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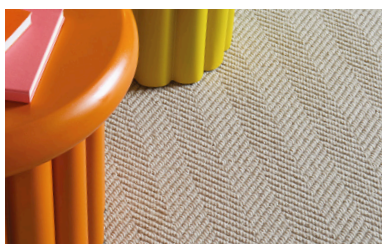
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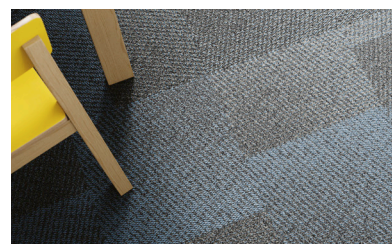
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THE PROFESSIONALS' CHOICE

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Welcome to the August issue of Tomorrow's Contract Floors.

It's been an extraordinary few weeks in British politics, with Andy Burnham becoming Prime Minister and setting out an ambitious programme for the years ahead. As the new government begins outlining its priorities, businesses across every sector will be watching with interest to see how those plans translate into action.

One announcement that's already gaining plenty of attention is the government's commitment to reforming social care. If plans for a National Care Service lead to investment in new and refurbished care facilities, this could bring fresh opportunities for the flooring industry. As our care feature this month highlights, flooring plays a crucial role in creating environments that are safe, hygienic and support wellbeing.

Elsewhere, we showcase projects and practical advice from across the industry. Junckers reveals how its solid oak flooring has helped transform the historic Paisley Museum, while Havwoods looks at how wood surfaces can help homeowners make smaller living spaces feel brighter and more spacious as renovation continues to outpace relocation.

We've also packed this issue with expert technical guidance. F. Ball shares best practice for installing wood floorcoverings, while Jason Spangler of Wagner Meters explains how vacuum drill bits can improve the speed and accuracy of concrete moisture testing during subfloor preparation.

And with September fast approaching, excitement is building for The Flooring Show. Our preview gives you a taste of what to expect when the industry heads to Harrogate, helping you plan your visit and make the most of three days of networking.

We hope you enjoy the issue.

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CURRAN EXPANDS SYNSISAL WITH NEW MODULAR TILE COLLECTION

Curran has expanded its award-winning SynSisal line with a modular flooring collection that brings the organic beauty of sisal into a high-performance format for commercial interiors.

Debuting at Milan Design Week 2026, SynSisal Tile opens new possibilities for hospitality, workplace, retail, multifamily, and residential spaces where design, durability, and ease of installation all matter.

Developed by Stephanie Piché and Cristina Orozco Cuevas, the collection was created to capture sisal's subtle tonal shifts, linear striation, and dimensional texture in a modular construction suited to demanding interiors. Rooted in Curran's decades of expertise in sisal and natural fibre flooring, it recreates the intricate, riven look of woven sisal while overcoming many of the material's traditional performance limitations.

The launch collection debuts with one style, Ridge, inspired by the natural lines of geological formations and designed to reflect the tight bouclé structure of woven sisal. Ridge is available in four nature-inspired tones – Honeycomb, Shale, Pebble, and Walnut – offering a grounded, versatile palette for contemporary interiors.

SynSisal Tile is designed for both visual impact and everyday practicality. Its self-adhesive backing simplifies installation without wet adhesives, while individual tiles can be replaced quickly if damaged, helping reduce maintenance complexity and installation waste over time. The product is rated for heavy commercial use and supports both monolithic and quarter-turn installation.

Material choice was central to the collection's development. The pile is made from 100% regenerated ECONYL nylon, and the backing uses 100% recycled

polyester fleece, reflecting Curran's commitment to lower-impact materials and more considered product development. The system is also designed so that all components are recyclable at end of life.

With SynSisal Tile, Curran continues to build SynSisal as a premium flooring platform spanning rug, carpet, and modular applications – a sisal look without limits, natural in character and technically advanced in performance.

www.curranfloor.com/synsisal-tile



NEW F. BALL TRAINING OFFICER



F. Ball and Co. Ltd. has appointed Andy Heath as the company's new training officer, further strengthening its commitment to promoting the highest standards in floorcovering installation.

Working alongside F. Ball head of training, Tim Green, Andy will deliver training courses at the F. Ball

Centre of Excellence and further afield according to customer requirements. This will include education on subfloor preparation techniques and ensuring flooring professionals, including apprentices enrolled in the Floorsight apprenticeship programme, can maximise the performance of F. Ball's product range.

Andy joins the business with over a decade of experience in flooring industry education, having previously spent 10 years as a senior training provider for a floorcovering manufacturer. In this role, he was responsible for instructing installers ranging from beginners to seasoned professionals, during which time he used F. Ball products extensively. He holds an NVQ Level 3 in Resilient Flooring.

Commenting on his appointment, Andy Heath said: "Having worked with F.

Ball products for many years, I know first-hand the company's reputation and the sheer quality of its range. I've always been incredibly passionate about training, so this role ticks all the boxes for me while offering an exciting new challenge. One of the things I enjoy most is staying ahead of trainees' questions – it keeps me engaged, drives continuous learning, and ensures I stay at the very forefront of industry developments."

Outside of work, Andy enjoys spending quality time with his wife, Kim, his two sons, Gabe and Harley, and bulldog, named Prince Harry. Together they love exploring new destinations in their VW camper van, frequently visiting Cornwall, as well as holidaying abroad.

www.f-ball.co.uk

ARDEX GROUP UK AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS BSI KITEMARK FOR SERVICE EXCELLENCE



The ARDEX Group UK – manufacturer of high-performance flooring, tiling and general construction brands across the UK – has been awarded BSI Kitemark for Service Excellence, recognising the company's unwavering commitment to delivering outstanding customer experiences across its operations.

This respected certification, issued by the British Standards Institution (BSI), is a mark of quality and trust, demonstrating that an organisation consistently delivers a high standard of service and places customers at the heart of its business.

David Lyman, UK general manager at ARDEX Group UK said: "We are delighted to have achieved the BSI Kitemark

for Service Excellence. This recognition reflects the dedication and passion of our teams, who work tirelessly to support our customers, respond to feedback and continually improve the service we provide. While we are proud of this achievement, we remain focused on raising the bar even further."

The BSI Kitemark for Service Excellence is based on a rigorous, independent assessment process aligned with three internationally recognised standards:

- BS 8477:2014 – Code of practice for customer service
- ISO 10002:2018 – Guidelines for complaints handling
- BS ISO 23592:2021 – Service Excellence principles

Achieving this certification highlights the ARDEX Group UK's dedication to best practice in customer service, complaint management and continuous improvement – further reinforcing its reputation as a trusted partner across the flooring, tiling and construction sectors through its ARDEX, BAL and DUNLOP brands.

The BSI Kitemark has been recognised for over 120 years as a symbol of trust and confidence, independently verifying that products and services meet rigorous quality standards. The Service Excellence scheme builds on this legacy by helping organisations demonstrate their ability to deliver exceptional customer experiences in a competitive marketplace, where service quality is a key driver of customer loyalty.

For ARDEX Group UK, this achievement reflects a company-wide commitment to listening to customers, investing in service innovation and embedding a culture that prioritises customer satisfaction at every touchpoint.

As the company celebrates this milestone, it also recognises the vital role played by its employees, customers and partners in helping to achieve this standard of excellence – and remains committed to continuously improving the customer experience in the years ahead.

<https://ardex.co.uk>
www.bal-adhesives.com

BEAUFLORE SHOWS THE WAY TO BETTER FLOORING AT HOUSING 2026

Beauflor took part in Housing 2026, showing how its sheet vinyl floor collections deliver the performance, style and value needed for social housing projects.

Social housing demands a lot from its flooring: easy installation and low purchase cost, durability, hygiene, simple maintenance, comfort and a design that feels homely – all important considerations for a floor that delivers in these demanding domestic environments.

For specifiers attending Housing 2026, Beauflor demonstrated how its sheet vinyl flooring collections can fulfil all these requirements, providing a floor that copes with the practical demands of social housing, and which helps tenants to feel comfortable in their home.

Chris Roberts, Regional Sales Manager UK & Ireland, said: "Exhibiting at Housing 2026 was a brilliant opportunity to engage with the social housing sector and explain to specifiers how our floors can respond to their need to find a cost-effective solution that doesn't compromise on practical

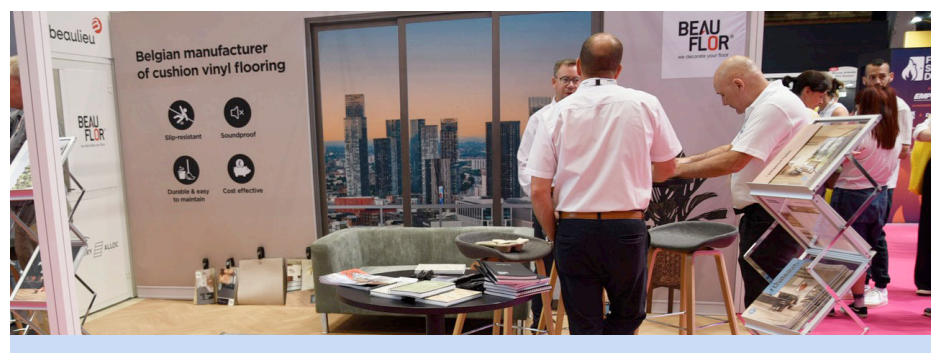
necessities. We were also happy to share how our innovation in product circularity and steps resulting from our SBTi approved targets are making sheet vinyl a sustainable proposition also."

Beauflor offers social housing a wide range of quality, Europe-made sheet vinyl flooring. With all collections available in multiple-widths, as well as specifications designed for glue-free installation in refurbishment, it reduces the waste and drives down the cost of flooring for all social housing projects. Then, with specifications providing extra slip-resistance, improved acoustics

and better hygiene; landlords and providers can find a solution that works for their specific requirements.

In every specification, Beauflor sheet vinyl comes in a diverse range of looks designed to create a homely, welcoming atmosphere in all rooms. As well as kitchens and bathrooms, Beauflor's wood, stone and tile looks enhance living areas, hallways, landings and bedrooms, adding style as well as underfoot comfort and warmth.

www.beauflor.com



SPEED UP YOUR DRYBACK INSTALLATIONS WITH FLEX PRO PURE

Moduleo's Flex Pro Pure is a clever self-adhesive underlay that makes short work of dryback luxury vinyl plank and tile installations.

