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CONTRACT FLOORS

| APRIL 2026 |

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TOMORROW'S
CONTRACT FLOORS

**AWARDS
2026**

1ST PLACE

BEST OF THE BEST

It's time to reveal the winners of the Tomorrow's Contract Floors Awards 2026.

Turn to page 12 to see who you voted the TCF Top 10.



Choosing the wrong adhesive can cause system failures – the NEW Recommended Adhesives Guide 2026, from F. Ball, removes that risk.

With around 6,000 tested and approved recommendations from nearly 200 leading manufacturers, it's the industry's most reliable resource for quickly selecting the correct adhesive, for any floorcovering installation, every time. **Tested, approved & guaranteed.**



RAG® 2026

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F. BALL RAG® 2026**

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COVER STORY

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Hello and welcome to the April issue of Tomorrow's Contract Floors.

We begin this month by celebrating excellence as we unveil the winners of the Tomorrow's Contract Floors Awards 2026. Selected by you, our readers, these standout products and services represent the very highest standards in performance, design and reliability. We received thousands of votes this year and it was a close contest right to the end. Turn to page 12 to find out which companies came out on top.

Performance remains a central theme throughout the issue. Our smoothing compounds feature underlines the importance of preparation and product selection in delivering long-lasting results. In East London, Tremco demonstrates its capabilities on a major student accommodation refurbishment, while Kerakoll's specialists share practical guidance on achieving flawless finishes across a range of substrates.

Creating environments that support wellbeing is another key focus. Forbo's contribution to The Nook mental health hub in Glasgow shows how thoughtful flooring choices can help foster calm, welcoming spaces, while Altro proves that safety and style can go hand in hand in a busy Same Day Emergency Care facility.

With underfloor heating continuing to grow in popularity, we explore both the challenges and opportunities it presents. Expert advice from F. Ball and innovative systems from Mapei provide valuable insight for contractors looking to balance efficiency with performance.

Elsewhere in our tools & accessories section, Husqvarna Construction introduces a game-changing development in surface preparation technology, and Bjelin highlights how attention to detail can elevate a project from good to exceptional.

We hope you enjoy the issue and that it inspires your next project.

Sarah .  

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ADP DISTRIBUTION CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF ADAPTATION, AMBITION AND DELIVERY

In an industry defined by constant change, longevity is never accidental. It is earned through adaptability, reliability, and an unwavering commitment to doing things properly. As ADP Distribution marks 20 years in business, it is a moment not just to celebrate a milestone, but to reflect on the journey, the people, and the principles that have shaped the company since its launch in January 2006.

Founded on over 50 years of combined specialist experience in visual merchandising, ADP began with a single vehicle and a clear vision: to provide dependable, flexible, and professional logistics and installation services tailored to the needs of retail and commercial clients. Two decades on, that vision has scaled into a fleet of 12 vehicles, a 30,000 sq ft central warehouse, and a reputation for delivering complex projects across the UK and Europe – on time, on brand, and on budget.

From its strategically located base in Central England, just one mile from the M5 and major transport links, ADP has supported some of the most recognisable names in retail. Whether servicing a single installation or co-ordinating national product rollout distribution projects across hundreds of stores, the company has consistently demonstrated that size of project is never a barrier – only a question of how best to deliver it.

Growth at ADP has always been purposeful. In 2007, installation and project management services were formally launched, giving clients a fully integrated retail installation solution. By 2014, the brand's ethos was captured in its now-familiar slogan: 'Adapting to your requirements – we fit the pieces together.' It was more than a marketing line; it was a statement of intent.

The company celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2016, and just a year later expanded further with the launch of SampleWorx – a dedicated flooring industry sample production business. With specialist expertise in luxury vinyl tiles, carpet tiles, vinyl and

accessories, SampleWorx reinforced ADP's position as a creative as well as logistical partner, producing innovative sampling solutions that support sales at every level.

By 2018, ADP's services were brought to life through the creation of its now well-known 'superhero' ambassadors – each representing a core service, from distribution and POS merchandising to installation, project management and roll-out logistics. It was a bold and distinctive way to communicate a serious message: ADP offers end-to-end solutions, backed by real people and real expertise.

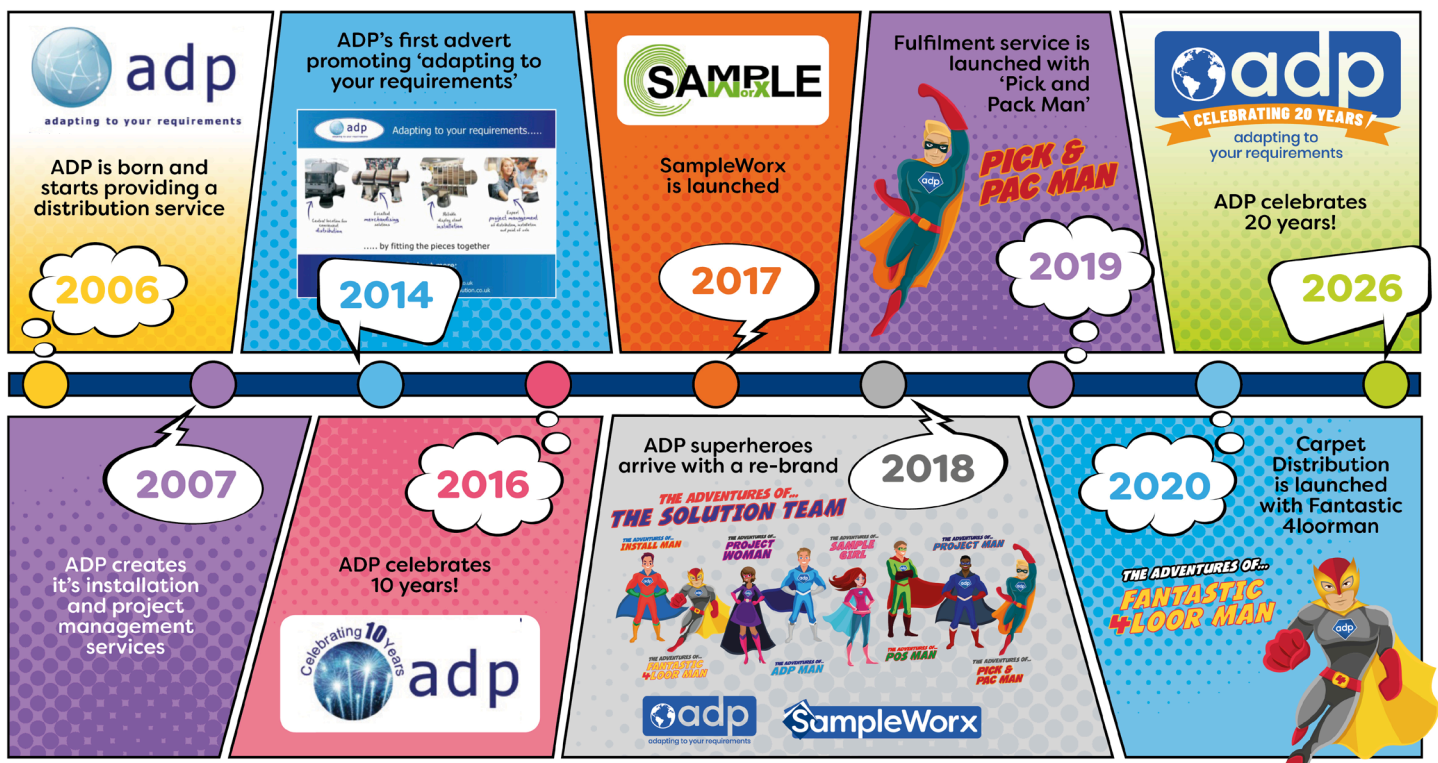
The launch of the fulfilment and pick-and-pack service in 2019 further strengthened this proposition, giving clients transparent, flexible and scalable warehousing and distribution support, complete with tracking, reporting and inventory management.

When the industry faced unprecedented disruption during the Covid pandemic, ADP once again adapted. The launch of its specialist carpet and flooring delivery service, including the industry-leading capability to deliver 5-metre widths to domestic addresses, set the business apart. Offering UK and European same-day delivery, three-to-five-day services, commercial and residential solutions, flexible payment terms and multiple signatory options, ADP proved that even in the most challenging conditions, innovation and service do not stand still.

Today, as ADP Distribution Limited celebrates 20 years of continuous growth, the story is clear. This is a business built on trust, shaped by experience, and driven by a genuine commitment to meeting clients' needs – whatever they may be.

The past 20 years have laid strong foundations. The next chapter promises even more.

<https://adp-distribution.co.uk>



UNILIN INCREASES RECYCLED CONTENT OF VINYL FLOORING

Dryback and rigid click vinyl flooring from Unilin now comes with more pre-consumer recycled content, as it continues towards a target of 40% by 2040.

Since it was founded in 1960, Unilin has pioneered circular production, and it remains the driving force behind everything it does today. This focus on renewable and recyclable materials has been central to the development of Unilin's vinyl planks and tiles. Waste PVC from within its own production have been used since day one, reducing reliance on virgin material and keeping it in the loop and helping Unilin to minimise the use of CO2 intensive virgin PVC.

Relying on internal production waste alone has limitations in terms of material availability and so Unilin launched its Recover programme to take back post-industrial PVC from other industries, as well as installation off-cuts and old floors. Since it began, Recover has been used to ensure unwanted PVC from both pre-consumer and post-consumer

sources are used all new vinyl flooring from Unilin.

