScore®, AGB, AFSSET and Indoor Air Comfort Gold, for example.

04 VOC Reduction:

Indoor air quality can be compromised by VOCs that off-gas from materials in the building. This can include paints, adhesives, cleaning products and other every-day items such as air fresheners and personal care products.

Polyflor floor coverings are low VOC. Certification meeting the CDPH includes FloorScore®.

Mind

The WELL Building Standard™ identifies policies that can be implemented to positively impact mood, sleep and stress levels, in order to improve occupant health and well-being.

87 Beauty and Design I:

Integrating aesthetically pleasing design into a building or space can provide occupants with pride and joy from their surroundings. This can improve occupant mood and create a calming environment.

As well as functionality and sustainability, Polyflor floor coverings come in a variety of beautiful designs to stimulate the senses. Visit www.polyflor.com/products for more information.

98 Organisational Transparency

By transparently sharing their sustainability & CSR policies and investment decisions, organisations enable stakeholders to determine if their personal values are shared by the organisation, and also engage.

Our sustainability & CSR policies are online. Sustainability & CSR performance and Objectives, as outlined by the ISO 14001 and BES 6001 Responsible Sourcing frameworks, are included within this Sustainability Report. For additional information visit our dedicated sustainability page at www.polyflor.com/sustainability

For more information on the WELL Building Standard™ please visit www.wellcertified.com

Comfort

Indoor air comfort is important and is therefore a WELL focus for reducing the most common sources of physiological disruption, distraction and irritation. Goals are to enhance acoustic, ergonomic, olfactory and thermal comfort to prevent stress and injury and facilitate comfort, productivity and well-being.

P4 Impact Reducing Flooring:

Footfall noise from adjacent spaces can lead to occupant dissatisfaction. Constructing interiors to accommodate for footfall noise can greatly reduce its negative impact on acoustic comfort. In common spaces, especially corridors in open environments where there is heavy foot traffic, this feature minimises disturbances.

Polyflor offers acoustic flooring options including Silentflor; Acoustix Forest fx PUR; Polysafe Wood fx Acoustix PUR; Secura PUR and Designatex PUR. Acoustifoam, our foam backing sheet, can also be used in conjunction with many other Polyflor sheet floor coverings.

HQE™ is the French and international certification awarded to building construction and management, as well as urban planning projects. It promotes best practice and sustainable quality in building projects.

HQE™ certification aims to verify and approve the performance of a building and the four critical areas considered by the certification scheme, which include energy, environment, health and comfort. The performance levels attained are stated and endorsed in a certificate issued upon completion of the project. Within this overall building assessment, product and material lifecycles are considered.

Certification for the entire life-cycle of a building (applicable for non-residential buildings; residential buildings and detached houses as well as urban planning and development) covers the entire process, from planning and construction, through use. Throughout the life-cycle, sustainability is considered over four key aspects:

- ✓ Quality of Life
- ✓ Respect for the Environment
- ✓ Economic Performance
- ✓ Responsible Management

How Polyflor complies with HQE™

Many of Polyflor floor coverings comply with and contribute to HQE™ projects, by using the INIES FDES, a life-cycle assessment tool much the same as an EPD.

Many Polyflor ranges also have Afsset certification for low VOC emissions and some ranges are adhesive free for even better reduced emissions.

HQE Project

Given Polyflor’s environmental performance and compliance with HQE certification, Polyflor supplied Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, Terminal 1 & Terminal 2, with 2,000m² of Expona Design and Expona Commercial for its refurbishment in 2022.

In our Australian and New Zealand markets, Green Star® rating tools reward sustainability outcomes and encourage moving beyond standard practice. Green Star® provides a framework of best practice benchmarks and rates the environmental and sustainable performance of a building.

A Green Star® rating provides independent verification that a building or community project is sustainable and demonstrates leadership, innovation, environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Projects are assessed against a range of environmental impacts, which include Management; Indoor Environment Quality; Energy; Transport; Water; Materials; Land Use & Ecology; Emissions and Innovation.

All types of buildings, new and old, can achieve Green Star® ratings. The rating tools to enable this are as follows:



How Polyflor can contribute on a Green Star® project

Polyflor has achieved maximum rating points in the Green Building Council Australia (GBCA) and New Zealand Green Building Council (NZGBC) Green Star® rating tools. Using Polyflor products certified by the Global GreenTag^{Cert™} third-party certification scheme can help the specifier achieve maximum points in the Materials ‘Sustainable Products’ and IEQ-VOC sections of the Green Star® rating tools.

As audited by NCS International Pty Ltd, to meet the GBCA best practice guidelines, Polyflor also achieved **PVC Best Practice** accreditation for: Palettone PUR; Prestige PUR; Pearlazzo PUR; Classic Mystique PUR; 2000 PUR; XL PU; Polyclad Pro & Polyclad Plus PU. This is a major achievement, outlining Polyflor’s commitment to best practice manufacturing and the sustainable and safe use of additives, through responsible sourcing of its ingredients. For this reason, potential for points on a Green Star® assessment is further improved.