Have you ever wished your dryback LVT installations weren't quite as messy or long-winded?

If you're someone that wants to save a little mess and time, without compromising the quality and integrity of your work, then Moduleo and its Flex Pro Pure underlay is the solution for you. This clever self-adhesive underlay can even help to iron out those little lumps and bumps that can otherwise spoil a perfectly good floor. By eliminating adhesive application, drying times and much of the clean-up, Flex Pro Pure helps installers complete more jobs in less time, reducing labour costs and increasing profitability without compromising installation quality. What's more, if you're finding your getting frustrated with finickity herringbone and other 'designer' layouts, Flex Pro Pure makes it easy to reposition individual pieces and get everything 'just so'.

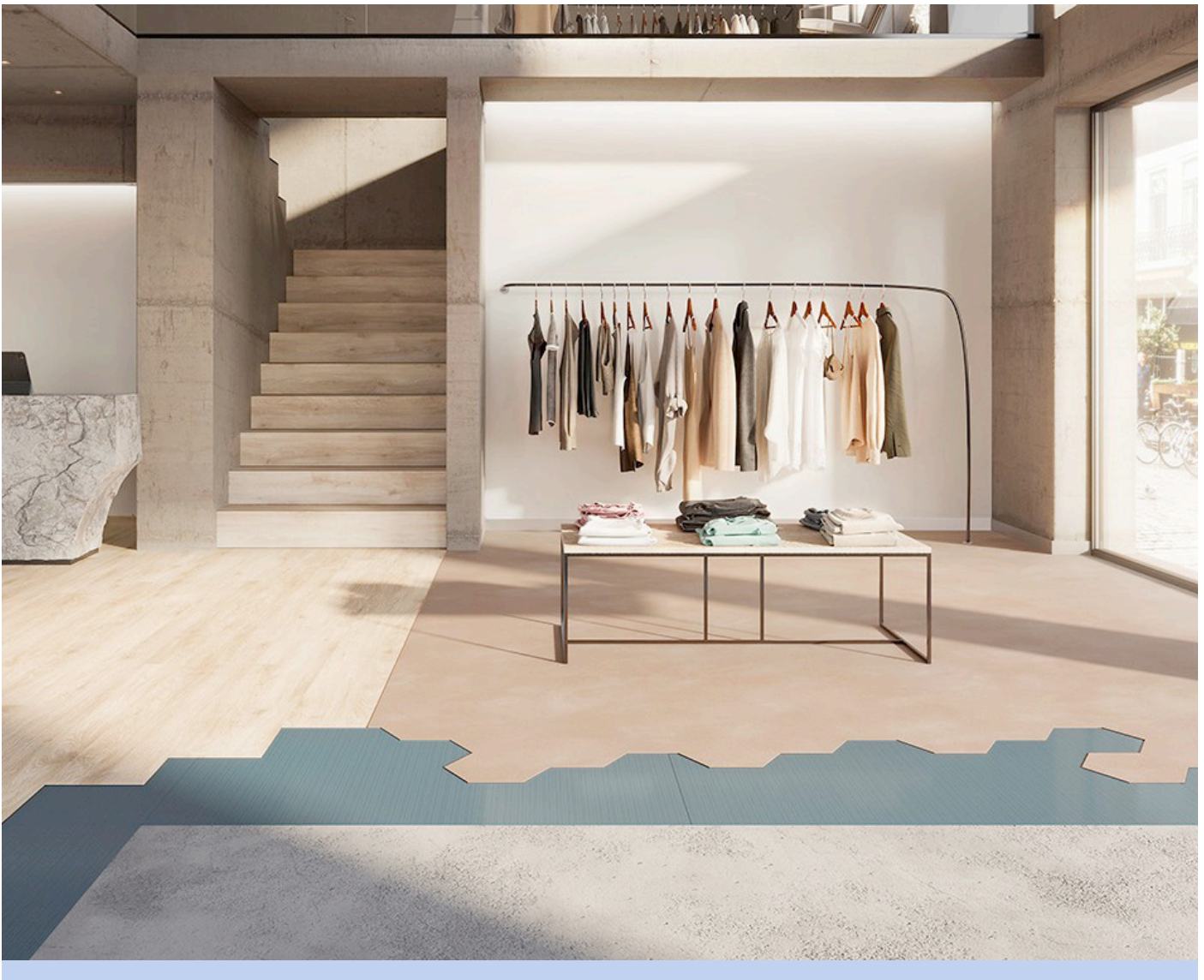
Flex Pro Pure is simply rolled out onto a correctly prepared subfloor and the self-adhesive is revealed by peeling back the protective layer. Then, Moduleo Roots planks or tiles, or Moduleo Moods

shapes are simply pressed into place and voilà, your LVT is ready – no mess, no waiting times and very little fuss indeed.

"We're big fans of Flex Pro Pure," said Lee Thompson, technical manager at the Moduleo Academy. "It's simply the easiest, cleanest and fastest way to install dryback LVT. Your customer's will certainly be thanking you for the fast turnaround. What's more it has tricks up its sleeve further down the line too. Should a plank be damaged later on, it can be lifted and replaced without upsetting the rest of the floor. That's a big win for installers wanting to keep their clients happy and the customer is sure to be delighted at just how easy the fix was. Of course, there's no substitute for a properly prepared subfloor – that's certainly a key takeaway from our Master Installer courses – but it's good to know that Flex Pro Pure has your back on those minor deviations too."

Flex Pro Pure is part of a range of installation products and accessories available from Moduleo, including adhesives, profiles, skirtings and sealant.

www.moduleo.com/en-gb



RECOFLOOR DRIVES CIRCULAR ECONOMY WITH NEW FLOORING REUSE INITIATIVE

Recofloor, the UK's leading vinyl flooring recycling take-back scheme funded by leading UK flooring manufacturers Altro and Polyflor, continues to set the standard for circular economy practices across the sector. Since its launch, the scheme has successfully diverted more than 8,200 tonnes of vinyl flooring waste from landfill, demonstrating the power of industry collaboration in reducing environmental impact.

Building on this success, Recofloor is now driving forward an even more impactful circular approach by supporting its members to donate surplus flooring for reuse – creating economic, environmental and social value across the supply chain.

This initiative marks an important step change for the flooring industry. By prioritising reuse before recycling, Recofloor is helping move materials further up the waste hierarchy, ensuring that usable flooring is given a second life instead of entering traditional waste streams prematurely. Alongside its established recycling programme, this new pathway extends the lifecycle of flooring materials while embedding circular economy principles into everyday practice.

The programme is already delivering tangible benefits for members. By facilitating reuse, contractors and

distributors can reduce waste disposal volumes, lower associated costs, and strengthen their sustainability performance – all while contributing to meaningful community outcomes.

Contractors can easily participate in the scheme by donating surplus flooring through their existing flooring distributor or by contacting Recofloor directly, while flooring distributors can also donate their surplus and old flooring stock. This streamlined process ensures that materials are efficiently redirected to where they can provide the greatest value.

The impact of this initiative is already being realised in the sector. In the past year alone, Recofloor supported Headlam Group in successfully diverting over 21 tonnes of flooring for reuse, showcasing the significant opportunities available when businesses embrace circular practices.

Carla Eslava, Recofloor manager, said: "This initiative is an important milestone for the flooring industry. By prioritising reuse alongside recycling, we are helping our members unlock greater value from materials while significantly reducing waste. It demonstrates how collaboration across the supply chain can deliver real environmental, social and economic benefits, and brings us closer to a truly circular future for flooring."

Recofloor is encouraging all members to take part and help scale this initiative. To learn more about how to donate surplus flooring or to explore the reuse programme, please contact the Recofloor team or visit the reuse section on the Recofloor website.

www.recofloor.org



A SEAL OF QUALITY

floorwise has launched F500 Silicone Sealant, a high-performance silicone sealant in a range of six colours. With a high-solids content, F500 is easy to gun and tool, as well as providing excellent adhesion to most substrates, making it easy to use for almost every on-site sealing requirement. With minimal shrinkage and good UV-resistance, F500 delivers a reliable seal on laminate, vinyl and other floors, delivering the quality and value you expect from floorwise.

F500 Silicone Sealant is available in translucent, white, black, grey, light brown and dark brown to ensure a match to any colour floor. New colour selector cards that feature physical samples of sealant are available at floorwise independent distributors helping installers find the right colour for their project quickly and easily.

Andrew Gill, product manager at floorwise, said: "The introduction of F500 Silicone Sealant is part of our continuous drive to deliver installers the great value and reliability of floorwise on everyday flooring products. We've developed it specifically for the needs of flooring installers so that you can enjoy a product that's easy to apply and which you can trust to stay looking good, so helping you to achieve a smart and professional flooring installation."

The new F500 Silicone Sealant is available from floorwise independent distributors. Having a high solids content also gives F500 a longer shelf life than many other silicone sealants meaning that you don't need to waste as much expired product. All of these benefits position F500 silicone sealant as another quality product from floorwise and the start of a fantastic floor.

www.floorwise.co.uk



GIVE HOMES THE PREMIUM TOUCH WITH LEOLINE

LeoLine's Premium Elite bridges the gap between cushion vinyl and LVT bringing the look without the drawback of complex and costly installation.

For many, the beauty of cushion vinyl comes in its simplicity. Straightforward to install, seamless and water-resistant, it's just a floor that's beautifully effortless. Well, that beautiful simplicity can now be enjoyed in a range of wood plank and herringbone designs that owe their extraordinary realism to the crystal clear, matt embossed texture and v-grooves of the best luxury vinyl planks.

Something of a 'hybrid', Premium Elite marries the best of both floors for a unique collection that makes it simple to welcome the look of LVT without the added cost of a complex and time-consuming installation. For many homes, it is the best of both worlds.

The range includes 12 looks to choose from, all with the strikingly good looks of luxury vinyl. Whether the clean, greyed wood of Abruzzo Oak, rustic grain and honey tones of Brunel Oak, herringbone of Barbellino Oak, chevron of Tuscan Oak

or the look of Oxley Stone; it's a collection that's impressively versatile.