As a result of the growth of Recover in collecting external PVC waste, in just a single year, the pre-consumer recycled content of Unilin's dryback (glue-down) vinyl flooring has increased from 21% to at least 24% (SCS-R-20325). Rigid click vinyl has also risen from 22% to minimum 25% pre-consumer recycled content (SCS-R-20324). Importantly, this recycled content has been independently certified by SCS Global Services.

The analysis has calculated the total content of pre-consumer recycled content used in vinyl floors made at Unilin's vinyl planks and tiles production facility in Avelgem, Belgium. Under the analysis, SCS Global Services identifies pre-consumer recycled content as: recycled materials from other industrial processes, including internal cutting waste, reprocessed into raw materials. Certification is publicly available from the SCS Global Services website, www.scsglobalservices.com.

www.unilin.com



FIND THE START OF FANTASTIC FLOORS AT THE FLOORING SHOW SOUTH

The first ever edition of The Flooring Show South, Sandown Park, 15-16 April, will be the place to find the start of fantastic floors thanks to floorwise. Joining its independent distributors in the south of England, Salesmark and Salesmark West on Stand C32, floorwise will show just why its range of installation and finishing products lead the way in quality and value.

The show will be one of the first opportunities to see the brand's new Lumiere premium retail-friendly underlay range. Made using a hand-sorted blend of pre-consumer recycled PU foam and memory foam to give the best of both materials, Lumiere is free from hard lumps and comes with an entirely different feel, making this unmistakably premium underlay stand out from the crowd. It is available in three classic thicknesses and is supported by high quality A3 sampling for retailers and installers, as well as floorwise's unique A4 sample cards that add extra versatility to presentation options.

floorwise will also be previewing PowerFORCE, a new recycled PU underlay designed specifically for contract

installations. The first underlay to use an MHD+ (mega high density) 210kg/m³ construction, PowerFORCE has been independently tested for use as a Class 33 Heavy Contract Use underlay. It is a serious alternative for the traditional crumb-rubber underlays which are heavier and more cumbersome to move and is compatible with both double-stick and stretch-fit installations. Powerforce will be available in 6.5mm and 8mm thicknesses.

Andrew Gill, product manager at floorwise, said: "We're delighted to be joining Salesmark and Salesmark West at the first ever The Flooring Show South with some fabulous new products. As you will see with Lumiere and Powerforce, we're committed to developing products that ensure our network of independent distributors can deliver our famous quality and value with solutions for every project."

www.floorwise.co.uk



THE FLOORING SHOW SOUTH
15-16 APRIL 2026
SANDOWN PARK, SURREY

ECOPROTEC INTRODUCES PFAS-FREE BLACK STONE COLOUR RESTORER

ECOPROTEC has introduced a new PFAS-free formulated Black Stone Colour Restorer. Developed to restore and protect faded outdoor pavers, Black Stone Colour Restorer now joins ECOPROTEC's Porcelain Paving Enhancer, which also features a formulation that is free from forever chemicals.

Developed for limestone, marble, slate, concrete and artificial stone surfaces, Black Stone Colour Restorer is a water-based treatment that contains a permanent colour intensifying pigment. It is applied in multiple coats until the desired colour effect is achieved – from dark grey to ebony – to restore appearance to pavers faded by UV rays, humidity and rainwater, and to protect them from the elements going forward. To maintain a very dark, pristine finish, annual treatment with Black Stone Colour Restorer is recommended, although a treated stone will maintain a far darker aesthetic than an untreated stone for around four to five years.

Launched last spring – and also a water-based treatment – ECOPROTEC Porcelain Paving Enhancer is a self-shine solution

that gives tiles a 'just washed look'. It also provides practical benefits, being highly resistant to foot traffic, general wear and stains, and promotes easier maintenance. Like Black Stone Colour Restorer, the treatment is UV-resistant and, whilst glossy in nature, causes minimal change to a tile's slip resistance properties.

All ECOPROTEC floor finishes are manufactured in the UK and are offered alongside a comprehensive range of maintenance products developed for the

contractor and landscaper. ECOPROTEC is currently working towards a complete range of PFAS-free sealers that contain no perfluoroalkyl/polyfluoroalkyl substances, with reformulations scheduled for introduction in late 2026.

To find out more, please visit the website below, contact the ECOPROTEC Technical Team on 01823 662722 or email technical@ecoprotec.co.uk.

www.ecoprotec.co.uk



SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS

A growing number of social housing providers are stepping beyond regulation to consider the positive impact of providing suitable floorcoverings throughout the home. With measurable positive impact on tenants, the move towards provision above current standards suggests a new way of thinking about social housing that places greater emphasis on wellbeing.

IVC Commercial sheet vinyl floors can help providers in achieving a better quality of life for tenants affordably. Jake Parks, national sales manager – commercial at IVC, explains: "Sheet vinyl is chosen for bathrooms and kitchens because of its affordability and ease of installation, but those factors also make it a great option elsewhere in social housing." Along with other benefits such as durability and easy maintenance, sheet vinyl gives providers the chance to create homes that go beyond adhering to regulation with flooring that's cost-effective to purchase and install.

For providers keen to raise the quality of their housing stock, IVC Commercial's Zenura ranges are

purpose-made as a budget-sensitive floorcovering that has the staying power to last across tenancies – cost and the removal of floorcoverings at void are the biggest barriers to wider adoption. The Zenura collection is equipped with a long-lasting wear layer that holds its appearance, and vinyl's low maintenance, seamless finish also helps tenants to maintain their floors to a high standard, further aiding longevity.

In terms of installation, Zenura offers both standard compact-backed ranges and textile backings that can be installed directly on top of some existing floorcoverings. Both types can be loose laid in rooms, speeding up time and reducing the cost of new build and refurbishment. All floors are made in Belgium, ensuring a high-quality and consistent product that's widely available across the UK.

"The Zenura range is a serious social housing proposition, not just for contractors needing ready availability and good pricing, but also for providers that may be thinking about how they can make a real difference in reducing the financial burden put upon tenants and

supporting their welfare. We think that change in the sector is needed and the Zenura range can be a catalyst for that," concludes Jake Parks.

www.ivc-floorsforhousing.co.uk



F. BALL HELPS CHILDREN IN NEED BIG BUILD

High-performance adhesives from F. Ball and Co. Ltd. have played a role in the DIY SOS 'Big Build' for BBC Children in Need, in partnership with Morning Live, involving the creation of a brand-new gym facility for childhood cancer charity The Joshua Tree at its Cheshire support centre.

Responding to the call for tradespeople, long-time F. Ball customer Fitout Flooring Ltd., based in Chilworth, volunteered their time and expertise to install flooring for the 12-day Big Build. When F. Ball's local technical representative learned of the project, the company stepped in to donate the adhesives required for the installation.

Contractors from Fitout Flooring Ltd. used F. Ball's Styccobond F58 PLUS to install rubber floorcoverings to plywood subfloors in the gym.

Styccobond F58 PLUS transitions from a wet-lay state when initially applied to the subfloor to become fully pressure sensitive. When used as a wet-lay adhesive, it is also suitable for adhering rubber floorcoverings up to 4mm thick. The fast-drying formulation enables floorcoverings to be secured from just five minutes following application of the adhesive.

F. Ball's Styccobond F3 was used to install a numbered artificial grass turf track in the middle of the room. The water-based rubber/resin flooring adhesive which offers excellent wet grab and benefits from an early build-up of strength. It is also protected against bio-degradation and compatible for use with over 70% of the floorcoverings listed in the F. Ball Recommended Adhesives Guide (RAG).

Commenting on the project, Russell Carpenter, sales director of Fitout Flooring Ltd, said: "We are delighted to be able to support a project to help extend the invaluable work of the charity. The entire project required completing in 12 days, and we had a small window in which to install floorcoverings owing to needing to work around other trades, and F. Ball products helped with this."

Rich Driffield, CEO at The Joshua Tree, added: "Our families need spaces that feel safe, calm and welcoming all year round. Seeing the building come together so quickly was extraordinary, but what mattered most was knowing it had been properly thought through by the whole project team and would be comfortable from day one. As a charity, we now support families across the UK through a range of on-site and outreach activities. With our main centre fully developed, we have laid strong foundations for the future of The Joshua Tree and, most importantly, are now able to support even more families affected by childhood cancers."

The Joshua Tree was founded in 2006 by Dai and Lynda Hill following their own experience of childhood cancer. When their son Josh was diagnosed with Leukaemia, they found no services that supported the emotional wellbeing of the whole family from diagnosis through post-treatment. They created The Joshua Tree to meet this need and embedded a community-led ethos from the start. That legacy continues, with families involved in shaping, evaluating, and delivering our services. The charity supports families affected by childhood cancers across North West England, North Wales and further afield.

www.f-ball.co.uk



PREVENT WOOD FLOORING FAILURES: 2 ESSENTIAL TOOLS

Ensure Flooring Longevity
 Ensure Proper Installation
 Avoid Callbacks and Repairs

Learn more at wmmeters.com/3HdmRq

WAGNER METERS

ORION moisture meter
 950

SENTRY

wmmeters.com/3HdmRq

HERRINGBONE FOR EVERY HOME WITH QUICK-STEP IMPRESSIVE

The ongoing popularity of herringbone means many homeowners are no longer considering it as a special 'feature' option, but rather as a ready alternative to plank laying patterns. So, as an installer or retailer, you want a floor that offers all the same security and ease of standard planks. Quick-Step's Impressive Designs laminate floor is just that: a herringbone plank guaranteed 100% waterproof and creak-free and that uses Unizip for fast installation.