“In 2010, Global GreenTag^{Cert™} launched with a world-first standard that required PVC to be mercury-free, use non-endocrine disrupting plasticisers, and require full on-site audit of LCA data and environmental licenses and emissions to ensure only BAT (best available technology) products were certified.

“Since then, numerous BAT PVC products have been certified, mostly at Silver or Gold level, and can easily be compared to other flooring types with both similar, but also worse, eco-point scores and ratings. Then the collaboration between the Vinyl Council of Australia (VCA) and GBCA recognised BAT under the Best Practice PVC Standard (BPPVC) Guidelines adopted in 2011.”

David Baggs
CEO & Program Director of Global GreenTag International Pty Ltd; and
CEO & Technical Director of Integreco Pty Ltd, a Sustainable Project & Product Consultancy

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Economic Sustainability

Over the last 100 years the expansion of Polyflor’s parent company, James Halstead PLC, has been managed by four generations of Halstead’s. Established by James Halstead himself in 1915, the company’s original trade was the waxing and showerproofing of cloth for raincoats, before expanding into flooring in 1934. Today, Polyflor is an increasingly successful company, providing economic and environmental sustainability.

Polyflor is a major employer in Greater Manchester and Teesside, providing jobs within sales, marketing, graphic design, human resources, I.T, purchasing and finance, as well as production, engineering, technical, warehousing and distribution. Our business ethics ensure that we minimise risk wherever possible, given the responsibility we have within the supply chain and to our employees.

As a supplier we try to ensure timely deliveries and as a customer, timely payments, without imposing unrealistic payment terms. As a medium sized UK manufacturing company, we continue to pay fair salaries to our employees as well as paying tax in the UK, thus fully supporting the UK economy.

The company’s strategic focus remains on flooring, although the strategy evolves over time, focus on sustainable growth is undiminished. This, therefore, underpins job security for Polyflor employees and benefits all stakeholders in the business.

Despite the difficulties faced by many in the market during recent times, due to economic pressures, Polyflor remained resilient and profitable. Polyflor is a global organisation with a dominant market share in the UK and listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange with a nine-figure turnover, where it celebrates over 70 years as a listed company, but also a company with a record sales turnover which it achieved again in 2022.

Given our reliability for quality product, stock availability and service, we were awarded “Flooring Manufacturer of the Year”, in the 2022 CFJ (Contract Flooring Journal) Awards. This was particularly gratifying as the voting for this award was by the floor laying contractors (the Contract Flooring Association) who install our products.

We are proud to have had our flooring specified on a plethora of fascinating projects around the world, as we trade with almost every country. Illustrating the breadth and depth of our flooring sales, Polyflor was installed in the following: Churchill Downs Racecourse in Kentucky, the Toulouse Rugby Stadium in France, the FIFA Museum in Qatar and the Palace Hotel in Konary, Poland.

Investment & Growth

Polyflor’s economic sustainability, growth and success are largely attributed to the depth of its customer focus. Polyflor has strong relationships throughout the entire supply chain and does not price-fix or undermine pricing structures, ensuring economic sustainability for all our customers globally.

In Malaysia, we incorporated a new company and took on the trade of our former long-term distributor in November 2020. This now acts as our base for the South Asia markets of Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Polyflor’s ongoing commitment to Research and Development through advanced technology has resulted in the creation of innovative and market leading products, with New Product Development at the core of Polyflor’s business philosophy, ensuring product is always meeting demands and on trend.

Once more, significant investment continued in Recofloor, the UK’s leading recycling scheme for waste vinyl flooring. Our dedication and investment are implemented through financial and operational support across the scheme. Recofloor is a cost-effective solution for managing waste. It is free if waste is taken to a distributors’ drop-off site, or a nominal cost is applied if waste material is collected from a specified site - this offers a saving of up to 70% when compared to landfill, which is financially beneficial for our customers, as well as promoting circular economy principals.

Polyflor’s Value Chain

It is important to Polyflor that we go beyond what is expected as a manufacturer, encouraging best practice throughout the flooring sector and adding value in pivotal ways.

Our established Training Academy contributes to the value chain and continued to deliver high quality training courses throughout 2020 at its purpose-built facility as well as off-site locations. Further to this, Polyflor also continued its free Floor Cleaning & Maintenance Course, aimed at educating how to get the best out of flooring by using the correct cleaning methods and products to facilitate a longer life and reduce ongoing costs.

In addition to providing training and education in getting the best out of our flooring, we believe that product stewardship is key, which is why we fully engage with all our customers to manage their waste Polyflor material and recycle, with Recofloor being a cornerstone of this principal.