Premium looks need to be matched by premium performance, and the range doesn't disappoint here either. Premium Elite is Superguard protected for easier cleaning and better resistance to scratches and stains, features added slip-resistance in bathrooms and kitchens and can even be used with the rolling castors of office chairs.

David Wray, UK Sales Manager Residential, said: "Our new Premium Elite range is the one to go for if your customer loves the look of luxury vinyl, but that needs a more affordable choice. Thanks to its 'on the roll' format, you can cut down on installation costs without the customer having to compromise on the quality or look of their flooring."

Just like all LeoLine floors, Premium Elite is made in Europe. It's available in two and four-metre widths and is backed by a 20-year warranty for peace of mind.

leoline.co.uk



WASH YOUR RUG OF IT

The Louis De Poortere Ecorugs collection is not only completely recyclable but also completely washable, making it the best choice for low hassle, high style rug ownership.

Beautiful designs and textures crafted in lasting, recycled and recyclable polyester; the Louis De Poortere Ecorugs range celebrates the best of contemporary and traditional design in a collection that's

made to last, over and over again. But just like anything that lives on the floor, from time to time an Ecorug will take the brunt of life's accidents rendering its beauty a little below par. Thankfully, for those moments, every Ecorug is also machine washable.

Polyester is inherently stain-resistant, but the flatweave construction and durable polyester makes every Ecorug also completely machine washable, so there's

no need to worry with even the lightest of colours or most delicate design. Put Ecorugs on 30-degree wash on a slow spin cycle, then just hang it to dry naturally, crease-free and ready to go again.

Alan Russell at Louis De Poortere said: "Polyester's recyclability was one reason for choosing it for the Ecorugs circular rug project, but its other qualities shined too – It's more durable than our previous cotton and easier to care for. Extensive testing over the last couple of years, means we're now able to recommend all Ecorugs can be put in the washing machine, no matter what the design or texture."

Ecorugs features an extraordinary range of designs, across many sizes and for the first time, multiple shapes. The comprehensive collection is ready for every sense of style and any home, no matter how tough the conditions.

www.louisdepoortere.com



500M² IN 5 WORKING DAYS GUARANTEED. WITH FORBO DIRECT

Forbo's renowned carpet tile stock and delivery promise has had a design refresh, now guaranteeing your flooring solution needs are met across an extended range of Tessera collections – we get it there, you get it done.

With Forbo Direct, flooring contractors across the UK can trust in UK held stocks being available exactly when you need it. This long-running delivery promotion from Forbo Flooring Systems has now been updated to include an even broader range of their best-selling Tessera ranges, with the same promise of up to 500m² of carpet tiles delivered within five working days or up to £500 cashback, guaranteed.

Expanding the choice of carpet tiles in the offer by 50%, all of which are made in the UK at Forbo's Lancashire-based factory, the design freedom has increased for projects that may face challenges in limited schedules or storage. In addition to the trusted Tessera Layout and Outline products, the promotion now includes the best-selling colours from the Cloudscape, Accord, Infused and Inline ranges, all supplied in 50cm x 50cm tiles. Providing a wealth of creative options, contractors and their customers can benefit from the variety of colourways, ranging from dark to light tones, in plain, linear and organic

designs creating seamless integration opportunities across all the collections.

Donna Hannaway, head of marketing UK and Ireland at Forbo Flooring Systems, said: "Here at Forbo, we understand that flooring contractors are under pressure to get the job done. With summer on the way and school holidays just around the corner, it's going to be a busy time of year with refurbishment projects. Our Forbo Direct service and promotion is there to provide peace of mind that stock is available and ready to go, eliminating the worry about project delays. We get it there; you get it done!"

With the revised Forbo Direct now incorporating more of Tessera's design-led carpet tile collections, the suitability for use has increased across a range of commercial projects and sectors. With sustainability remaining a key pillar of Forbo's ethos, all the ranges are also produced using 100% renewable energy (electricity and bio-gas) and containing up to 62% recycled content. While Forbo's partnership with the Salvation Army and its Take Back scheme allows for recycled carpet tiles to be reused within local communities, reducing landfill and helping those in need.

www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/forbodirect



CARPETS OF QUALITY JUST WHEN YOU NEED THEM

A carpet brand made for independent retailers by leading Portuguese manufacturer Lusotufo, Causeway Carpets is focused on providing the service to match its quality carpet collections. Now, with the reduction of delivery lead times to under five days, it has taken a major step forward in achieving that.

By significantly increasing its stockholding in the UK, Causeway Carpets is able to offer competitive lead-times across its most popular styles, giving retailers the service they need to match customer expectations.

"Improving our service has been the priority," said Richard Moore, commercial director. "We know that our growing network of independent retailers rely on great service and so we have worked behind the scenes to make that a reality. We're now able to provide cut lengths of our most popular collections in less than a week through Alliance Flooring Distribution, giving us the reliability of one of the UK's most trusted logistics providers."

The company has also invested heavily in its website and offers a free sample service for customers at this key research stage. Its independent retailers also benefit from the

stockist finder, which allows consumers to find their nearest specialist.

In store, Causeway Carpets is delivering too. Choosing from either the Compact Display Unit or Multi Display Unit, retailers can customise the ranges to the needs of their customer base. Finished in premium wood veneer, with classic blue and gold branding, the displays offer a premium look in-line with the brand's upper-mid market positioning.

"The quality of carpets made by Lusotufo is undeniable, but it's also important to emphasise this quality through interactions and touch points with customers. Our brand, website and point of sale was developed specifically to reflect the quality of our products and to ensure a great experience for all customers. We're pleased that our service to retailers now matches that," said Richard.

www.causewaycarpets.com



IMPROVING LIVES AT HOUSING 2026

IVC Commercial exhibited at Housing 2026, showcasing its dedicated social housing collections that are affordable for providers and developers, and which have the ability to improve lives for tenants.

Designed to provide a durable and low maintenance solution in living areas, the Zenura collection delivers a cost-effective floor that's easy to install. Across Zenura Style, Zenura Luxe, Zenura Ultimate and Zenura Elegance LVS, housing landlords can choose a specification to meet their requirements. In multiple widths to cut down on waste, these collections provide a safe and hygienic surface while giving tenants a warm, comfortable and stylish floor.

Jake Parks, national sales manager, said: "Thanks to budgets and rising construction costs, the need for affordable flooring solutions is at an all-time high in the sector, and we were inundated with enquiries, even with the show closing early thanks to the

heatwave. We took developers, local authorities, providers and specifiers through how choosing IVC Commercial for more than just bathrooms and kitchens can help to improve the quality of their housing in a way that's surprisingly cost-effective and which deals with many of the on-going challenges of maintaining their stock. It was a thoroughly worthwhile show and I'm sure we'll be back."

IVC Commercial also offers a range of commercial-grade compact sheet vinyl flooring to provide heavy contract (Class 34) performance. Isafe 70 is an easy to clean TRL 36+ safety flooring that can be used to provide improved slip-restraint in communal areas. It comes in a range of homely effects and withstands heavy traffic. For areas where acoustics are an important consideration, Pioneer 70 offers the same exceptional durability and homelike design with 18dB of impact sound reduction.

www.ivc-floorsforhousing.co.uk



MAPEI SELECTED FOR LANDMARK CENTRAL BUILDING PROJECT

A Mapei tiling system has been used to complete an installation at University of Nottingham's revered Central Building on the Castle Meadow Campus. The installation, completed by Telling Finishings for main contractor, G F Tomlinson, spanned over 1500m², with Mapei anti-fracture membrane, adhesives and Profilpas profiles featuring in the specification.

At only 30 years old, Central Building was Grade II listed by Historic England in 2023, making it one of the youngest buildings to receive this designation. In April 1993, it achieved maximum points in a BREEAM environmental assessment, the first building ever to do so, demonstrating its long-standing environmental performance credentials. During its retrofit, Bond Bryan Architects carefully respected and retained the building's distinctive character. The original structure has been preserved, complemented by a new sustainable timber frame supporting a striking glass roof and first-floor terrace with a winter garden. Additional enhancements include a new welcome reception area, Deli Central and a

community research hub, all thoughtfully integrated into the revitalised scheme.

Through a considered specification process, Bond Bryan identified and specified suitable Mapei systems across various substrates to help achieve the required technical performance, durability and finish standards across the project. Mapei products included Mapeguard UM 35, a waterproofing/decoupling anti-fracture membrane, which was applied to the ground-floor raised access flooring and first floor 160 mm thick timber frame to ensure a robust solution. Porcelain tiles from Pavigres' Milestone range (600x600mm) were then installed with fast-setting cementitious adhesive, Keraquick S1 Zero – a very low VOC EMICODE: EC1 Plus-certified formulation and part of Mapei's Zero Line, with CO2 fully offset in the entire life cycle. Mapei Profilpas Projoint DIL NIN, a stainless steel expansion joint with an interchangeable elastic vinyl resin insert, was also installed to delineate tile bays, provide an attractive finish and offer optimal protection.

www.mapei.co.uk





Tomkinson Twist in French Silver by Manx Tomkinson



FLOORING SHOWCASE

Mercado will unveil new collections, exclusive products and special offers at The Flooring Show Harrogate, with two stands highlighting its comprehensive portfolio.

Mercado, the UK's leading flooring distributor, returns to The Flooring Show in Harrogate this year with two dedicated stands, B29 and B60, showcasing its extensive portfolio of residential and contract flooring solutions.

One stand will showcase the brand's carpet and vinyl offering, while the second is dedicated to Mercado's hard flooring portfolio. At the show, visitors will be able to explore recently launched collections, exclusive products and show-only offers across Mercado's market-leading brand portfolio.

DISCOVER MERCADO'S MARKET-LEADING PRODUCT PORTFOLIO

With over 100 years of experience as the UK's leading floorcoverings distributor, Mercado sources, develops and distributes an extensive range of flooring solutions for customers across the country. Its portfolio brings together trusted brands, practical product choice, and specialist expertise, all supported by dedicated sales teams and nationwide distribution. Mercado remains committed to making it easier for customers to access quality flooring solutions without compromising on product excellence.