Impressive Designs is available in six natural oak tones. From the light, clean grade of Ginger Oak to the rich, rustic and warming Cinnamon Oak, it has a herringbone look to match any interior style. With Quick-Step's authentic bevel that takes pattern and texture to the very edge of each plank and a pattern that gives an extraordinary 56 planks per colour, Impressive Designs brings the brand's unmistakable true natural look to herringbone.

It's also wonderfully easy to install thanks to the Unizip locking profile.

An evolution of the world famous Uniclic profile, this clever system eliminates the need for separate 'A&B' planks, meaning that installing herringbone is easier and faster with less wastage. What's more, the precision and strength of Unizip completely eliminates the creak that can occur with other herringbone click systems and means moisture can't seep between joints. Alongside the Hydroseal coating that repels water, it guarantees a 100% waterproof herringbone floor that can be used in bathrooms and kitchens.

Niall Cassidy, retail manager at Unilin Flooring UK, said: "Quick-Step Impressive Designs makes herringbone a simpler, less fussy proposition for installers. Not only that, but it also brings homeowners a quality laminate floor that looks natural and performs beautifully. Impressive Designs democratises herringbone and can be enjoyed in every room in the home."

Through its enduring quality, waterproof construction and tough surface, the Impressive Designs laminate collection is

a long-lasting herringbone floor made almost entirely from wood (80%). What's more, the 100% recovered wood used in the HDF core of Impressive is from sawmills and landscape maintenance rather than forestry.

www.quick-step.co.uk



BAL RAPID-MAT IN WHITE – NEW COLOUR, IMPROVED PERFORMANCE

BAL has introduced the improved BAL Rapid-Mat thin uncoupling mat, which now comes in white.

This latest development provides the same trusted performance installers rely on for tiling onto problematic substrates with movement, with additional improvements to make every installation smoother and more efficient.

The move to a white mat – with red gridlines and markings – provides enhanced visibility for setting out plus easier-to-see wetting out of the adhesive, helping installers easily confirm full coverage during installation.

Add to this the improved roll-out and mat stability, and you've got a system designed to speed up workflow without compromising reliability.

And the benefits don't stop there: the updated mat colour also delivers a 2.5% CO₂ reduction in the production of the non-woven fleece – a small change that supports BAL's ongoing sustainability efforts.

Alex Underwood, head of marketing at BAL, said: "Our improved BAL Rapid-

Mat provides great new benefits for installers, on top of its already outstanding performance as a thin, low-height build-up uncoupling system.

"Importantly, nothing changes about its fundamental design. The unique fast-track thin uncoupling mat is still utilising our exclusive technology to accommodate lateral movement and counteracts tension stresses between the substrate and the floor to be installed.

"This means, BAL Rapid-Mat is still lightweight and easy to install with only 1mm thickness. Crucially, BAL Rapid-Mat uses 20% less adhesive when compared to using a cavity mat systems while being suitable for all tile types and thicknesses.

"To help installers recognise it instantly in-store, every roll is still wrapped in a red plastic cover, keeping the look consistent while delivering improved functionality underneath."

www.bal-adhesives.com



END THE POSTCODE LOTTERY WITH BEAUFLOR FLOORING

With the recent announcement that the revised Decent Homes Standard for England will not mandate floorcoverings in all rooms of social housing, Beauflor asks whether the provision of flooring for tenants should really be a postcode lottery.

While some forward-thinking social housing providers in England are including floorcoverings throughout the homes they let, many others are still stripping out the attempts of previous tenants to improve the standard of their home and welcoming new tenants with bare floors. Unsurprisingly, these bare floors put tenants under financial strain to put right, or they are simply left living and sleeping in a home that has a negative impact on their wellbeing.

Yet with Beauflor sheet vinyl floors, many provider concerns around the affordability of flooring – to which the revisions conceded – can be answered, raising the quality of living for tenants and reducing the postcode lottery style provision they face today. It might even help providers end their 'rip-out' culture by eliminating hygiene and health and safety worries.

Beauflor has a wide range of sheet vinyl floors suitable for social housing. Cost-effective, simple and fast to install, as well as water-resistant and durable, these floors are commonly found in bathrooms and kitchens of social housing but are just as appropriate for bedrooms, living spaces and hallways.

Unlike commercial 'compact' grade sheet vinyl floors, Beauflor's options have a comfortable foam or textile 'cushion' backing that not only feels soft underfoot but is warm and quiet too. These benefits help to create a more comfortable and supportive environment for tenants that's more akin to living with carpet than hard and cold planks or tiles. A range of wood, tile and stone designs give an attractive, homely option for every room.

Thanks to the seamless, durable and easy-to-maintain finish, they also give providers a lasting covering that's easy to assess at changes of tenancy. Unlike carpets, which have largely contributed to the rip-out culture, a visual inspection is all that's needed to highlight any damage or hygiene-related issues. By using sheet vinyl it's no longer necessary to rip-out perfectly good floorcoverings for fear of complaints. Additionally, floors are available with antibacterial treatments to inhibit mould growth, while PUR surface treatments improve resistance to stains and permanent marking.

When the time does come to replace floorcoverings, in most rooms Beauflor sheet vinyl can be installed without glue onto a suitably prepared subfloor. And because no adhesive is used, they are easy to take up and replace and do not damage the subfloor, helping to cut-down on costly future remedial work. Eliminating adhesive and sheet vinyl's 'cut to fit' nature make installation exceptionally quick, even in 'complex' bathrooms where sanitary ware, pipes and other obstacles need to be accommodated.

With a compelling number of advantages despite its cost-effective positioning, Beauflor sheet vinyl provides a realistic solution for providers to offer tenants a home with floorcoverings in every room, and a start to end the postcode lottery of good quality homes for those most in need.

www.beauflor.com



WHEN USING A CONCRETE METER, USE ONE THAT'S

2X MORE ACCURATE

For the 9 commonly used concrete mix designs we tested, the C555 came significantly closer to oven-dry results than other meters did.

Learn more: wmmeters.com/3NXghVf

WAGNER METERS

wmmeters.com/3NXghVf

INTERFACE LAUNCHES NORAVANT: A NEW RUBBER FLOORING PLATFORM

Interface has introduced noravant, a first-of-its-kind PVC-free resilient flooring solution combining high performance, bold design flexibility, and a low carbon footprint. With innovative technology behind its design flexibility, noravant allows designers to specify rubber in more spaces within high-performing environments. The addition extends the company's rubber offering, which now includes noraplan, norament, and noravant.

The first product within the platform, noravant timber, features the industry's first woodgrain design in rubber flooring, helping to bring a natural aesthetic to demanding environments like healthcare waiting areas and patient rooms, where durability and cleanability are essential.

noravant timber is available in 10 Nordic-inspired colorways, including creamy ivories, sandy taupes, and deep grounding shades. Together, the palette moves from warmer to cooler woodgrains, offering designers a variety of options for creating spaces that feel welcoming, without compromising on performance or sustainability. The woodgrain design of noravant timber serves as the platform's initial product, with plans to introduce new styles in the future for even greater design freedom.

noravant is the result of dedicated R&D and product engineering innovation focused on pushing the boundaries of possibility within the rubber category:

- Features an innovative multi-layered construction that delivers the performance benefits of nora rubber flooring, greater design freedom with on-trend aesthetics, and enhanced sustainability.
- Stands up to demanding interiors with ShieldForm, a proprietary advanced surface technology that provides best-in-class chemical and stain resistance, effortless cleaning, and long-term durability.

Anne Marie Lisko, Vice President of Global Product Category Management at Interface, said: "noravant is a major breakthrough in flooring – there's now a PVC-free resilient product that combines

superior performance with unmatched design flexibility, all while maintaining a low carbon footprint.

"Our R&D, manufacturing, product, and design teams have been working on this groundbreaking platform for quite some time, conducting extensive in-market tests to ensure it meets our quality and performance standards. Building on more than 70 years of expertise in the rubber category, noravant adds to our portfolio of hardworking rubber flooring solutions."

noravant is the newest chapter of the nora rubber innovation story and advances what began with noracare, its rubber flooring engineered for increased cleaning, superior resistance performance, and enhanced sustainability. When noracare launched in Europe in 2020, it set new benchmarks for rubber flooring, meeting the needs of tough environments with the highest hygiene requirements. Now, noracare becomes noravant and represents the next step forward in this legacy of innovation. With noravant, customers receive the same proven performance as noracare with a new name.

noravant has one of the lowest carbon footprints in rubber, supporting Interface's bold 'all in' commitment to be carbon negative by 2040. The platform includes 10% post-industrial recycled content, incorporates bio-based materials, is PVC-free, and is Cradle to Cradle Certified Silver. Products can also be recycled at Interface's specialised facility in Germany and will be part of the nora product take-back programme.