Governance

Polyflor Ltd. is part of James Halstead PLC, with UK headquarters based in Manchester. The James Halstead Group employs around 820 people, has 2 UK production sites and 21 sales distribution sites worldwide.

Polyflor Ltd. has a board of 8 directors who report to Mark Halstead, Group Chief Executive and the executive board of James Halstead PLC. Mark Halstead is the fourth generation of the family to head up the business, following his Father, Geoffrey Halstead’s official retirement in December 2017, after 70 years with the company.

Polyflor’s directors are responsible and accountable for the compliance of policies which form the basis of our Code of Conduct. This promotes equality, trust and integrity and ensures legal, regulatory and ethical compliance.

Standards of Conduct

Employees

We will treat employees fairly and use employment practices based on equal opportunity for all employees. Recruiting, employing and promoting employees on the basis of objective criteria and the qualifications and abilities needed for the job to be performed in line with the Equal Opportunities Policy.

Customers

We will provide high quality and value, competitive prices, and honest transactions to those who use our products. We will deal lawfully and ethically with our customers.

All employees are expected to behave respectfully and honestly in all their dealings with customers and the general public in accordance with the principles set out in this Policy.

Suppliers

We will deal fairly with our suppliers. We will seek long lasting business relationships, without discrimination or deception. In those dealings, we expect those with whom we do business to adhere to business principles consistent with our own.

Communities

We are committed to fostering good relationships with the communities in which we work. We will abide by all national and local laws, and we will strive to improve the wellbeing of communities through the protection of natural resources, through the encouragement of employee participation in charitable affairs.

National and International Trade

We will seek to compete fairly and ethically within the framework of applicable competition. We will comply with all applicable export control laws and sanctions when conducting business around the world.

Commitment to our Employees

As a major employer, Polyflor has a responsibility to its employees, ensuring their health and wellbeing as well as reducing labour turnover, which remains low. In fact, Polyflor has 25 and 40-year clubs for all employees who have been employed by Polyflor for the respective number of years, some of whom have worked for Polyflor for their entire careers (50 years in some cases), joining straight from school. Retaining an experienced and knowledgeable workforce is extremely important to Polyflor.

Polyflor recruits internally and from the local, surrounding areas, advertising through local media, job centres, recruitment agencies and online. We offer graduate training programmes, internships and apprenticeships, in support of younger people wishing to develop their employment skills.

As standard practice, Polyflor has numerous training and development programmes; total compliance to the Equality Act 2010; employment health & safety policies and procedures are in place, along with employee benefits available to all staff including a pension scheme, as well as enhanced maternity and paternity pay. Polyflor engages with all its staff through annual Performance and Development Reviews, emails and circulated letters.

Recruitment & Retention

- Low staff turnover with 25 and 40-year clubs.
- Positions are advertised internally and externally.
- We employ graduate trainees, interns and apprentices with requirements reviewed on an annual basis.

Training & Development

- Polyflor’s training is audited to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001.
- An induction programme is undertaken by new employees, including an environmental induction.
- Annual appraisals identify areas of strength and opportunities or targets.
- Professional development is encouraged through courses and training where both employee and employer benefit.
- Promotion or opportunities in different departments are often distributed internally throughout the business, although obtaining the right skill set is important so positions are advertised to external candidates.
- Polyflor engages with all staff regarding environmental issues, directly through email or letter as well as indirectly through **www.polyflor.com**, social media and this annual report which is circulated throughout Polyflor.
- Polyflor’s Training Academy for floor fitting skills is accessible to employees, which improves their understanding of Polyflor flooring and provides transferable skills for their own homes.

Equality

- Equal opportunities & diversity policy.
- Modern Slavery Act Statement.
- Anti-bullying and Anti-discrimination policies.
- Anti-ageist, with 34% of employees aged 56+ and 30% being 46+.
- Ratio of women to men is 19% to 81%.
- Ratio of females to males in management positions is greater at 12 to 31, respectively. 13% of female employees are managers with 10% of male staff also holding management and supervisory positions (this was 9% and 15% in 2020).

- Employees are typically local and represent the social demographic of the local area.
- Maternity and paternity policy with flexible return to work.

Employee Health & Safety

- SA 8000 and ISO 45001.
- We circulate a ‘handling stress at work’ policy.
- A health & Safety Management procedure is in place – in accordance with HSG65, Health & Safety Executive Document Guidance.
- Potential safety risks and incidents are reported for action and avoidance.
- Accident reporting is in line with ISO 45001 guidance - all work-related injuries are recorded and followed up with a risk assessment and remedial action.
- No fatalities have ever been recorded in the company’s history.
- A Pedestrian Policy is in place including demarcated pedestrian pathways and crossings and high visibility vests are issued to employees or visitors who walk around our warehousing facilities.
- Ear plugs are used in production, within hearing protection zones in various locations around the factory.
- Occupational Health – medical and fitness checks for new employees as well as ongoing health checks for employees, particularly Polyflor fleet drivers.
- Work zone assessments are conducted by Polyflor’s occupational health nurse.