Mercado's stand at Harrogate will feature a comprehensive showcase of its residential flooring solutions as well as displaying its contract flooring options, including:

- **Lifestyle Floors:** Mercado's comprehensive residential brand covering all flooring categories, including carpet, LVT, vinyl and laminate. Known for combining value with high-end design, Lifestyle Floors will be showcasing its recently launched collections and updated POS to help retailers drive sales across all product types.

- **Everyroom:** A versatile residential brand offering carpets, LVT, vinyl, and laminate designed to suit any room and budget. Everyroom simplifies the selection process with its accessible styling, and Mercado will be featuring the brand's best-selling Woodland collection, relaunched earlier this year with three new decors.
- **FirmFit:** Available exclusively through Mercado, FirmFit is an advanced SPC (Stone Polymer Composite) flooring range designed for exceptional durability, water resistance and ease of installation. Suitable for both residential and commercial use, FirmFit blends robust performance with contemporary design, setting a new benchmark for modern flooring.
- **LX:** A premium LVT (luxury vinyl tile) brand available exclusively through Mercado, LX combines cutting edge-design with exceptional durability and hygiene. Backed by advanced surface protection, high-resolution textures and industry-leading certifications for indoor air quality and safety standards, LX offers versatile, sustainable flooring solutions ideal for residential and commercial projects.
- **JHS:** As Mercado's flagship contract brand, JHS is a one-stop shop for flooring across all commercial sectors. Known for its extensive product range, reliability and sector-specific expertise, JHS is the go-to choice for specifiers, contractors and facilities managers nationwide.
- Mercado will offer a 'Specials' area on the stand, giving visitors the opportunity to purchase select products at exclusive show prices.

The stands will also feature some of Headlam Group's exclusive brands including:



Tomkinson Twist in Oat by Manx Tomkinson

- **Kingsmead Carpets:** Manufacturing cosy home carpets for over 40 years, Kingsmead Carpets offers something to suit every style and budget with a wide range of wool, wool twist, and synthetic carpets.
- **Fells Carpets:** Fells Carpets brings fashion infused with the latest colour and tones, providing the most up-to-date collections from around the world. Renowned for its high-quality Wilton patterned carpet ranges, featuring well-recognised traditional styles, along with new, high-fashion design, and non-woven product ranges from luxurious deep pile saxony to hardwearing twist piles.
- **Kersaint Cobb:** A premium brand renowned for its commitment to natural materials and global design inspiration, Kersaint Cobb offers a luxurious selection of 100% pure wool and sustainably sourced plant fibre floorcoverings. The brand specialises in providing elegant textures and organic tones, ensuring retailers can offer a high-quality, distinctive aesthetic for sophisticated residential interiors.
- **Manx Tomkinson:** Known for its comprehensive range of plain and heather wool rich twist piles, textured loop piles and easy clean polypropylene carpets, designed to create warmth, colour and comfort and home to the best-selling Tomkinson Twist 80/20 wool twist range, Manx Tomkinson offers a choice of quality carpet solutions, across a range of styles, constructions and price points.

As part of the wider Headlam Group presence at The Flooring Show, Melrose will also be showcasing its latest rug collections on stand B61.

Joanne Haddon, Marketing Director at Mercado, comments: "The Flooring Show is a key moment for us to connect with our customers and showcase the sheer breadth of the Mercado portfolio. This year, we are particularly excited to highlight the recently launched updates to some of our best-selling ranges like Tomkinson Twist, which offer high-quality, on-trend solutions for modern homes. These updates, alongside our other new ranges across our exclusive brand portfolio means there is a lot of exciting things in store for attendees.

"Despite a challenging period for the industry, our focus remains on providing flooring retailers with the products and service they need to succeed. Our strength has always been and remains our ability to offer industry-leading brands and multi-category solutions all under one roof and we look forward to sharing these latest developments with visitors and welcoming them to the stands at Harrogate."

Alongside the brand stands, Mercado is the main sponsor of the National Flooring Awards, bringing together the industry to celebrate its collective success. Mercado customers will also get to enjoy an exclusive customer event on the Sunday night of the show.

To discover Mercado's latest ranges, exclusive products and show offers, visit stand B29 and B60 at The Flooring Show Harrogate or visit the website below.

www.mercado.co.uk

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

MANX TOMKINSON: TOMKINSON TWIST

The industry's leading wool twist carpet range has been recoloured, introducing 11 new decors. Eight original decors will continue, offering customers a range of options. The range will now be produced on a new fleece backing and is available in three weights to accommodate all customer needs.

EVERYROOM: WOOLACOMBE

The newly launched Woolacombe offers a luxurious soft touch, 100% Polyester saxony with a super thick 20mm pile height. Available in 10 different decors, the range provides plenty of choice for a durable yet soft carpet solution.

BUILT TO LAST

Junckers' solid oak flooring has been installed throughout the transformation of Paisley Museum, delivering a durable, sustainable and visually striking foundation for one of Scotland's most significant cultural redevelopments.

A £68.7m redevelopment has transformed Paisley Museum with a striking design by architects AL_A. Junckers' solid oak floors were fitted throughout the museum's galleries, forming a durable and elegant backdrop to the exhibits which will be added later this year. The installation follows another successful project for Junckers – the award-winning Perth Museum where Junckers' Oak plank flooring forms part of a beautifully restored interior.

With a spectacular curved entrance in red glass and panoramic extension, the building is a dynamic and inviting part of the busy High Street. The A-listed main building and Coats Observatory have been updated and future-proofed thanks to extensive external and internal works to reveal refreshed, modern galleries on every floor with double the amount of available space to showcase the museum's significant collections.

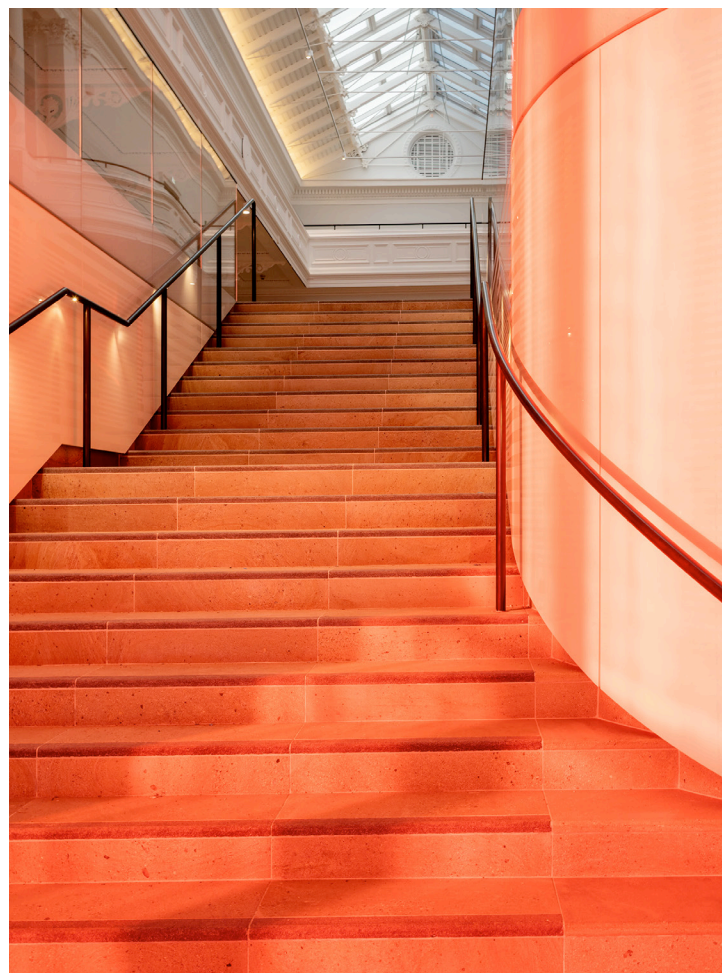
Set to attract thousands of visitors every year, the museum needed a robust and hardwearing floor. Junckers' 22mm Oak Harmony two-strip flooring proved the ideal choice – not only does it bring a warm, natural feel to the large spaces, the solid hardwood floor is set to last for generations with the right care and maintenance, and it will only get more beautiful with age. Should it need to be refurbished, it can be sanded and refinished up to 10 times to bring it back to as-new condition.

Junckers two-strip flooring offers a more expressive and livelier look than plank flooring. Each floorboard is made from two strips of oak, showcasing the colour variations and structural grain patterns that are naturally present in the timber.

Junckers' Approved Flooring Contractor McGarry Flooring undertook the installation, which included fitting cast iron heating grills within the floor. Full floorboards surround every grill, which required a carefully executed plan to ensure continuity. The floors are sealed with Junckers' hardwearing HT700 Floor Lacquer in an ultra matt finish, a water-based, two-component lacquer ideal for the heavy foot traffic expected at a museum. The lacquer and the flooring carry the Danish Indoor Climate label, certifying there are no chemical substances that will adversely affect the air quality.

The transformation of the museum forms the culmination of a decade of investment in Paisley funded by Renfrewshire Council, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic Environment Scotland, the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund and fundraising from donors and benefactors. Several buildings that are part of the refurbishment programme have been fitted with Junckers flooring, including Paisley Town Hall, Paisley Central Library and the new state-of-the-art Paisley Grammar School Community Campus, which is set to open later this year.

www.junckers.co.uk





BIG IMPACT

As more homeowners choose to improve rather than move, Havwoods explains how wood surfaces can make compact interiors feel brighter, more spacious and built to last.

With the rise in moving costs and changing lifestyle needs, homeowners are looking to adapt their spaces rather than relocate, with the conversation around small-space design never being more relevant. Homes are needing to work harder, creating spaces that not only feel brighter, larger and look great, but also are more versatile and enduring to stand the test of time.

Wood continues to be the standout material for its ability to transform compact interiors into warm and welcoming spaces.

■ CREATING A GREATER SENSE OF SPACE

In compact interiors, every design decision matters. Wood offers a combination of natural texture, warmth and simplicity that helps spaces feel lighter, brighter and more connected. Lighter wood tones that fall within the Platinum and Blonde colour groups are especially effective as they reflect natural light and create a calm backdrop that works across a wide range of interior styles.