Kelly Simcox, Head of Global Design at Interface, said: "With noravant, we're bringing disruptive design thinking and expertise in innovation to the rubber category. We've already elevated our nora portfolio using innovative chip blends and nuanced color to generate marble- and terrazzo-inspired looks. noravant builds on this success and expands the creative potential of rubber even further. It's a true design platform that empowers designers to create inspiring spaces – especially in healthcare, where high performance is essential."

[interface.com](https://www.interface.com)



SERVICE THAT ADDS THE SHINE

Causeway Carpets has improved service as it aims to make more of carpet for its independent retailers.

As a carpet brand that stands out for its distinctive sense of style and exclusive collection of wool and polyester ranges the celebrate texture, colour and a uniquely British aesthetic; Causeway Carpets is becoming a popular addition to the UK's best independent flooring stores. Of course, having attainable and desirable carpet ranges is just part of what it takes to excel in today's competitive market landscape.

Causeway Carpets' striking displays capture the aspiration and ambition of the brand to champion classic design for modern living. Choosing from either the Compact Display Unit or Multi Display Unit, each can be custom specified with ranges that appeal to customers. Finished in premium wood veneer, with classic blue and gold branding, they offer a high-quality finish that stands out from the rest and that puts Causeway Carpets ranges firmly in the spotlight.

The website too underlines the quality image, introducing consumers to the 'fibre to floor' story and unique carpet styles. With a free sample service and stockist finder, it has all the tools to drive

footfall to Causeway Carpets' growing retailer network.

Rightly, the quality of carpet ranges should be matched by service levels and Causeway Carpets is committed to upholding this through the improvement of its delivery. A growing stockholding in the UK will help it to cut current lead times to just three to five days in the future. Causeway Carpets is working to support independent retailers with premium

service levels that make its beautifully crafted carpets even more appealing.

Commercial director Richard Moore said: "Making sure our service to retailers and their customers matches the quality of our Lusotufo-made carpets is our priority. By building stock levels in the UK, we're taking the necessary measures to make sure that our lead times remove barriers in recommending Causeway Carpets as quality carpet for today's homes."

www.causewaycarpets.com



MASTER THE TECHNIQUE OF UNIQUE STYLE WITH LEOLINE

Technique is the LeoLine cushion vinyl collection for homeowners looking to master a unique sense of style.

Polished terrazzo and poured concrete, tropical herringbone and exclusive 'endless' wood, and oak planks in all the right tones; LeoLine's Technique flooring collection celebrates the individuality of everyone's home. "This is an exciting collection that gives some fabulous ways to make any floor more stylish," said Stuart Reeves, sales director UK & Ireland.

With 14 designs to transform any floor out of the ordinary, Technique certainly delivers choice: from a modern apartment enjoying the industrial edge of concrete to a country cottage blissful in the charm of warming rustic wood, its variety is a real strength as a range for every home.

But style is not where the story ends for Technique, its uniquely practical, water-resistant finish is both durable and easy to look after, protected with Superguard for added protection from stains and scuffs. It's ideal for bathrooms and kitchens thanks to added slip-resistance and its compact foam backing is not only comfortable to walk on, but quieter too.

"We've really gone to town to make sure that LeoLine is ready for every room," continued Stuart. "Bathrooms and kitchens, hallways, living spaces, utility rooms, playrooms, and even bedrooms; this floor takes it all in its stride."

Technique is made in Belgium for a quality option and can be loose laid in rooms up to 24m² in size, making it a fast and easy way to master unique flooring style.

leoline.co.uk



BEST OF THE BEST

After a closely contested race and a record number of votes, we're excited to unveil the products and services you selected as the winners of the Tomorrow's Contract Floors Awards 2026.

FIRST PLACE

The Slate Collection

by Bjelin

Bjelin's Slate Collection is a high-tech wood flooring solution that redefines durability. By integrating Nadura technology, developed by sister company Välinge Innovation, the Slate Collection offers an unprecedented level of wear and impact resistance, far surpassing traditional wood floors. Rated class 34 for heavy-duty areas, this breakthrough product ensures long-lasting performance, making it an ideal choice for high-traffic spaces.

The leakproof 5G Dry floor locking system ensures effortless installation without glue or nails, while watertight joints prevent liquids from penetrating and damaging the subfloor.

The Slate Collection draws inspiration from the timeless elegance of natural slate, blending classic appeal with a modern edge. Crafted from wood, Nadura Tiles deliver warmth and comfort underfoot, while their durability ensures they remain a stylish choice for years to come.

The collection features deep textures and natural colour variations, delivering a cool and inviting finish. Available in three distinct shades of grey for a modern yet timeless aesthetic. With a bold tile format, measuring 280mm x 582mm, the distinctive tile design creates a statement look that merges form and function.

Bjelin is dedicated to sustainable practices and material efficiency. The Slate Collection embodies this vision by utilising Nadura technology, which reduces waste and supports a circular product life cycle.

<https://uk.bjelin.com>

WHAT THEY SAID:

"Winning First Place in the Tomorrow's Contract Floors Awards 2026 for The Slate Collection is a tremendous honour. Nadura Tiles represent everything Bjelin stands for: exceptional design, authentic texture, and the durability that contract environments demand. To have that recognised by such a respected industry publication means a great deal to the whole team. We are incredibly proud, and this award reinforces our commitment to bringing world-class flooring innovation to the UK market."

– Simon Darbyshire, Managing Director, Bjelin UK

"Looks like ceramic tiles, but with the warmth of wood."



"Most innovative product I've seen this year."

"Easy installation with high-quality durable surface."

TOP 10

1. **The Slate Collection** by Bjelin
2. **MXS110 Smoothing Compound** by Marldon
3. **Creative Connections** by Shaw Contract
4. **Acoustic Floor System for Weber** by CMS Danskin Acoustics
5. **Wool Tweed** by Alternative Flooring
6. **ScreedBoard 28** by Collecta
7. **Orion 950 Smart Moisture Meter** by Wagner Meters
8. **PPC Little Mixx** by The Preparation Group
9. **Floorsight** by F. Ball and Co. Ltd
10. **Durabella** by Diespeker & Co x Duracryl

SECOND PLACE

MXS110 Smoothing Compound

by Marldon

The Marldon MXS110 Smoothing Compound was redeveloped and relaunched in 2025 to specifically cater for wood flooring installations. With Marldon's extensive expertise in wood flooring products, the company wanted to create the perfect system solution, including a smoothing compound developed for use below a wooden floor.

MXS110 has been formulated with wood flooring in mind, ensuring optimum compatibility, stability, and moisture tolerance. Its advanced fibre-reinforced formula delivers a strong, flexible, and highly durable surface that accommodates the natural movement of wood, minimising the risk of cracking or delamination.

With a successful relaunch into the market in March 2025, MXS110 has already been specified and installed on a large number of prestigious projects, becoming a firm favourite for many of Marldon's customers who value speed, superior performance and reliability.

Boasting depths from 2mm to 50mm in just one pour and the ability to be ready for foot traffic in just 90 minutes, MXS110 saves time and money on every installation.

WHAT THEY SAID:

"We're absolutely delighted to take away second place at the TCF Awards with our Marldon MXS110 Smoothing Compound. From the outset, our goal was to develop a smoothing compound that supports high-quality wood floor installations and integrates seamlessly within the Marldon system, and that's exactly what we've done. Recognition like this from the industry is incredibly rewarding and reinforces our commitment to delivering reliable, professional solutions for installers."

– Karl Whiley, Managing Director, Marldon

THIRD PLACE

Creative Connections

by Shaw Contract

A contemporary carpet tile collection designed and manufactured in the UK, Creative Connections incorporates three distinct yet interconnected styles (Understated, Interconnected and Interwoven), showcasing how an intriguing design narrative can combine with exceptional sustainability credentials.

Each style in the collection has a distinct aesthetic yet is subtly interconnected through shared design elements and clever visual threads that create cohesion when brought together. A phased launch strategy rolled out across 2025 built anticipation and invited designers on a journey of discovery.

Optimised for low embodied carbon, the collection is manufactured in Shaw's carbon neutral plant in Sanquhar, Scotland, which uses 100% renewable electricity.

The collection has achieved Cradle to Cradle Certified Silver, verifying it as safe, circular and responsibly manufactured.

Creative Connections demonstrates that sustainability and modern design can co-exist. It highlights a commitment to sustainable innovation, proving that responsible products do not have to compromise on aesthetics.

WHAT THEY SAID:

"We're very happy to see Creative Connections recognised in the Tomorrow's Contract Floors Awards. Designed and manufactured in Scotland, the collection was created to give designers a versatile toolkit – combining understated luxury with sophisticated, interconnected styles that work effortlessly across a wide range of commercial interiors. Achieving third place amongst such strong entries mirrors the growing popularity of Creative Connections across the design community."

– Eve Kazlauskaitė,
Marketing Executive EMEA, Shaw Contract

"Super flexible and saves time."



"It's the best!"

"Extensive range, lovely designs and beautiful pallet of colour."



"The collection provides an answer to every question."

Hallsville Quarter

Case Study- Canning Town



BUILT ON PERFORMANCE

Tremco powers major student accommodation renovation in East London.

As part of the ongoing regeneration of Hallsville Quarter in Canning Town, East London, this large-scale residential development – led by Bouygues UK – is revitalising a key urban area. A major aspect of this phase included the renovation and fit-out of more than 8,000m² of new student accommodation, along with an additional 500m² of specialist flooring in high-demand plant and tanking areas.