Employee Benefits & Wellbeing

- Pension Scheme for every employee after 3 months of employment with Polyflor.
- Life insurance for all full time employees.
- Company social club for all employees.
- Breakout zones, with seating and facilities to buy or prepare food are available on all sites.
- Areas to sit outside are accessible at all Polyflor sites.
- Employees able to undertake voluntary work.
- Bike sheds and shower facilities are obtainable at the Whitefield site.

2022 Update

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	+/-
EMPLOYMENT & TURNOVER							
Total Employees	477	493	485	471	463	489	6%
New Recruits	21	43	45	13	54	54	0%
Labour Turnover	13%	8%	11%	6%	13%	10%	-23%
CONTRACTS							
Full Time Employees	461	482	473	456	460	480	4%
Part Time Employees	16	11	12	15	3	9	200%
Temporary Employees	5	24	10	9	25	36	44%
Permanent Employees	472	469	475	462	438	453	3%
Apprenticeships	0	0	0	0	1	3	200%
EQUALITY							
Male Employees	394	412	400	390	376	396	5%
Female Employees	83	85	85	81	87	93	7%
Male Managers	53	57	57	57	40	31	-3%
Female Managers	8	9	7	7	10	12	20%
RETENTION							
Internal Promotions	2	4	7	6	5	10	100%
Employees Undergone Training Programmes	100	95	103	471	463	462	0%
Total Employees in 25-Year Club	69	41	73	80	87	94	8%
New Members in 25-Year Club	13	1	11	7	7	7	0%
Total Employees in 40-Year Club	10	10	11	11	11	11	0%
New Members in 40-Year Club	2	1	1	0	0	0	0%
HEALTH & SAFETY							
Loss Time Accident (LTA)	6	14	16	4	11	9	-18%
Actual Days Lost through LTA	96	133	111	27	79	70	-11%

Commitment to our Employees

In 2022, Polyflor’s key performance indicators for Human Resources were very positive. Most significantly, and encouraging for economic sustainability, was the 6% increase in total employees – a combination of improved labour turnover and additional new recruits.

There were no serious accidents and injuries reported throughout 2022, with total accidents across our UK sites and Actual Days Lost through LTA being less than 2021.

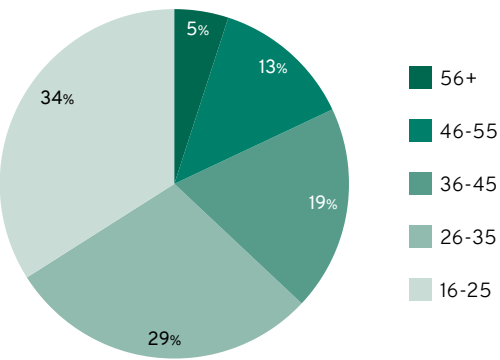
Recruitment & Retention

Some great positives for the year included a 100% rise in internal promotions, an upsurge in new female recruits (13 of the 54 new recruits) with a 7% increase in female employees, and significantly a **20% increase in female managers**.

Training and development of employees remained exceptionally high throughout 2022 and included the following examples:

- Export Documentation
- Inward & Outward Processing
- CDS Training
- First Aid
- FLT Training
- Floor Fitting
- Induction Training
- IPAF Training
- Auditor Training
- Finance for Non-Finance Managers
- Barbour ABI Training

Employee Age Groups %



The ages of Polyflor’s employees are diverse, with the biggest growth in the younger age groups; 9% more 16-26 and 17% more 26-35-year-olds, which was helped with the company’s two new apprentices in 2022. However, almost two-thirds of the personnel are aged 46+. This is largely due to the company’s retention of its staff, with 25% having been with the business for 20 years or more. In recognition of our long-standing and loyal workforce, we have 25 and 40-Year Clubs, which is something Polyflor is extremely proud of.



Meet the Team

Women in Construction & Manufacturing

Both construction and manufacturing sectors are typically male dominated. Polyflor’s ratio of women to men still reflects this with 19% to 81%. However, Polyflor has made inroads to increase females employed across the business. 2022 saw the highest number of female employees (93, a 7% increase) and female senior managers (12, a 20% increase) in its history. Interestingly, the ratio of females to males in management positions is 12 to 31, respectively, or 13% of female employees are managers with 10% of male staff also holding management and supervisory positions (this was 9% and 15% in 2020).

In 2022 we recruited 13 new female employees, but we also had 13 amazing women who have been with Polyflor for over 20 years. Here, we celebrate this by shining a light on 2 of our long-serving female employees...