The size and layout of the floor can have a significant impact on how spacious a room feels. Wider planks often create a cleaner visual appearance with fewer joints and interruptions, allowing the eye to move more easily across the surface and helping compact rooms feel more open. Longer boards can have a similar effect, creating a greater sense of flow and reducing visual clutter.

The direction in which a floor is laid is another important consideration. Installing boards in line with the longest dimension of a room can help emphasise length and create a stronger sense of openness. Using the same flooring throughout adjoining spaces can also improve visual flow, allowing the eye to move more easily between rooms and helping the home feel larger and more connected overall.

■ PLAY WITH PATTERN

Pattern can also play an important role. While patterned floors are often associated with larger spaces, herringbone and chevron can work beautifully in smaller rooms when selected at the right scale. These layouts introduce movement, character and visual interest without the need for additional decorative elements, allowing the floor itself to become a considered design feature.

■ COMBINE DIFFERENT SURFACE APPLICATIONS

Wood doesn't need to stop at the floor. In smaller interiors, extending timber finishes onto walls, ceilings or bespoke joinery help create a more considered and cohesive scheme. When used thoughtfully, wood surfaces can soften transitions between different areas of the home, reduce visual clutter and introduce layers of texture and materiality without overwhelming the space.

Ultimately, there is no one-size-fits-all approach. The most successful schemes consider the proportions of the room



alongside the width, length, colour and layout of the boards to create a space that feels balanced, cohesive and comfortable to live in.

■ DESIGNING FOR THE LONG TERM

With homeowners choosing to improve rather than move, longevity is becoming an increasingly important consideration – and this is reflected in the materials chosen for the home. An enduring material that transcends trends, wood offers a timeless aesthetic no matter where it is used that can evolve and shift with changing interior schemes and household needs.

When selecting floors or wall surfaces for example, homeowners need solutions that are both beautiful and continue to perform effectively in tandem. Wood's lasting appeal, versatility and durability make it a natural choice for interiors.

As the movement towards home adaption continues, the use of wood proves that great design is not about having more space, it's about making better use of it. Its ability to enhance light, introduce warmth and comfort, support multifunctional living and deliver lasting style makes it truly unique.

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WATER**

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substrates?
**MIX WITH
LATEX
LIQUID**

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- 2-Part mix with the latex liquid for enhanced performance



+



=

Good all-round
performance

- ✓ Concrete
- ✓ Sand:Cement screeds
- ✓ Anhydrite screeds
- ✓ Cementitious flowing screeds
- ✓ Unglazed tiles / stone
- ✓ Old tile adhesive residues



+



=

Superior
enhanced
performance

- ✓ Under-floor heating / heated screeds
- ✓ Asphalt (flooring grade)
- ✓ Existing vinyl tiles (excluding LVT)
- ✓ Flooring grade bitumen and residues
- ✓ Direct onto glazed tiles
- ✓ Under DPM's (as part of a moisture control system)



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MOISTURE MATTERS

The experts at F. Ball provide a straightforward guide to wood floorcovering installations.

When installing wood floorcoverings, contractors should follow the same principles of floorcovering installation while bearing in mind a few unique considerations, chief of which should be wood's natural susceptibility to moisture. If unmanaged, excess subfloor moisture will cause wood to warp and attack adhesives, potentially resulting in the floorcoverings cupping or buckling, and, ultimately, complete floor failure.

Wood can also expand and contract significantly as a result of changes in atmospheric conditions, including temperature and humidity, exerting strain on adhesives and the surface to which floorcoverings are bonded. Engineered wood is less prone to this but it will still be affected.

■ MOISTURE MANAGEMENT

Having ensured the subfloor is suitably sound, smooth and free of any contaminant, including any old adhesive residues, it is essential to determine if it is dry enough to receive floorcoverings by undertaking a moisture test. F. Ball recommends this as a routine procedure as part of any flooring installation. To comply with British Standards, subfloor Relative Humidity (RH) levels should be measured using a calibrated digital hygrometer.

Normally, a waterproof surface membrane will be required to suppress excess subfloor moisture when subfloor RH levels are above 75%. However, the maximum permitted figure is 65% where wood floorcoverings will be installed because of the sensitivity of this type of floorcovering to moisture. Waterproof surface membranes create a barrier between floorcoverings and subfloor, protecting the floorcovering from the adverse effects of excess subfloor moisture.

■ TIMESAVING SOLUTIONS

F. Ball and Co. Ltd. has two timesaving options for when a moisture management solution is required. Stopgap F77 waterproof surface membrane is a two-part, epoxy resin system, which is applied in a single coat. It fully cures in as little as three hours and will isolate residual construction moisture or rising damp where relative humidity values are up to 98%.

For an even quicker way to create a barrier against residual construction moisture where RH values are up to 95%, there is Stopgap F78, a one-component system, which is applied in two coats, requiring 15–20 minutes curing time for the first and a further 30 minutes for the second.

Once a moisture management solution is in place, contractors can proceed to apply a smoothing compound to ensure a perfectly smooth base for the receipt of floorcoverings, remembering to prime the subfloor beforehand. F. Ball recommends using a heavy-duty smoothing compound, such as its Stopgap 300, prior to the installation of wood floorcoverings because they are better able

to withstand the added strain exerted by the natural movement of the wood.

■ CHOOSING THE RIGHT ADHESIVE

Finally, contractors must select a specialist wood adhesive to install wood blocks or planks. Utilising the latest technology, flexible wood floor adhesives provide an elastic but strong bond, which will accommodate natural movement of wood flooring over its lifetime, ensuring a long lasting, visually attractive floor finish.

One such flexible wood floor adhesive, F. Ball's Styccobond B95, provides good initial tack whilst also allowing for repositioning of floorcoverings during the initial stage of drying, an advantage when installing wood blocks. F. Ball also recommends Stycco Flex, its rapid-curing flexible cartridge adhesive, as an alternative for securing header rows. Its rapid strength build-up aids installations where subsequent rows are butted up to the head row using a mallet and a tapping block. Stycco Flex can also be used to install skirting boards and trims.

■ INSTANT ADVICE

To ensure the correct choice of adhesive for the floorcovering, F. Ball recommends checking the compatibility using its industry-leading recommended adhesives guide (RAG), which lists adhesives recommended for use with over 6,000 floorcoverings, produced by over 200 flooring manufacturers. The RAG is available on the F. Ball website, downloadable as a free app, as well as a printed booklet. Alternatively, see floorcovering manufacturer's instructions for advice.

F. Ball's technical service department is also on hand Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5.00pm, to answer any questions you might have about installing wood floorcoverings or floorcovering-adhesive compatibility.

<https://f-ball.com>





THE POWER OF EVOLUTION

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Bona introduces Bona Mega EVO, the next generation 1K waterborne lacquer with a new state-of-the-art crosslinking technology that activates when applied. The unique, non-yellowing formula delivers faster curing with excellent resistance to scratches, wear, and chemicals. With VOC levels below 3%, the lacquer contributes to healthier working conditions with a lower impact on indoor air quality.

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TOUGHER WOOD

Bjelin UK explains why advances in hardened wood technology are making real timber a practical choice for even the most demanding interiors.



For years, real wood and laminate flooring have sat at opposite ends of a trade-off. Wood offers warmth, character and long-term value, but has traditionally struggled in kitchens, hallways and other high-moisture, high-traffic areas of the home and workplace. Laminate solved the practical problem but, for many specifiers and homeowners, it came at the cost of authenticity. Bjelin UK believes that trade-off no longer needs to exist.

At the centre of this belief is Woodura technology, Bjelin's patented technology for strengthening real wood at a molecular level. Rather than compromising on materials, Woodura reworks how the wood itself performs. The result is flooring that delivers three times the durability of traditional wood, uses 10 times fewer resources in production and can withstand up to 72 hours of direct exposure to water – figures that put it firmly in laminate's territory on practicality while remaining, unlike laminate, entirely real timber.

The technology behind Woodura was developed in partnership with sister company Välinge Innovation, one of the flooring industry's most established technology businesses and the original inventor of the floating floor click system. That heritage matters in a category where performance claims are common but genuine innovation is rarer. Woodura works by compressing a thin veneer layer onto a strong, moisture-resistant core, an approach that also maximises the yield taken from each tree, aligning performance gains with a lighter environmental footprint rather than working against it.

For specifiers weighing up wood against laminate, the category distinction has typically come down to a simple question: how much performance are you willing to give up for the look and feel of real wood? Woodura Planks, Bjelin's core range, is built to remove that question from the equation, offered across eight colourways from soft naturals through to deeper Earth Grey and Terra Brown tones, with both brushed and pro lacquer finishes depending on the level of practical demand a space places on it. The Select-graded Woodura Herringbone Modern and Classic ranges take the same technology into a more refined, pattern-led

format, a segment of the wood flooring market that has moved firmly into the mainstream in recent years as tastes shift toward more traditional detailing.

Bjelin's argument extends beyond the floor. The recent launch of Woodura Furniture, a new collection of dining and coffee tables using the same hardened wood technology in two design directions, Harmony and Solace, reflects a broader view that the wood-versus-laminate conversation is no longer confined to flooring. As interior specifiers and homeowners look for cohesive, genuinely natural material choices across a room rather than just underfoot, technology of this kind gives real wood a route back into spaces and applications it had previously ceded to engineered and laminate alternatives.

Sustainability underpins the whole platform. All timber used is FSC certified, the flooring range carries the Nordic Swan Ecolabel, and the new furniture is built from European oak sourced from the sustainably managed Spačva forest. For a category increasingly scrutinised on environmental grounds as much as performance, Bjelin's position is that the two should never have been separate conversations in the first place.

The wider implication for the wood and laminate sector is a simple one. As hardened wood technology matures, the practical case for choosing laminate over real wood narrows considerably, and the decision becomes less about performance and more, once again, about the material a specifier or homeowner genuinely wants in their space. For a category that has spent years defined by that trade-off, that shift is worth paying attention to, and it is one Bjelin expects to keep accelerating as the Woodura platform extends further beyond the floor.

For more information on Bjelin and the Woodura collection, contact Richard Banham, national accounts manager: Richrad.banham@bjelin.com or +44 1948 302270.