With the need for durable, high-performance materials across a range of environments, Tremco was chosen to supply a fully compatible flooring system that delivered:

- Speed of installation.
- Long-term durability.
- Advanced moisture protection.

Supplied by Likewise London and installed by Flooring Co Ltd, the Tremco system was selected for its proven performance on complex, fast-paced construction projects.

TAILORED TREMCO SYSTEM – APPLIED WITH PRECISION

To meet the varying demands of each environment, Flooring Co Ltd installed a comprehensive Tremco flooring solution:

ES600 Moisture Vapour Suppressant: Applied across all subfloors to guard against residual moisture and ensure maximum adhesion throughout the system.

SX302 MT Smoothing Compound: Used extensively in the student apartments, SX302 MT provided excellent flow characteristics, high compressive strength, and a fast-setting formula – ideal for large, high-spec spaces with tight timelines.

SX100 Waterproof Tanking Compound: Installed in plant and tanking areas to offer robust, long-term protection in moisture-sensitive zones.

SF41 Resin Floor Paint Flowcrete (Goosewing Grey): Used as a topcoat in plant areas to create a durable, chemical-resistant surface with a clean, professional finish.

Marc Savill, contracts manager at Flooring Co Ltd, said: “The SX302 gave us a smooth, level base quickly – exactly what was needed on such a fast-moving project,”

■ PERFORMANCE ACROSS ALL AREAS

From living spaces to mechanical rooms, the Tremco system delivered consistent durability, strength, and visual finish. Fast-curing products like ES600 and SX302 MT helped keep the project on track without sacrificing quality.

■ A SEAMLESS PARTNERSHIP

Expert installation by Flooring Co Ltd, reliable supply from Likewise London, and hands-on support from Tremco ensured smooth delivery from start to finish.

Tremco's involvement in the Hallsville Quarter project highlights the flexibility and performance of its flooring systems in modern residential and student accommodation environments. The use of the newly formulated SX302 MT showcases Tremco's ongoing commitment to product innovation and installation efficiency.

Watch The full case study video **here**. This video showcases how Tremco solutions are applied with precision to meet the demands of modern construction, ensuring durability, speed, and long-term performance.

www.tremco-europe.com/en-gb/home





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SURFACE SUCCESS

F. Ball products streamline subfloor preparation during a department store refurbishment.

F. Ball and Co. Ltd.'s Stopgap 1200 high-performance smoothing compound has been used to prepare subfloors where old adhesive residues were left behind as part of the refurbishment of the gift shop at Suffolk homeware and interiors department store Glasswells.

The project itself is the first phase of a wider £500,000 renovation of Glasswells Bury St Edmunds location to modernise the showrooms and create more spacious, contemporary layouts and designs for cookshop, gifts, lighting, bedding and bath departments.

Glasswells' own flooring fitters began by removing the old carpet, luxury vinyl tiles (LVTs) and laminate floorcoverings before mechanically preparing the roughly 900m² area, partially revealing the painted concrete subfloor beneath.

The surface was then primed using F. Ball's Stopgap P141, which is designed especially to promote the adhesion of smoothing compounds to non-absorbent surfaces and coloured yellow to help gauge coverage.

"We finished with a few days to spare thanks to the high-performance nature of products used."

Stopgap 1200 was applied throughout the gift shop. It is formulated so that it can be applied over minimal old adhesive residues, eliminating the need for mechanical removal and saving time in these situations. It is low-odour, self-smoothing and fast-drying. Applied at a thickness of 2-5mm, it is walk-on hard from 60 minutes and dry enough to receive floorcoverings in as little as four hours.

The refurbishment of floors was completed with the installation of stone and wood-effect LVTs, showcasing the standard of workmanship that Glasswells' customers can expect in their own homes.

Commenting on the project, Andrew Boreham, flooring manager and buyer at Glasswells, who supervised the work, said: "We were really pleased with how everything went and the finished result. We had two weeks to complete the project, and we finished with a few days to spare thanks to the high-performance nature of products used. We use F. Ball smoothing compounds and adhesives for customer projects, so we knew we could rely on them for this."

www.f-ball.co.uk





NEW EXTENDED USE STOPGAP 300

F. Ball and Co. Ltd. has extended the use of its popular Stopgap 300 heavy-duty smoothing compound so that it can also now be used as a standalone wearing surface where such surface finishes are required.

Stopgap 300 offers a high compressive strength making it suitable for creating a perfectly smooth base when installing floorcoverings in areas that will be subject to high traffic and heavy loads. It can now also be used as a standalone wearing surface where floorcoverings are not required, making it perfect for upgrading and renovating new and existing floors in a wide range of environments including heavy-duty industrial applications, where forklift trucks are in operation.

Stopgap 300 is suitable for use over a wide range of subfloor types, including sand/cement screed, concrete, calcium sulphate (e.g. anhydrite), sound asphalt, granolithic, terrazzo, epoxy and polyurethane resins, ceramic and quarry tiles and Stopgap waterproof surface membranes.

It has excellent self-levelling properties and can be pump-applied up to 1500m² per day, dependent upon manpower, thickness applied and equipment used. Its protein-free formulation allows it to be used in biologically sensitive areas such as hospitals. It is also low odour, meaning it can be used while nearby areas remain in-use and open to the public.

Commenting on the development, F. Ball's sales director, Karl Brannigan, said: "We're always looking to apply the latest advancements in technology to help flooring contractors to work to ever-higher standards, including enhancing existing products to make them more versatile. This is a great example of this, meaning that the same product can be used for multiple applications."

Stopgap 300 is sold in units of 25kg, which will cover approximately 5m² at a thickness of 3mm when mixed with water.

www.f-ball.com



A SMOOTH MOVE

The experts at Kerakoll explain how to achieve a flawless surface finish whatever the substrate, with the Proflo range.

Kerakoll's smoothing compound range is composed of five products designed to deliver a flawless surface finish whatever the combination of substrate and covering. The collection includes single- and double-component products, all but one of which are moisture tolerant and can be used to pre-smooth green or wet cement-based screeds prior to applying a surface epoxy damp proof membrane.

Proflo Smooth is an easy-to-apply self-smoothing compound with a unique free-flowing formulation that fills and smooths any substrate imperfections and creates a flawless surface finish effortlessly. With working and wet edge times of 30 minutes, and its ability to accept foot traffic after only 90 minutes and floorcoverings after just 3.5 hours, it gives the best blend of extended working times and rapid installation.

Proflo Finish is a true all rounder, moisture tolerant and suitable for use in any installation, on any substrate and with any type of resilient flooring at depths of up to 60mm. It is a single-component self-smoothing compound with a free flowing formulation, a 30-minute wet edge time, and is able to accept foot traffic and floorcoverings after 3.5 hours. It has an EC1-Plus GEV Emission rating.

Proflo MVS has a built-in moisture vapour suppressant barrier that is effective up to 95% RH, removing the need for a separate moisture barrier, and thus condensing a potential three product applications into one single application. It is a rapid-setting

product allowing foot traffic in 90 minutes, but still offers a wet edge time of 30 minutes.

"Proflo MVS has a built in moisture vapour suppressant barrier that is effective up to 95% RH, removing the need for a separate moisture barrier."

The other two products are Proflo Rapid, a double-component smoothing compound that can be used below a DPM and is perfect for fast-track installations where time really is at a premium, and Proflo Trade, the new version of Trade Flow. This universal self-smoothing compound can be used in thicknesses from 3 to 10mm, on most substrates.

More information on the range is available on the Kerakoll website. You can also contact your local Sales Representative, or the customer service team to arrange a trial or answer any questions that you may have, using the contact details below. Call: 01772 456831 or email: info@kerakoll.co.uk.

www.kerakoll.com





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ECO BOOST

Mapei has extended its Zero Line further with the addition of a new floor preparation product – Ultraplan Eco 3215 Zero.

The new smoothing compound joins Mapei's full Zero resilient range, now with CO₂ fully offset in the entire life cycle. It also benefits from a very low VOC EMICODE: EC1 Plus certified formulation, providing a safe, high-performance solution for contractors and specifiers.

Ideal for fast-track projects, Ultraplan Eco 3215 Zero is formulated for interior subfloors and is used to remove differences in floor thickness from 3mm to 15mm. Especially suitable for high-traffic settings, the self-levelling compound provides exceptional resistance to loads and can be used with water and electric underfloor heating systems. On site, it can be applied over concrete slabs and sand/cement and anhydrites screeds, as well as Mapecem and Topcem screeds. It can also be used to level existing cement, terrazzo, ceramic and stone floors. The smoothing compound sets to light foot traffic in just three hours. Tiles, carpet and resilient flooring can be installed after approximately 12 hours and wood flooring after 24 hours.

"Ultraplan Eco 3215 Zero benefits from a very low VOC EMICODE: EC1 Plus certified formulation, providing a safe, high-performance solution."

Mixed with water, Ultraplan Eco 3215 Zero can be applied with a trowel, rake or automatic pressure pump and immediately levels once spread. An easily workable compound, it has high substrate adhesion and can be spread up to 15mm per coat without shrinkage, cracking or crazing. After application, it quickly develops very high compressive and flexural strength, as well as resistance to indentation and abrasion, ideal for areas subjected to wheeled traffic.

www.mapei.co.uk





CREATING CALM

Created in response to Scotland's growing mental health crisis, The Nook from SAMH is designed to be a safe, calming and welcoming space, providing free access to non-clinical expert support. Forbo donated a range of its flooring solutions for the interior scheme, perfectly complementing the individual look, feel and identity of each area.