Rachel Montgomery

Job Title: **UK Project Coordinator**
Start Date: **April 3rd, 2000**

Q. What was your first role when you joined Polyflor?

“When I joined Polyflor in 2000, I started my first role as a Sales Coordinator.”

Q. How has your role changed over the years?

“Given my length of service, my role has changed for various reasons over the years. In 2005 my career progressed, and I was promoted to Sales Office Supervisor, which meant more responsibility.

“In 2015 I changed my job to the position of Purchasing Coordinator. In doing so I dropped my hours to part time to fit in with personal needs and the challenges of having 2 children under 2, it worked for me at the time and enabled me to balance a very busy work/home life. However, my children are older now, so early in 2023 I was able to increase my hours and was offered a new position of Project Coordinator, which involves working closely with and supporting our sales force.”



Rachel Tran

Job Title: **Samples Supervisor**
Start Date: **November 13th, 2000**

Q. What was your first role when you joined Polyflor?

“Samples hotline co-ordinator - Answering the telephone to all customers requesting samples and manually writing out a form for the packing team to process the order.”

Q. How has your role changed over the years?

“Over the years my role has changed dramatically. The first thing that changed was when I collaborated with I.T. and we created a database so all sample requests could be done by computer. A few years after I started, my job moved from the sales office to the samples department on the shop floor.

“After that, the department moved to Royton, where I was asked if I would look after reception as well as doing the samples administration work. This involved dealing with deliveries and visits from customers from both the U.K. and around the world.

“18 months ago, I was made a supervisor in the samples department. My job now is a lot more physical as it involves the packing of samples as well as moving and emptying pallets, so all the heavy tile boxes are on the shelves and the department looks tidy.”

Meet the Team

Polyflor’s Apprentices

In 2022 Polyflor employed 3 apprentices, 2 were new apprentices to the business. Here we introduce our 2 newest apprentices and learn about their time so far at Polyflor and their future plans...



Victoria Birtwistle
Job Title: **HR Administrator**
Start Date: **November 16th, 2020**

Q. What do you like about working for Polyflor?
“Friendly and supportive team environment.”

Q. What do you enjoy about your role?
“Challenges to develop new, more efficient processes and practices, as well as the ability to get involved in all aspects of the HR function.”

Q. What new skill sets have you learnt or developed?
“Better understanding on the HR function within Polyflor and the improvements that we as a team can make. Working with a company that has Unions on site was new to me, I find it interesting attending their meetings.”

Q. What do you hope to achieve in the next 12 months?
“Take the knowledge learnt during the apprenticeship course and the everyday work experience to progress the HR function within the company, and assist management where needed to show/teach/support effective methods in all HR related tasks.”



Alfie Chapman
Job Title: **IT Technical Support Apprentice**
Start Date: **September, 2022**

Q. What do you like about working for Polyflor?
“I enjoy having more of a visual side of education instead of sitting in a classroom all day as I would be doing at college. Being an apprentice allows me to gain an early experience of what it’s like to be working in a workplace environment.”

Q. What do you enjoy about your role?
“My role usually contains a lot of moving around the two Greater Manchester sites instead of sitting in the same spot all day. There is not really any set routine either, as anything can happen at any time, which gives an aspect of something different every day.”

Q. What new skill sets have you learnt or developed?
“Since joining Polyflor I have developed my communication skills allowing me to deal effectively with other employees within the company whether this is phone, email, or face to face. I have also developed further teamworking skills from experience within the workplace environment.”

Q. What do you hope to achieve in the next 12 months?
“I have no set plan for the next 12 months except to exceed in what I already know and hopefully develop more knowledge in this line of work.”

Polyflor’s 25 & 40-Year Clubs

As testament to Polyflor’s success in retaining valued and experienced employees, we had 7 new members joining the 25-Year Club, increasing its total by 8% to 94 members. The 40-Year Club remained the same as the last 4 years, with 11 members – one of whom has been with the business for 49 years. Cumulatively, the 25 and 40-Year Clubs made up an amazing 22% of Polyflor’s workforce. Meet 2 of our senior team members and their Polyflor journey...



John Manchester
Job Title: **Senior Facilitator**
Start Date: **September, 1983**

Q. What was your first role when you joined Polyflor?
“In the first week my role was Mixing Shop Assistant, on 12-hour nights. The weeks that followed I was placed as a ‘Bucket Man’ on the spreading head of the production lines.”

Q. How has your role changed over the years?
“My early years were spent learning new skills, which eventually led to key operator roles. In 1986 I was made Charge Hand and eventually promoted to Foreman in December 1989.”

Q. What have been your biggest challenges and positives?
“In my earlier years night shifts were very difficult to get used to. Also, when promotions were offered, I needed to have the self-belief I could do the roles.

“My positives are that I’ve always been seen as approachable, and a good communicator with all levels of the company. I’ve had some great mentors and have always felt valued by the company and have an enviable attendance record.”