<https://uk.bjelin.com/en>

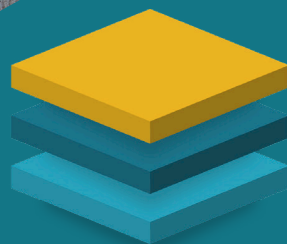
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GET SHOW READY

The Flooring Show returns to Harrogate Convention Centre from 20–22 September 2026, bringing the UK flooring industry together for three days of product discovery, practical learning and valuable face-to-face business.

For more than 60 years, the Flooring Show has provided a meeting place for retailers, contractors, distributors, fitters, designers, architects, specifiers and developers. This year, visitors can explore products and innovations from more than 400 flooring brands, spanning carpet, laminate, LVT, wood, vinyl, cork, underlay, adhesives, tools and much more.

Alongside the exhibition, a packed programme of live features will give visitors even more reasons to attend. The Flooring Forum Live, sponsored by F. Ball and Co. Ltd and delivered in partnership with Cockerill & Co, will host practical sessions across all three days, offering useful advice and ideas to help flooring professionals strengthen and grow their businesses.

In the Demo Zone, expert FITA instructors, supported by the CFA and NICF, will demonstrate the latest installation products, methods and techniques. Visitors can also discover a curated collection of new residential and commercial surfaces in the Design Spotlight, while the dedicated LVT Pavilion will bring together some of the latest developments in luxury vinyl tile.

Competition will take centre stage as five finalists battle it out live in the 2026 Fitter of the Year final. Elsewhere, the Wool Trends Centre will showcase a new Wool Trend Hub, while the returning Sustainability Trail will help visitors identify exhibitors taking meaningful steps towards a more environmentally responsible future.

With new launches to discover, expert knowledge to take away and thousands of industry connections to make, every day will offer something different.

Whether you are looking to source new products, meet existing suppliers, discover emerging trends or build new industry connections, The Flooring Show remains the essential date in the flooring calendar.

Book your ticket today!

www.theflooringshow.com



F. BALL CELEBRATES 140 YEARS OF INNOVATION**STAND: B1**

F. Ball and Co. Ltd. will celebrate the 140th anniversary of the company at this year's Flooring Show, alongside showcasing the latest advancements in subfloor preparation products and adhesives for floorcoverings.

Visitors to the F. Ball stand will be able to watch live demonstrations of its subfloor preparation products and adhesives, including the latest addition to its range of smoothing compounds, Stopgap 1400, delivered by the company's training department on the stand's live demonstration area.

The high-flow, fast-setting, two-component smoothing compound offers superior self-smoothing properties and is walk-on hard from just 90 minutes after application and ready to receive floorcoverings from 12 hours.

Also showcased will be high-performance Styccobond F49 Hybrid PS flooring adhesive, which has temperature tolerant, pressure sensitive and water-resistant properties, and the company's Stopgap Micro Rapid rapid-setting floor finishing compound.

With a history stretching back to 1886, F. Ball has become the UK's leading manufacturer of flooring adhesives and floor preparation products for the contract flooring industry and a British manufacturing success story.

F. Ball managing director Darren Kenyon said: "Reaching 140 years is a significant milestone and testament to the company's steadfast values and commitment to customers

and quality. This makes us one of the longest-established companies in the flooring industry.

"We have plans to celebrate this at The Flooring Show, and we look forward to being back and seeing familiar faces as well as meeting new visitors for the first time."

Representatives will be on hand to answer any questions that visitors may have about F. Ball's products and technical support, including free training courses delivered at the F. Ball Centre of Excellence in Staffordshire.

F. Ball experts will also be taking part in the Flooring Forum Live, organised by the UK Flooring Podcast, of which the company is the headline sponsor.

Contractors attending the show can also find out how to become a member of the Ball Rewards programme, which entitles them to claim cashback each time they purchase F. Ball products, as well as offering a range of exclusive benefits, such as the opportunity to enter regular competitions.

www.f-ball.co.uk

**BJELIN TO SHOWCASE WOODURA****STAND: Q86**

Bjelin UK is heading to The Flooring Show at Harrogate with a stand built around the commercial credentials of Woodura, its patented hardened wood flooring technology, alongside the UK debut of a new furniture collection aimed at the wider interiors sector.

Woodura strengthens real wood at a molecular level, giving specifiers and contract buyers a genuine alternative to laminate or engineered products in demanding environments. The technology delivers three times the durability of traditional wood flooring, 10 times the resource efficiency and up to 72 hours of water resistance – figures that matter in busy commercial spaces such as hospitality venues, offices and retail interiors. It was developed in partnership with sister company Välinge Innovation, the original inventor of the floating floor click system.

On the stand, visitors will find Woodura Planks and the Select graded Woodura Herringbone Modern and Classic ranges, alongside a full point-of-sale package designed to support specification conversations. The headline exhibit, however, is Woodura Furniture, a new range of dining and coffee tables in two design directions, Harmony and Solace, with Woodura tabletops and solid oak bases. It is Bjelin's first move beyond flooring and a signal of intent for the contract sector, where matching furniture and flooring ranges are increasingly in demand.

Bjelin UK managing director Simon Darbyshire said: "We're really pleased to be exhibiting at Harrogate this year. It's a fantastic platform to showcase our herringbone and the next generation of Woodura hardened wood flooring, and to start introducing furniture into the wider interiors' conversation too."

All timber used across the ranges is FSC certified, with the flooring carrying the Nordic Swan Ecolabel and the furniture built from European oak sourced from the sustainably managed Spačva forest.

Visit the Bjelin UK at stand Q86 to see the full range and speak with the team about specification and supply.

<https://uk.bjelin.com/en>



JOINT SOLUTION

Collecta and Bostik have combined their expertise to develop and test a complete heated wet room flooring system, giving specifiers and installers greater confidence in performance, compatibility and compliance.



Collecta and Bostik have collaborated to develop a complete heated wet room solution, combining products from both ranges into a jointly tested flooring system.

The collaboration began when Mark Crowsley, Senior Technical Manager at Collecta, met with Marc Rees, Business Development Manager at Bostik, to discuss product specification for heated floors within wet room and bathroom applications.

The meeting quickly evolved into a programme of testing and joint system development. Collecta contributed expertise in heated floor systems, while Bostik brought experience in smoothing compounds, tile adhesives, grouts and waterproofing systems.

The shared objective was clear: to combine the strengths of both companies and create a jointly tested, watertight heated floor solution that developers, designers and installers could specify with confidence.

Mark Crowsley and Marc Rees commented: "The collaboration between our businesses has been beneficial for many years. By pooling resources and technical expertise, we can reduce risk for contractors and increase confidence in specified solutions. This latest development takes that relationship even further, creating opportunities for innovation while delivering practical benefits for customers."

■ FULL-SCALE SYSTEM TESTING

Development and testing were carried out using full-scale wet room mock-ups at Bostik's training academy in Stafford.

Technical teams from both companies worked together to install Collecta's Mojave and CLiCKFLO heated floor systems within the same wet room environment. The Mojave system was installed across the main bathroom floor area, while the CLiCKFLO system was utilised within the shower zone where a drainage fall was required.

A continuous heating pipe circuit was installed through both the high-performance routed XPS core of the Mojave system and the low-profile castellated CLiCKFLO panels. The Mojave floor area was then finished with Collecta's ScreedBoard 20, while the CLiCKFLO section was encapsulated using Bostik's smoothing compound.

The smoothing compound encapsulated the heating pipework and created the recommended 1:40 fall towards the floor drain, ensuring effective water management within the wet area.

Once cured, Bostik's flexible tanking system was applied across both floor constructions. Corner tapes were installed at all floor-to-wall junctions before the liquid membrane was applied to create a continuous waterproof surface. All drainage and plumbing installations were completed prior to the floor and wall finishes being applied.

The result was a complete heated wet room floor build-up combining underfloor heating, drainage, waterproofing and tiling within a single tested system.

■ TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING

The partnership extends beyond product compatibility and system testing.

The Bostik Academy combines professional expertise with practical application, providing construction professionals with hands-on workshops, specialised seminars and technical training designed to improve project outcomes and installation standards.

Similarly, Collecta provides on-site training, toolbox talks, installation guidance and technical support across its flooring systems. The company also maintains extensive performance data, including acoustic testing, underfloor heating outputs and compressive strength testing.

By combining technical expertise, product knowledge and practical training, both companies are helping to provide greater confidence throughout the specification and installation process.

■ INDUSTRY CONFIDENCE

Ben Banks, Technical Director at Collecta, commented: "This collaboration between Collecta and Bostik demonstrates both companies' commitment to ensuring designers, installers and, most importantly, end users are provided with a high-quality system designed by industry experts to meet the expectations of the UK market.

"With the introduction of the Building Safety Act, we have seen a growing desire across the industry to utilise systems manufactured by reputable companies and supported by testing, technical data and warranties. Bostik were the perfect partner for this project, as they share our commitment to product quality, technical excellence and customer support."

www.collecta.co.uk

Heated wet room floors



Product list:

1. Collecta - Mojave® M1-3 system
 - ScreedBoard® 20
 - XFLO
 - ULTRApate li
 - RUBBERfon® Impact 3 (For acoustic floors)
2. Collecta - CLICKFLO® UFH system
3. Bostik - SL C530 FLEX
4. Bostik - GRIP A526 UNIVERSAL
5. Bostik - FLEXIBLE TANKING SYSTEM
6. Bostik range of tile adhesives & grouts

Info:

Bostik and Collecta high-performance solutions combine to create a tested heated floor system for wet rooms and bathroom floors. Designed for outstanding response times, high heat outputs and effective moisture protection, the low-profile system accommodates either 12mm and 16mm underfloor heating pipes, providing installation flexibility without compromising performance. The complete system is designed to include a fall to direct water efficiently towards the wet room drainage outlet.

SCAN HERE

GAME ON

F. Ball products help overcome moisture and subfloor challenges before the installation of new sports flooring in Tallaght Sports Complex.

Technical advice and products from the UK's leading manufacturer of flooring installation products, F. Ball and Co. Ltd., have helped to overcome subfloor preparation challenges and provide a surface that will stand up to years of expected wear in a sports complex in Tallaght, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

After removing old vinyl flooring along with adhesive residues, contractors from NT Flooring found a rough and uneven concrete screed. A subsequent moisture test indicated that excess subfloor moisture risked floor failure without a moisture management solution in place, and expansion joints were also present in the base.