The first in Scotland's first national network of walk-in mental health hubs, The Nook in Glasgow has been created by SAMH (Scottish Action for Mental Health) to provide barrier-free access to mental health support. The first of its kind, with a further four Nooks planned for construction between 2026 and 2028, it is a positive and welcoming space for the local community.

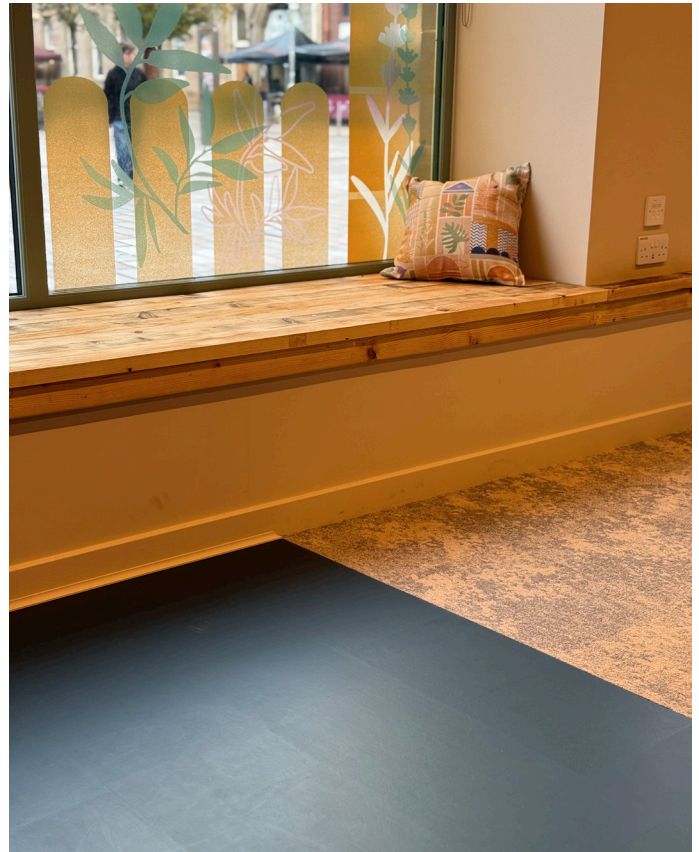
Hazel McIlwraith, Director of Fundraising and Major Appeal at SAMH, said: "Scotland is in the midst of a mental health crisis, affecting people of all ages and backgrounds. The Nook is our response to this – a place where everyone is welcome. With no need to book an appointment, no need for referrals and no waiting lists, anyone looking for support can walk through the door and get help from our skilled and compassionate team.

"As a charity, our design team reached out to a range of local businesses and suppliers to see if they would like to get involved. One of those was Forbo Flooring Systems, with its linoleum production site in Kirkcaldy, Scotland. We are incredibly grateful that Forbo not only bought into our vision but kindly donated all floorcoverings free of charge."

The Nook's interior has been carefully thought out. It is designed to be flexible, supporting different ways to engage and making sure visitors find a space that feels comfortable for them.

Hazel continued: "As a result of Forbo's comprehensive product portfolio, we were able to perfectly match a flooring solution to each individual space, complementing the look, feel and identity we were looking to achieve in each area.

"To create the most welcoming entrance possible, we didn't want a formal reception area. Instead, our 'kitchen' offers a relaxing space where people can make themselves a drink, sit at the kitchen table and be invited for an informal chat with our team. Forbo's Marmoleum Click was used here, with the blue tones of Petrol creating a bright and vibrant welcome.



"In other spaces, the focus was on creating a soft and cosy area where people could feel comfortable. This included our 'snugs' and sound-proof 'sheds' for more private conversations. Forbo's Tessera Cloudscape and Infused carpet tiles were ideal for this part of The Nook, being soft underfoot and creating a more homely feel."

Forbo's Marmoleum Concrete in Liquid Clay and Coral entrance flooring in Stratos Blue were also installed.

Speaking about the finished space, Anna Campbell Jones, interior designer for The Nook, said: "I'm absolutely thrilled that Forbo has generously donated the flooring for The Nook. When designing a space that must feel instantly safe, calming and welcoming, the materials we choose play a crucial role. Forbo's Marmoleum was my first choice – not only because of its beautiful, natural aesthetic, but because it is sustainable, incredibly hardwearing and has a softness underfoot that immediately puts people at ease.

"Creating The Nook is about dignity, comfort and care, and Forbo's support allows us to deliver a space that truly embodies those values. Their contribution will make a real and lasting difference to everyone who walks through the door."

Donna Hannaway at Forbo added: "Mental health is something that affects us all, which is why the work of SAMH is so incredibly important. They truly have built something special with The Nook and we are thrilled to have been able to support them in its creation."

The Nook officially opened its doors in October 2025. In its first month of opening, The Nook saw over 400 people walk through the door in search of support.

www.samh.org.uk/about-us/the-nook
www.forbo-flooring.co.uk

SAFETY IN STYLE

Altro package delivers for Same Day Emergency Care facility.

A stylish, safe and durable package of Altro products is delivering results at the newly developed Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) and Minor Injuries services at Bassetlaw Hospital. The facilities, completed in December 2025, are designed to provide rapid assessment, diagnosis and treatment for patients with urgent conditions, allowing them to return home the same day avoiding overnight hospital admissions.

The project includes three popular Altro safety floors: the contemporary Altro Illustra used in the main circulation spaces, Altro Wood to bring a softness to the waiting areas and nurses' station and specialist Altro Pisces to bring a modern homely feel to the wet areas and toilets. Altro Whiterock Satins hygienic wall cladding and the bespoke Altro Whiterock Digiclad also feature in treatment rooms and waiting areas.

Hayley Hunter, interior designer at P+HS Architects, selected the Altro package. "Altro has such a great reputation for its safety aspects and durability, and the fact that it works just as well aesthetically alongside the other qualities is why we like to specify it," she said.



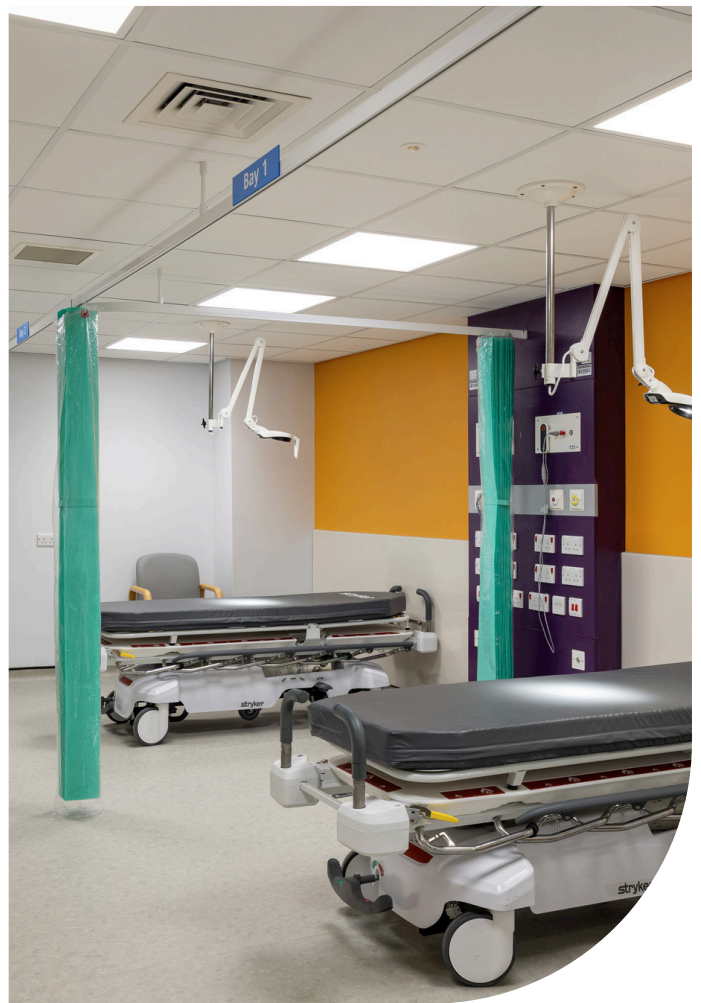
"We need to be confident that what we choose will deliver exactly what we expect of it and we know with Altro products that they will."

For Roger Marshall, capital project Mmnager at Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospital, choosing products he knows will be up to the task is a key consideration: "SDEC is such a busy environment, we have to get it right. We need to know we have used the right products for the job – especially given the amount of footfall. We know we always get useful input from the team at Altro to help with those decisions."

Time pressures also impact on projects such as these, as Roger explains: "It was important that the products used were UK-sourced to avoid any hold ups on lead times. An alternative manufacturer's products were suggested at one point, but they are not UK-made and also not proven in this Trust. We need to be confident that what we choose will deliver exactly what we expect of it and we know with Altro products that they will."

The installer, A Cumberlidge Ltd, is also proven within the Trust. "They ensured everything flowed through fine," says Roger. "They worked on what they could and left certain high-traffic areas for out of hours to minimise disruption as is often needed within hospitals. You couldn't fault the job they did."





"It was important that the products used were UK-sourced to avoid any hold ups on lead times."