“These challenges always produce positives, including the diversity of the production plants and processes - there is always a new problem to tackle. This has made for an ever changing and interesting workload. If a case can be made for new plant and processes, Polyflor has always been willing to invest. Going forward, the increasing amount of environmental opportunities and legislation will continue to keep me busy.

“During my time I have worked with and for a large variety of employees from all disciplines in the business. Each have their own character and management style. I always try to learn something from everybody. I would like to thank the Polyflor team for contributing positively to my time in the business.



Peter Kitchen
Job Title: **Polyflor Technical and Quality Assurance Manager**
Start Date: **February 23rd, 1987**

Q. What was your first role when you joined Polyflor?
“My first three years began as a Research and Development Technician, then Process Technologist. This consisted of mainly lab work, including colour matching of new shades for the then new non-directional ranges. I was heavily involved in the initial commissioning and improvements of the production line (Line 6) for these ranges.”

Q. How has your role changed over the years?
“Line 7 followed a similar pattern including the development of the 2000 PUR and the non-directional ranges. The role progressed from sourcing new materials and process plant, to managing a team to do these tasks. Along the way, I gained responsibility for the quality and environmental management systems.”

Q. What have been your biggest challenges and positives?
“The biggest challenges I think, have been improving inefficient production processes to run to a profitable level; The evolution of the recycling project, which eventually became Recofloor; The effect of covid on staffing and sourcing raw materials deserves a mention here also.

“These challenges always produce positives, including the diversity of the production plants and processes - there is always a new problem to tackle. This has made for an ever changing and interesting workload. If a case can be made for new plant and processes, Polyflor has always been willing to invest. Going forward, the increasing amount of environmental opportunities and legislation will continue to keep me busy.

“During my time I have worked with and for a large variety of employees from all disciplines in the business. Each have their own character and management style. I always try to learn something from everybody. I would like to thank the Polyflor team for contributing positively to my time in the business.

Commitment to our Communities

As a responsible manufacturer, Polyflor has a duty of care to ensure that the impact of day-to-day operations from its business to the local community is minimal. We also want to ‘give back’ wherever we can and support our local heroes... Let’s do good.

Good Neighbours

As such the company has procedures and policies to address issues which may arise in line with ISO 14001 and BES 6001, including a robust complaints procedure, where these issues are regularly reviewed at Environmental Steering Meetings. It is the responsibility of the Directors to initiate a project in instances where the source of a complaint is persistent and requires a solution. Where a complaint form is received, the company has a formalised procedure as per its BES 6001 objectives to respond and action within 7 days of receiving it. The recording of these complaints is audited and reported on annually.

Polyflor’s Whitefield site is the original production site and located within a residential area (the site is over 100 years old and older than many of the nearby houses). For this reason, continued efforts to reduce noise pollution and emissions remain important for harmonisation between this production site and its neighbouring residents. As well as ensuring HGVs turn off engines during evening and early morning deliveries and collections, investment has also been made into acoustic engineering and into new electric forklift trucks, to help minimise noise levels.

Given the proximity of the 100s of residents to this 24-hour production site (Monday to Friday), complaints can be difficult to control, and the number of complaints can fluctuate and vary year on year. 9 complaints were received in 2022 and were promptly handled. This was 6 more complaints than 2021, with 56% of the complaints being noise related. However, Polyflor strives to prevent complaints from the outset and continues to interact closely with its communities.

Good Support

As part of ongoing CSR commitments, Polyflor continues to liaise with and support the local communities in which it operates. It is particularly important to give something back to local communities – our (often unsung) heroes who make a massive difference - as well as contributing to causes further afield. Polyflor encourages its staff to engage with charitable organisations and events, as well as supporting individuals on a charitable basis, either financially or enabling volunteer work.

When Polyflor is involved in donating flooring to charitable projects, the marketing, sales and distribution teams invest a lot of time through support and communication: They work together in arranging a suitable product, ordering and despatch. There is a duty of care in ensuring the right flooring is specified and delivered in a timely manner and followed up with appropriate customer aftercare.

Further to this allocated time for organising donated flooring, Polyflor staff also accrue hours for individual voluntary initiatives, which Polyflor

supports. In 2022, 50 hours were accrued in the UK for voluntary work, which was the same as 2021. Some of the voluntary work carried out included:

- Helping the Royal Voluntary Service, with one employee helping with a 'check in and chat'.
- Volunteering for Springwater Park in Whitefield (across the road from Polyflor’s Manchester-based production site) www.lovespringwaterpark.wordpress.com
- Managing Brightmet Wanderers Hurricanes Under 11’s Football Team, who train every Wednesday at St Catherine’s Academy, Bolton, and play every Saturday morning in the Bolton & Bury Community Partnership League. As part of the managerial role, all voluntary work and funding is done by our employee and team coach. They also provide the team with extra training kits and winter coats on top of the standard kit.
- One employee has been a member of Cleveland Mountain Rescue Team for 19 years and has held Team Leader and Callout Officer positions over that time. The team responds to around 50-70 callouts per year and covers an area including half of the North York Moors and the Tees Valley area, including semi urban and urban areas of Middlesbrough and Hartlepool. Running costs for the team of around 50 volunteers is approximately £42k per year.