A waterproof surface membrane applied to a particularly rough or uneven surface can pool in undulations on the surface, necessitating a greater quantity of product to achieve full coverage, as well as an extended curing period.

Based on this assessment, F. Ball's Ireland technical representative and detailed specification by F. Ball and Co. Ltd. recommended that the subfloor was first primed with the company's Stopgap P131 general-purpose primer before applying Stopgap 1200 smoothing compound over the entire 600m² area to create a smooth base for other subfloor preparation products.

"A waterproof surface membrane prevented excess subfloor moisture from causing complete floor failure."

As well as being suitable for application over old adhesive residues, the product is moisture tolerant, meaning that it can be used to smooth rough or uneven subfloors prior to the application of a waterproof surface membrane.

F. Ball's Stopgap F77 two-part waterproof surface membrane was then used to prevent excess subfloor moisture attacking floorcoverings and adhesives, potentially causing complete floor failure. The product dries in as little as three hours to create a barrier against moisture values of up to 98% RH with a single coat application.

Once dry, the surface was primed using F. Ball's Stopgap P141, which is designed especially to promote the adhesion of smoothing compounds to non-absorbent surfaces, including waterproof surface membranes. Another layer of Stopgap 1200 would create a perfectly smooth base for the receipt of new floorcoverings. 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.

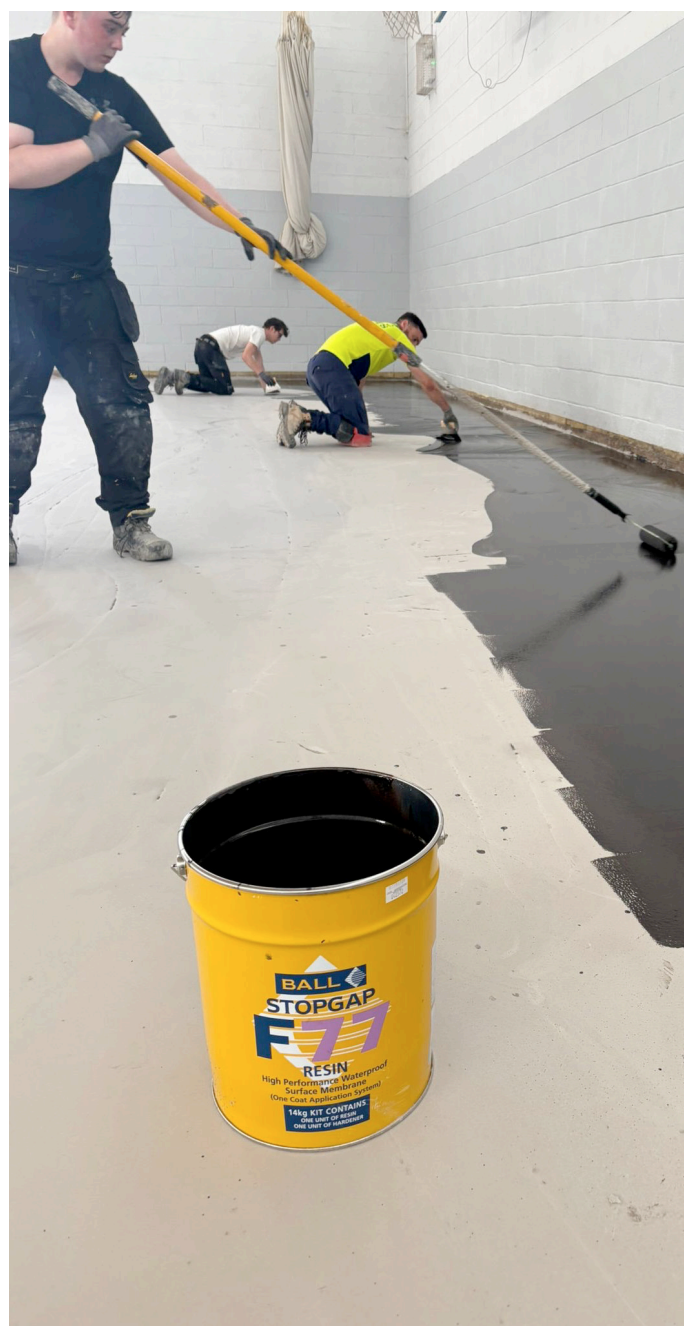
Once the smoothing compound had cured and to complete a full F. Ball system installation.

NT Flooring installed Gerflor Taraflex sports flooring using F. Ball's Styccobond F58 PLUS vinyl adhesive.

Its fast-drying formulation enables floorcoverings to be secured from just five minutes after application. It transitions from a wet-lay to a fully pressure-sensitive adhesive and includes reinforcing fibres that provide resistance to lateral movement when working. With an extended open time of around three hours when used as a pressure-sensitive adhesive, it allows large areas to be covered in a single application without risking late placement of floorcoverings.

All preparation products and floorcoverings were terminated on either side of expansion joints and preformed joint or expansion joint cover installed.

<https://f-ball.com>



12 months:
6 months:

VIDEO SHOWCASE

VIDEO SHOWCASE

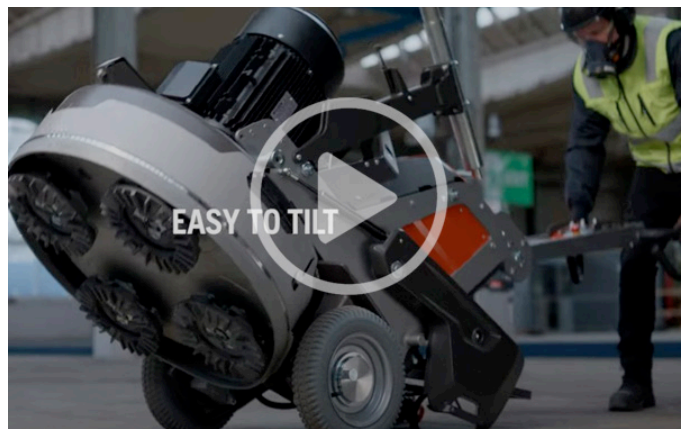
Measure Square™



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

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NEW FLOOR PREPARATION PRODUCTS JOIN MAPEI'S ZERO LINE

Mapei has extended its Zero Line further with the addition of floor preparation products – Eco Prim T Plus Zero and Ultraplan Eco 3215 Zero. The primer and smoothing compound join Mapei's full Zero resilient range, now with CO₂ fully offset in the entire life cycle. They also benefit from a very low VOC EMICODE: EC1 Plus certified formulation, providing a safe, high-performance solution for contractors and specifiers.

Mapei Eco Prim T Plus Zero is a universal acrylic primer ideal for preparing absorbent and non-absorbent substrates prior to the application of smoothing compounds. It applies easily, is fast drying, adheres perfectly to the substrate and resists water and ageing.

Following priming, 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 fast-track projects and 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 approx. 12 hours and wood flooring after 24 hours.

www.mapei.co.uk

DRILL SMARTER

Accurate concrete moisture testing is a critical step in subfloor preparation before installing floorcoverings. Here, Jason Spangler, Wagner Meter's vice president of sales discusses how vacuum drill bits improve RH testing accuracy and efficiency.



Having the right drill bit could change everything. Drill bits designed for speed, ease of use, and durability go a long way in saving you time and effort. But what if there was a tool that didn't just make the drilling easier, but the hole cleanup as well?

■ WHAT ARE VACUUM DRILL BITS?

Vacuum drill bits can be connected to a shop vacuum so you can clean dust as you drill into concrete. Here's how it works. The shaft of the bit is hollow, so instead of using spiral blades to push debris upward, the suction from the vacuum pulls the dust up through the shaft, eliminating the need for cleanup.

Being able to drill and clean in the same step is a game changer. And better hole quality leads to more efficient and accurate moisture testing.

■ WHY HOLE QUALITY MATTERS IN RH TESTING

You might not think twice about drilling holes for your RH sensors. Though it isn't very difficult, there are some things you'll want to keep in mind for accurate RH moisture testing – hole size and silica dust.

First, let's look at why hole size matters. The holes you drill are created for your RH sensors. Unevenly shaped holes, or holes that don't meet your RH sensor's hole diameter requirements, prevent proper sensor anchoring, which can compromise the accuracy of your testing results. So, a random drill is not going to work – you need one designed for precise hole measurements for your RH sensors.

Another thing you'll need to think about is the silica dust that's naturally created while drilling. On top of being a safety hazard, this dust can mess up RH readings if it's not thoroughly vacuumed out.

Most of the time, flooring installers have to use a small brush to manually loosen up debris before inserting a vacuum attachment into the hole to remove any remaining dust. If you're working on a big job where you need to drill 50-70 holes, something as seemingly-simple as dust cleanup can become a very time-consuming process. Fortunately, high-quality vacuum drill bits can make all the difference.

■ WHY WE RECOMMEND THE HILTI TE-CD CONCRETE DRILL BIT

If you're looking for a vacuum drill bit, we recommend the Hilti TE-CD Concrete Drill Bit because it can save you a significant

amount of time and effort, especially on large jobs where you'll be using a lot of RH sensors.

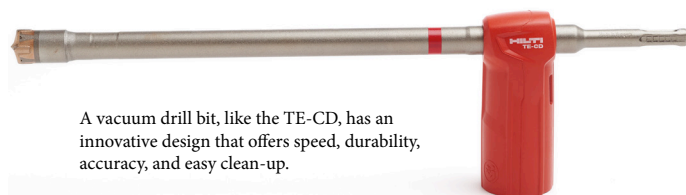
■ THE HILTI TE-CD CONCRETE DRILL BIT:

- **Maintains precise hole diameter/size:** It creates consistent and appropriately-sized holes for Rapid RH sensors to anchor properly.
- **Doesn't snag as much as other drill bits.**
- **Is fast and durable:** The carbide tips are strong and sharp, making for quick and efficient drilling. One customer, Andrew Campbell, had this to say about the TE-CD: "This is my fourth one. This bit cuts through concrete like butter through the first 100 or so holes. I have been able to use one of these bits for approximately 400 holes."
- **Makes hole-cleaning effortless:** Its hollow-drill design allows you to vacuum as you drill. There's no question that you'll save considerable time on dust cleanup.
- **Is a safer way to deal with dust:** By sucking up silica dust as you go along, you won't have to worry about accidentally breathing in large amounts of it.