With the busy department now open and running smoothly, Hayley reports that "feedback so far has been fantastic – the client is happy and so are we! Working with Altro feel effortless, they make the process very easy."

Altro Illustra is available in a range of contemporary and flexible designs, this stylish, functional and design-led safety flooring has enhanced sustained slip resistance. Altro Wood is a general purpose 2mm wood-effect vinyl safety floor available in a range of designs with different plank sizes and shades. Altro Whiterock Digiclad (Custom) is a custom print option utilising UV cured inks onto an Altro Whiterock sheet from a design or photographic image. Altro Pisces is a domestic-look specialist floor for a 'home from home', warm feel in wet rooms and bathrooms. Altro Whiterock Satins is a colourful and tonal, satin finish wall sheets with all the hygiene and durability of Altro Whiterock.

Find out more about Altro's solutions for hospital environments **here**.

www.altro.com

HANDLING THE HEAT

F. Ball technical service officer Chris McQuade advises on installing floorcoverings where underfloor heating is present.

Flooring installations where underfloor heating is present are frequently a source of questions that we receive from flooring contractors. In particular 'what smoothing compound should I apply to create a smooth base for floorcoverings?' and 'what adhesives can I use?'.

All F. Ball smoothing compounds and adhesives are suitable for application over underfloor heating systems that are contained within a screeded subfloor. It is just recommended that systems are turned off 48 hours before the installation of floorcoverings, during and 48 hours after.

The issue comes when working over retrofit electrical wired or water-fed underfloor heating systems that are increasingly installed over subfloors as part of new-build or refurbishment projects. In these situations, it is advisable to allow between 5 – 35mm of a smoothing compound above the pipes (less for electrical wired systems), depending on the type of system being installed and the manufacturer's instructions. It must be remembered that some systems are not designed to receive a smoothing compound but laminate flooring or ceramic tiles.

■ NEW DEVELOPMENT

This has led F. Ball to launch Stopgap 1600, a new fast-drying, fibre-reinforced smoothing compound that is formulated especially to encapsulate underfloor heating systems.

The product is suitable for use over a wide range of absorbent and non-absorbent subfloors, including sand/cement screed, tile backer boards, concrete, plywood, granolithic, terrazzo, epoxy and polyurethane resins, ceramic and quarry tiles, as well as Stopgap waterproof surface membranes. It can be applied between 3 – 40mm thick installed over internal subfloors in both domestic and commercial environments, and is walk-on hard from three hours after application and ready to receive floorcoverings in as little as 12 hours.

■ ADHESIVE SELECTION

The availability of temperature tolerant adhesives, for installing resilient floorcoverings in areas where temperatures have the potential to rise significantly, raises questions about exactly when and where they need to be used. There is some confusion about why a temperature tolerant adhesive is required to install LVTs in conservatories, for example, but they are not necessary over underfloor heating.

Extreme temperatures or temperature fluctuations can cause vinyl floorcoverings to expand and contract significantly. This is frequently the case in heavily glazed areas that are subject to solar gain during the day, such as conservatories, which then rapidly cool at night. Over time, this can lead to unsightly tenting and gapping at the edges of floorcoverings, particularly between adjacent vinyl tiles or planks. When the bond has fully matured, temperature tolerant adhesives hold floorcoverings firmly in place in these environments, restricting these movements and ensuring the long-lasting performance of installations.

■ TEMPERATURE CHANGES

Temperature fluctuations as a result of underfloor heating systems are much more gradual and less extreme than changes in temperature resulting from solar gain, which can be much more sudden and range up to +60C. To meet British Standard guidelines of resilient and textile floorcoverings, underfloor heating systems should not exceed 27C at the bond line. Temperature tolerant adhesives are therefore only necessary where there are heavily glazed areas, including conservatories and areas with floor-to-ceiling windows.

F. Ball's full range of adhesives can be used over all kinds of encapsulated underfloor heating.

Where a temperature tolerant adhesive is required, there are a number to choose from, including ones with extra features, such as pressure sensitive characteristics.

For more advice on working over underfloor heating and what adhesive to use in a particular situation, F. Ball's technical service department are on hand during normal working hours to answer your questions. Guidance on floorcovering-adhesive compatibility can also be found in F. Ball's Recommended Adhesives Guide (RAG), which lists the compatibility of F. Ball adhesives with over 6,000 branded floorcoverings from over 200 leading international floorcovering manufacturers. In addition to an A5 printed book, a constantly updated version of the guide is available on the F. Ball website, and as a mobile app, which is free to download from the Apple App store or Google Play.

<https://f-ball.com/en>



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RAPID HEAT

Mapei explains how contractors can achieve a fast fit and guarantee energy savings with its Mapeheat underfloor heating system.

Designed for commercial and residential applications, Mapei's underfloor heating system – Mapeheat – provides a rapid-fit solution and energy saving benefits. Its thin profile and waterproof construction make it suitable for new builds, renovations and remodelling projects, with floor finishes including ceramic, porcelain and natural stone tiles, wood and laminate flooring, LVT and sheet vinyl.

The Mapeheat system includes three components: Mapeheat Membrane Maxi, Mapeheat Cable and Mapeheat Mesh which are used in conjunction with three thermostat options: Mapeheat Thermo Basic, Mapeheat Thermo Touch and Mapeheat Thermo Connect.

Mapeheat Membrane Maxi is a lightweight uncoupling, crack-isolation and waterproof membrane. Suitable for multiple sized cables – from 2mm to 5.5mm – the thin format profile helps prevent transmission of in-plane substrate cracks up to 3mm. Heating cables are easy to install and minimal roll memory helps to promote a rapid, flat and secure installation. When installing with ceramic tiles, the use of a minimum class C2 EN 12004 adhesive is recommended.

Mapeheat Cable is a free-form, twin coil floor heating cable which provides comfortable radiant heat. It's offered in 11 sizes – from 14.5m-175m – which can accommodate areas from just 1.2m² to 28m². Benefits include a zero electromagnetic field

cable design and ultra-thin cold-lead splice for easy fitting into the Mapeheat membrane.

Mapeheat Mesh – the self-adhering, pre-wired floor heating mesh – is compatible with all subfloor types. It measures just 4.5mm thick and is offered in two different wattages, dependant on the floor finish selected. Easy to roll out and cut, the system can be configured to fit any room size. Whilst it's recommended for use with a self-levelling compound, the mesh can also be bedded directly into a polymer-modified flexible tile adhesive, if required. Mapeheat Mesh's heating cable is attached to the self-adhesive mesh layer by three mesh bands; these help to maintain consistent spacing of the cable and allow easy removal for installation in tight spaces.

The Mapeheat thermostat options include Mapeheat Thermo Basic – a seven-day programmable floor heating thermostat that's easy to install and programme; Mapeheat Thermo Touch – a seven-day programmable touch-screen floor heating thermostat with a contemporary design and Thermo Connect – a programmable, Wi-Fi-enabled floor heating thermostat that's compatible with popular smart home technologies such as Amazon Alexa devices and Google Assistant virtual personal assistant. Each thermostat offers a variety of energy-saving functions, including economic weekly timer mode, calculation of start-up to reach a desired temperature and an open window function which cuts the heating when it feels a sudden drop of temperature (when a window or door has been opened for ventilation purposes).

For a one-stop shop, Mapei offers the complete warranty solution including Mapeheat underfloor heating, screed, levelling compound, adhesive and grout, alongside expert technical knowledge and support. For more information, please contact: info@mapei.co.uk or visit the website below.

www.mapei.co.uk



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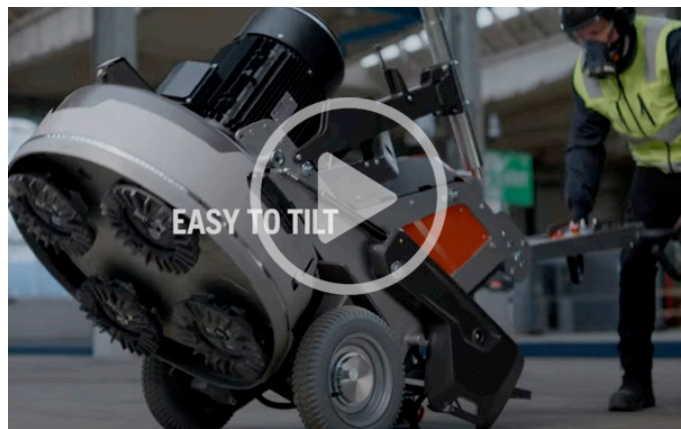
Measure Square™



Scott Bentley, Business Development Manager at **MeasureSquare**, sits down to discuss more about the new MeasureSquare CRM launched earlier this year and how flooring businesses are benefiting from a one stop shop fully integrated solution by reducing data duplication from multiple software systems. Scott also discusses MeasureSquare's commitment to innovation and what users can expect in the coming months.

Contact: scott.b@measuresquare.co.uk
03302233946
www.measuresquare.co.uk

Full video
here



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A NEW ERA

Husqvarna Construction is set to revolutionise the surface preparation industry with the unveiling of its highly anticipated self-operating floor grinder.

Designed to provide contractors with unprecedented freedom, Husqvarna Autogrinder enables customers to transform not just any floor, but their business as well – changing the game in terms of boosting both productivity and profitability.