Over the last 6 years, Polyflor employees have accrued 194 hours of volunteering in the UK.



Emerge, Manchester

Polyflor’s Highlights

Let’s do good

Over the last 5 years, Polyflor has donated £67,530 to local charities in the UK.

In 2022, Polyflor supported 7 charitable projects by donating nearly £4,800 both financially and in flooring, plus raising £415 as well as donating food and toys to various local and national charities in the UK. Most of Polyflor’s CSR activities for 2022 took place around November and December with a series of festive fundraisers to help spread a little cheer and give back to the local community in the run up to Christmas.

Bury Council Fostering Team

We showed our support for Bury Council’s Fostering Team, which helps children stay connected to their community, school, friends, and family. We did so by donating Christmas presents for children who were in foster care over the festive period. A party was organised by Bury Council, where every child and young person delightedly received the gifts from Father Christmas himself.

“We were overwhelmed with the generous donations from staff and colleagues at Polyflor, of toys and gifts for our looked after children. To see the reaction and joy on the children’s faces at our Christmas party was priceless. We are so thankful to all the staff for their generosity, it really means a lot!”

Julie Rodgers
Acting Team Manager, Bury Council’s Fostering Team



The River Manchester “Bringing hope, changing lives”

We also helped The River Manchester, a charity which brings hope and support to those facing or fleeing domestic violence and potential poverty by empowering them to create better lives for themselves. The organisation provides people with furniture for new accommodation and offers training and emotional support at its Openshaw HQ.

We took part in the charity’s reverse advent calendar, which, instead of opening the windows and taking out treats, participants picked a number at random and donated a corresponding item towards a food hamper.

www.therivermanchester.org.uk



Polyflor's Highlights

Let's do good

Save the Children

For Save the Children, which aims to improve the lives of youngsters through better education, healthcare and economic opportunities, Polyflor raised money for its beloved annual Christmas Jumper Day. Employees donned their finest festive knitwear to raise money, while Polyflor also gifted £250.



Cleveland Mountain Rescue

Cleveland Mountain Rescue

To round off our charitable campaign, £250 was also gifted to Cleveland Mountain Rescue, which is reliant on the generosity of local organisations to cover its yearly running costs. The team (of which, one of our employees is a volunteer) has around 50 search and rescue members who are on call 24-hours a day every day of the year to help those who may need it.



Doing Good Internationally

Polyflor Australia

Donated \$2,500 to the Lismore Flood Appeal, where 2 catastrophic floods wiped out communities on the NSW northern rivers in 2022.

Polyflor New Zealand

Continued to financially contribute as a corporate supporter for Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust.

James Halstead France

Donated financially to Actions 3PF to support apprentices and promote training in the flooring industry. Actions 3PF is the association that brings together stakeholders in the paint and floor trades (manufacturers, distributors, tradesmen). Its mission is to promote the finishing trades and initial training, and enhance the expertise of all professionals in all sectors of activity.



Auckland Rescue Helicopter



About this Report

This report provides an overview of Polyflor’s sustainability performance for the 2021 calendar year and enables us to communicate to all stakeholders, be accountable for our sustainability activities and identify where improvements should be made.

Report Boundary

The environmental data reported is required as part of our BES 6001 sustainability objectives and framework, relating to our 2 UK production sites. In compliance to our BES 6001 Excellent rating, the methodology used for significant environmental aspects is outlined herewith.

Polyflor Environmental Impacts Assessment - Methodology

General

Polyflor has assessed its operations and as a result has identified environmental impacts of the business.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of Polyflor Senior Management to systematically examine their business operations and identify possible and actual effects on the environment.

Control Measures

- Internal procedure titled “Environmental Aspects Identification and Assessment”.
- Register of Environmental Aspects.
- Environmental Aspects Identification and Assessment Form.
- Register of legal requirements.
- Environmental Objectives.

Identification of Environmental Aspects

Polyflor has identified 18 non-significant aspects and 15 significant aspects. Identification of all Environmental Aspects consider the following:

- Possible and actual effects on the environment.
- Type of activities carried out.
- Use of materials and utilities.
- Generation of solid and liquid waste.
- Discharges to sewer or surface waters.
- Emissions to atmosphere.
- Energy consumption.
- Transport and distribution.
- Noise emissions.
- Packaging.
- Housekeeping and visual impacts.
- Effect of fire.
- Effect of flooding.
- Electrical failure.
- Spillages on site.