“We are extremely proud to introduce a machine that really transforms the way floor grinding and polishing jobs are planned and executed. Husqvarna Autogrinder is a breakthrough in the market for surface preparation,” said Stijn Verherstraeten, Senior Vice President, Category & Operations at Husqvarna Construction.

“Thanks to Husqvarna’s unique navigation system and safety settings, Autogrinder can self-navigate while grinding and polishing.”

Husqvarna Autogrinder 8 D is based on PG 8 DR, a planetary floor grinder with Dual Drive Technology. Thanks to Husqvarna’s unique navigation system and safety settings, Autogrinder can self-navigate while grinding and polishing, freeing up operators to attend to other floor finishing tasks. Meanwhile, business owners

can expect to complete jobs more efficiently, plan more accurately, work with greater flexibility and significantly reduce costs.

“Our field tests and operator feedback confirm that Autogrinder is a major advancement. It’s clear we have now entered a new era in floor grinding,” said Joakim Leff-Hallstein, Vice President Product Management Surface Preparation at Husqvarna Construction.

With its product development and strategic acquisitions, Husqvarna Construction has been shaping the floor grinding industry for more than 30 years. This pioneering innovation marks a significant leap forward in terms of maximising operator and machine efficiency on job sites.

“We are the complete partner in surface preparation. Today’s news marks the beginning of a journey to significantly enhance productivity in the light construction industry through automation,” said Stijn Verherstraeten.

More technical data will be released when sales start in Europe at the end of the year. Sales in other markets will follow in stages.

www.husqvarnaconstruction.com/uk



Stijn Verherstraeten, Senior Vice President, Category & Operations



Joakim Leff-Hallstein, Vice President, Product



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A PERFECT MATCH

The difference between a great floor and a perfect room is in the details, says Ksenija Diukic, Product Manager for Accessories at Bjelin.



When it comes to creating a truly exceptional interior, the floor is only part of the story. The finishing touches, such as stair nosings, T-mouldings and skirtings, are what transform a great floor into a perfect room. Accessories aren't afterthoughts; they're integral to the design, offering seamless transitions and a cohesive, custom look.

That's why Bjelin's accessories are colour-matched to the floors. Whether it's a T-mould connecting two spaces or skirtings framing a room, the result is a polished, intentional design, all while maintaining the durability and sustainability the floors are known for.

Colour-matched accessories are what set Bjelin apart. They allow us to offer a full flooring solution that's both beautiful and functional.

Responsibly sourced and designed with longevity in mind, these accessories help designers and homeowners achieve a polished finish without compromise. Every detail matters. When stair nosing, mouldings and skirtings are designed to work perfectly with your floor, every element flows naturally, creating a complete and harmonious interior. But a perfect room doesn't stop at installation.

Bjelin's commitment to a complete flooring solution extends to keeping floors looking exceptional for years to come. Available in the UK alongside the accessories range, Bjelin's Ecoline cleaning and care products are designed to protect and preserve the beauty of your investment.

For everyday cleaning, the Bjelin Ecoline Wash Care range, available as a spray or in 1- and 5-litre formats, is suitable for all flooring types, while the Magic Cleaner provides a deeper clean when needed. For lacquered floors, the Ecoline Lacquer Refresher restores and revives the surface. It is available as both a spray and



a concentrate. And for those moments when life leaves its mark, the Bjelin Touch-Up range offers colour-matched repair solutions in Natural, Misty White, Powder White, Earth Grey and Terra Brown, the same tones that run through the flooring and accessories collections, ensuring any touch-up is virtually invisible.

For installation and ongoing care, Bjelin also offers a comprehensive range of Bona floor mops, cleaning pads and application pads, making it easy to maintain floors professionally from day one.

Every detail matters. Bjelin's holistic approach to flooring proves that the secret to a perfect room isn't just the boards underfoot. It's how everything comes together, from the first plank laid to the last clean.

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FLOOR COUTURE

Parador's Bespoke Engineered Wood Flooring enhances Manolo Blahnik's new luxury Los Angeles boutique.

Bespoke Engineered Wood Flooring from global flooring brand Parador has been selected for the new Manolo Blahnik boutique in Beverley Hills, Los Angeles. This marks the second time that the luxury footwear and accessories brand has collaborated with Parador, following the opening of its Milan flagship store.

Located within the retail landscape of Beverly Hills, the boutique reflects the timeless elegance synonymous with the Manolo Blahnik name. Designed by the architect Nick Leith Smith, the interior balances architectural precision with playful detail. Featuring soft neutrals paired with sculptural lighting, the space creates a luxurious shopping experience for the discerning Manolo Blahnik customer.

Anchoring the space is Parador's bespoke Engineered Wood flooring in Wide Plank, Oak Tuscan. The natural warmth of the wood introduces depth and tactility into the space while seamlessly pairing with the Manolo Blahnik display. Complementing the refined design of the space, Parador's Wide Plank engineered wood flooring delivers the stability and durability required for the high-traffic retail environment.

"The natural warmth of the wood introduces depth and tactility into the space."

Neel Bradham, CEO of Parador, said: "The selection of Parador's Engineered Wood Flooring for the new Manolo Blahnik Beverly Hills boutique reflects a shared commitment to material quality, craftsmanship, and considered design. Our Wide Plank Oak Tuscan offers the warmth and character of natural timber alongside the technical performance demanded by high-end retail specification, a combination that aligns closely with the values of the Manolo Blahnik brand. We are proud to see this second collaboration translate so seamlessly from the Manolo Blahnik Milan flagship to the Los Angeles market."

The Los Angeles boutique marks the latest milestone in Parador's continued global expansion, reinforcing the brand's growing presence across key international markets. As Parador extends its reach, the partnership with Manolo Blahnik, now spanning two flagship locations, reflects the brand's strategic focus on cultivating long-term relationships with world-leading names in luxury design.

www.parador.de/en





RAPID RETAIL

Every hour a shop is closed hits revenue, so contractors are under pressure to finish fast. Here, F. Ball explains how to speed up floorcovering installation without compromising on quality.

Nowadays, flooring installation products, including waterproof surface membranes, smoothing compounds and adhesives, are available that, when used correctly and in combination, allow floorcoverings to be installed in less than a day. Previously, this process could take several days, leaving areas inaccessible in the meantime. Using solvent-free and low odour products to install floorcoverings in well-ventilated spaces will mean that surrounding areas can remain open to the public while work takes place, minimising disruption in busy retail environments.

Achieving a long-lasting, professional flooring finish also requires flooring contractors to follow best practice in subfloor preparation. Before undertaking any flooring installation, a thorough assessment of the subfloor should be completed to ensure it is sound, smooth and free of contaminants.

■ MOISTURE MANAGEMENT

Unmanaged moisture, whether residual construction moisture or rising damp, is one of the leading causes of floor failure. For this reason, F. Ball recommends that a moisture measurement test should be carried out using a pre-calibrated hygrometer (in accordance with British Standards) to determine the relative humidity (RH) levels of the subfloor as part of any flooring installation.

Where the relative humidity levels in the subfloor are above 75% (or 65% if wood floorcoverings are to be installed) some form of moisture management solution will be required to prevent excess subfloor moisture damaging floorcoverings and attacking adhesives, potentially causing complete floor failure. A number of timesaving options exist where a solution for excess moisture is required.

Liquid waterproof surface membranes are the usual option, and advanced products are now available that will isolate excess subfloor moisture where relative humidity values are up to 98% with a single coat application and will fully cure in as little as four hours.

Even quicker, two-coat systems are also available. The first coat cures in 15-20 minutes, and a further 30 minutes curing time is required for the second coat, creating a barrier against residual construction moisture where RH values are up to 95% in less than two hours.

■ A SMOOTH FINISH

F. Ball recommends the application of a smoothing compound to create a perfectly smooth base for floorcoverings and optimise the finished appearance of an installation.

The fastest setting products on the market are 'walk-on' hard in 30 minutes and ready to receive new floorcoverings from 45 minutes. The same products are low-odour, easy to use, self-smoothing and can be applied at thicknesses of up to 10mm.

Where flooring installations are part of a refurbishment and old adhesive residues (including bitumen and carpet tile tackifiers) are present after the removal of old floorcoverings, contractors can save time by using a smoothing compound that has been specially formulated for use over old adhesive residues, which would otherwise require mechanical removal. One such product, Stopgap 1200 from F. Ball and Co. Ltd., takes as little as 60 minutes to set and is ready to receive floorcoverings from just four hours. When used in these situations, there is no need to prime beforehand, saving further time, as well as cost.

■ CHOOSING THE RIGHT ADHESIVE

Once the smoothing compound has cured, the contractor can select a suitably fast-working adhesive to install appropriate floorcoverings. The choice of adhesive will often be determined foremost by what type of floorcoverings are to be installed and where, but there are options for when timesaving is a priority.

F. Ball's Styccobond F58 PLUS for vinyl sheet and tile and rubber floorcoverings allows floorcoverings to be installed from just five minutes after application. The adhesive transitions from being wet-lay when first applied to the subfloor to fully pressure sensitive, and fibres in the formulation limit the lateral movement of floorcoverings, making the installation of vinyl planks and tiles easier.

Carpet tile tackifiers are available that only take 30 minutes to form a permanently tacky film, which will prevent tiles from moving laterally under everyday traffic, while allowing individual sections to be easily lifted and replaced if damaged or worn.

<https://f-ball.com>



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