Significant Environmental Aspects

- EA8 Transport of goods and materials to the Polyflor sites.
- EA9 Energy Use – steam generation.
- EA10 Emissions to air from safety flooring manufacture.
- EA12 Environmental noise and vibration from site.
- EA13 Generation of waste for off-site disposal or reclamation.
- EA14 Disposal of foul water.
- EA17 Packaging of final product.
- EA18 Distribution of product from site.
- EA24 Effect of liquid spillage from site.
- EA25 Use of cooling towers on site.
- EA26 Presence of asbestos in building materials on site.
- EA27 Presence of chiller systems.
- EA33 Demolition and building on site.
- EA36 Climate change and energy.
- EA37 Water abstraction.

Assessment of Significance

Environmental Aspects are assessed based on environmental risk.

The severity score will be based on the following:
1-4 = Trivial effect.
5-8 = Minor effect.
9-12 = Major effect.

The likelihood will be based on the following:
1 = Improbable occurrence.
2 = Possible occurrence.
3 = Occasional occurrence.
4 = Regular occurrence.

The significance is calculated from multiplying the severity by the likelihood. An aspect is considered significant if the significance score is greater than 25.

Environmental Aspect Identification and Assessment Form

- Each aspect identifies the following criteria.
- Description of the area of activity.
 - Description of the environmental impact.
 - Specific activities associated with impacts.
 - Mitigation strategies (objectives).
 - Legal requirements.

Review of Environmental Aspects

Environmental aspects are reviewed periodically by senior management to assess the following:

- Progress of associated objectives and targets.
- Associated activities.
- Necessary updates/changes.
- Need for identification of new aspects.
- Significance Score.

Auditing of Environmental Aspects

All significant aspects are audited to ensure:

- Compliance to legal requirements.
- Compliance to management system requirements.

Polyflor is compliant to legal and management system requirements and remains accredited to ISO 14001.

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is important to Polyflor and facilitates a two-way process for communication and insight, as outlined within our BES 6001 parameters. The stakeholder consultation process and its activities generally involve meetings, feedback procedures and surveys, audits, representations and regular contact and involvement with the following: Employees; customers; suppliers; trade unions; industry associations; local communities; shareholders; government and financial organisations.

We value your opinions and would welcome feedback on this report. Please get in touch at info@polyflor.com

Verification Statement

Over the years, certification to BES 6001, the framework standard for responsible sourcing, has become increasingly significant in the construction industry. BES 6001 requires construction product manufacturers to demonstrate levels of achievement against a series of clauses, some of which are compulsory and others being deemed as deserving of additional credit when the company goes above and beyond the compulsory level. Depending upon the score achieved by the organisation, it is possible to gain a Pass, Good, Very Good or Excellent rating. Higher levels of performance are achieved (in part) through external verification of particular clauses of the BES 6001 standard. This is particularly important for those organisations wishing to certify to an Excellent rating, as this rating cannot be achieved without this verification.

This is the external verification statement for BES 6001 environmental and social activities, based on data as reported by Polyflor in their 2022 Sustainability Report.

Nature and scope of verification

CM Environmental has carried out an independent verification of the Polyflor KPIs and can confirm that they have not, in any way, been involved in the preparation of this data, nor has any bias or conflict of interest. The verification study has included a number of environmental and social issues which relate to specific clauses of BES 6001.

The scope of the data verification included the company’s Whitefield Head Office and its Riverside, Teesside, facility.

The purpose of the verification exercise was to ensure that the information conveyed to stakeholder and other interested parties is accurate and supported by appropriate documented evidence.

The specific clauses of BES 6001 relevant to this verification exercise include the following:

- 3.4.1 Greenhouse gas emissions
- 3.4.3 Resource use
- 3.4.4 Waste prevention and waste management
- 3.4.5 Water use and abstraction
- 3.4.9 Employment and skills
- 3.4.10 Local communities

Statements of the independence of the verifier



CM Environmental has been providing support to a large number of clients involved in the manufacture of construction products since 2013. Although a small company, the team has many years’ experience in supporting companies, both large and small, in a range of services including Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001), Responsible Sourcing (BES 6001) and also a range of Quality Management issues (ISO 9001) and Health and Safety Management (ISO 45001).

The verification exercise was carried out by Christine Morris, who has experience of Responsible Sourcing in the construction products industry and is approved by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) as an independent KPI data verifier.

Conclusion

Based on the procedures followed by CM Environmental during this independent verification exercise, there has been no evidence that the data supplied to the Polyflor Sustainability Report, for the period 1st January to 31st December 2022, has not been obtained based on reliable basis, that the information is not adequately presented, or that significant deviations or omissions exist. Verified figures can be used in support of sustainability reporting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Morris".

Christine Morris
CM Environmental
(6th March 2023)



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