With a vacuum drill bit like the TE-CD, you can skip the hassle and mess of drilling holes and set yourself up for consistent, accurate RH readings.

Visit our **Concrete Information & Knowledge Base** to learn more about RH testing best practices and tools.

www.WagnerMeters.com



A vacuum drill bit, like the TE-CD, has an innovative design that offers speed, durability, accuracy, and easy clean-up.





OH SO QUIET

Dave Ford, specifications manager for the North at Altro, explains how acoustic flooring can reduce noise, improve communication and help create calmer, healthier care environments without compromising on hygiene, durability or design.

Control of noise is particularly important in care homes, to aid recovery from illness and to promote day-to-day wellbeing of residents. Poor acoustic performance of the care home can also have profound social, physical and psychological effects on residents with hearing impairment. Noise levels from people and noise pollution from equipment and devices reverberate over sound-reflecting hard surfaces, extend over distances and linger; consequently, they can have a serious impact on the wellbeing of everyone.

Action on Hearing Loss state that there are approximately 11 million people with hearing loss across the UK (one in six of the population) and 71% of people over the age of 70 suffer from age-related hearing impairment (presbycusis). This impacts on the resident's ability to engage effectively with staff, visitors and others sharing their environment, and can lead to problems with communication, social isolation, confusion and the safeguarding of privacy. Saint-Gobain Ecophon estimate that age-related hearing loss leads to communication problems for approximately 37% of people between the ages of 61 and 70, and becomes an increasing problem as we age, with around 60% of people aged 71 to 80 experiencing difficulties with communication as a result of age-related hearing impairment.

Trying to understand in noisy situations, where background sound reduces intelligibility of speech, can leave a hearing-impaired person confused or frustrated. This is particularly the case for residents with dementia, who need additional support to help them interpret and navigate their surroundings. Those with hearing aids may find that background noise reduces the effectiveness of their devices, and Action for Hearing Loss stresses that speech intelligibility can be particularly challenging for those for whom English is not a first language. Inclusivity is, of course, crucial under the Equality Act 2010, which states that buildings should not disadvantage occupants irrespective of their age or abilities.

Acoustic flooring generally refers to flooring that helps provide sound insulation, thus dampening the effects of sound from within the room, be it airborne noise or impact noise. Acoustic flooring is different from soundproof underlay or flooring, which is designed to reduce sound coming through the floor from adjoining areas.

With a range of vinyl flooring that has sound-dampening properties, you can find Altro products that will serve your needs in more ways than one. With different levels of sound reduction, you can tailor your project to its exact specifications. We've collaborated with associations including Care England, Design in Mental Health and the University of Stirling's renowned Dementia Services Development Centre and worked with them to develop total solutions for the care home sector.

So, where can acoustic floors be used to best effect? In care homes, you can improve the chances of residents sleeping well and not disturbing each other by incorporating sound reducing flooring into your corridors and bedrooms. They are also beneficial in visitor lounges, to enhance that sense of privacy. The right floor can reduce impact sound transmission not just into adjoining rooms but also to other storeys.

"Around 71% of people aged over 70 experience age-related hearing loss, making acoustic performance a key consideration in care environments."

In hospital environments, peace and quiet is essential to aid recovery and protect privacy, so surfaces which contribute to them are essential across many areas of a hospital, including: intensive care or wards where resting and sleep are vital to patient recuperation; corridors where the sounds from trolleys and wheelchairs can be a constant source of distress; consultation rooms in which private conversations should not be overheard.

Most manufacturers have acoustic flooring options. Consider how each area is used and weigh-up sound reduction properties alongside those such as slip-resistance, durability, cleanability and aesthetics – you should be able to find options that deliver what you need.

Modern vinyl floors offer an ideal alternative to carpet and carpet tiles, which may have been used in care home environments. There are many vinyl flooring options now available with similar sound reduction properties to carpet tiles – 17 to 18dB, so there's no need to compromise on in-room sound and transmission of noise. There is also the option to use an impact sound reduction underlay.



“Modern acoustic vinyl flooring can deliver up to 19dB impact sound reduction while offering the hygiene, durability and ease of maintenance that healthcare settings demand.”

Comfort underfoot is also a key performance benefit of many vinyl floors, especially those which also offer sound reduction properties, so a switch from carpet to vinyl need not lead to a compromise on comfort or acoustics, and still provides carers, staff and residents with a homely look too.

And the biggest benefit of vinyl over carpet is on cleanability. High-quality vinyl floors can be cleaned at temperatures up to 60C; viruses are killed at 56C (US National Library of Medicine). No different detergent or process is needed when you already have the ability to spray, steam or power clean the flooring.

Dirt sits on the surface of vinyl flooring rather than penetrating the pile of carpet. So vinyl floors are cleaned faster, with products less likely to cause damage to the floor and also dry faster for a speedy return to service.

At Altro, our 19dB vinyl acoustic floor, Altro Serenade, contributes to the impact sound reduction of noise in buildings by reducing impact sound transmission, increasing sound absorption and reducing sound reflection. Where noise reduction is needed to reduce in-room sound and transmission of noise you can also consider Altro Illustra adhesive-free, Altro Cantata adhesive-free, Altro Wood Comfort and Altro Wood adhesive-free floors which offer 14dB, Altro Ensemble and Altro Orchestra and Altro Orchestra Custom which offer 15dB (and comfort underfoot while maintaining the highest Commercial classification of use).

If this isn't enough, don't forget that you can combine the floor of your choice with impact sound reduction underlays. For example, Altro Acoustic Underlay 1101 and Altro Everlay B offer sound reductions of 17dB and 21dB respectively, when used in conjunction with an Altro sheet vinyl floor.

www.altro.com



TAKING EXTRA CARE

From moisture testing and subfloor preparation to selecting the correct smoothing compounds and adhesives, F. Ball explains how following best practice can help create flooring installations that support infection control, reduce trip risks and stand up to the demands of busy care environments.

Flooring installations in nursing and care homes require special considerations to help support elderly residents and minimise the risk of any hazards to which they will naturally be more susceptible. With older people more prone to trips, slips and falls, making flooring safe and secure is a priority.

Typically, care settings employ a mixture of carpets and vinyl floorcoverings to meet different needs of its residents. To ensure that finished installations are able to withstand expected levels of daily wear, maintain their aesthetic appearance and safeguard the health and safety of users, contractors should follow best practice in subfloor preparation and floorcovering installation and choose the most suitable products at each stage of the process.

■ INITIAL STEPS

The first procedure in any flooring installation should be to make sure that the subfloor is suitably sound and smooth and dry, including undertaking a moisture test to determine subfloor relative humidity (RH) levels, using a calibrated digital hygrometer. Where subfloor RH levels are above 75% (65% if a wood floorcovering will be installed), a moisture management solution, such as a waterproof surface membrane, will be required to suppress excess subfloor moisture levels and prevent floor failure.

The application of a smoothing compound to create a perfectly smooth base for floorcoverings is usually the next step in the process after priming the subfloor. Smoothing compounds that are protein free, such as F. Ball and Co. Ltd.'s Stopgap 1500, are often specified for areas where infection control is a priority, including hospitals and nursing homes, because they ensure that there is no breeding ground for bacteria.

Stopgap 1500 is also low odour, meaning work can take place while nearby areas remain in use. It is fast setting, fast drying and ready to receive most floorcoverings from as little as four hours after application, ideal when working to tight deadlines and minimising the time accommodation or facilities remain out of use. Further time can also be saved in refurbishments where old adhesive residues are present as the smoothing compound can be applied directly over them, avoiding the need to remove them or prime beforehand.

■ SAFETY FIRST

When it comes to adhesive selection, contractors should take into account the specifics of a flooring installation.

For example, in areas subject to high levels of humidity or surface water, an adhesive with water resistant properties is essential.



An adhesive that isn't water resistant may break down and soften if it comes into contact with water, potentially causing resilient floorcoverings to bubble or de-bond.

“Protein-free smoothing compounds, such as Stopgap 1500, are often specified in care settings because they eliminate a potential breeding ground for bacteria.”

Extreme temperatures and temperature fluctuations, in heavily glazed areas, for example, can cause luxury vinyl tiles (LVTs) to expand and contract significantly, which can lead to ‘tenting’ and gapping at the edges of floorcoverings over time. For this reason, specialist high temperature adhesives, such as F. Ball’s Styccobond F49 Hybrid PS, are recommended for LVTs in these areas. The adhesive offers high initial grab, a particular advantage when installing vinyl tiles or planks, and develops the ultra-high bond strength required to hold vinyl floorcoverings firmly in place when exposed to extreme temperature fluctuations (as low as -20C and up to +60C). The incredibly strong bond formed by the adhesive is also water-resistant, making it ideal for use in areas subject to repeated wet cleaning.

Plasticiser resistance makes adhesives suitable for installing vertical PVC flooring accessories and has enabled F. Ball to

make Styccobond F49 an alternative to contact adhesives for securing PVC skirting, coving and capping, a popular choice in care settings because they allow for easy cleaning of floors and prevent the build-up of dirt at the edges of the room. Unlike contact adhesives, Styccobond F49 only needs to be applied to one surface to achieve a good bond. It also allows skirting/coving to be repositioned during the initial early stages of drying if alignment isn’t correct.

Carpet installed over large areas can be prone to rucking – large ‘wrinkles’ caused by heavy objects, such as food trolleys, being routinely wheeled across them – which can present a trip hazard. To prevent this, it is recommended to secure carpets with an adhesive that will develop a strong enough bond to hold floorcoverings firmly in place over the lifetime of the installation.

■ COMPATIBILITY CHECK

It is always recommended that flooring contractors check the compatibility of a particular adhesive with a chosen floorcovering. To do this, flooring contractors can consult floorcovering manufacturers’ guideline. Alternatively, F. Ball produces its industry-leading recommended adhesives guide (RAG), which contains over 6,000 adhesive recommendations for floorcoverings from over 200 international manufacturers, for this purpose. The latest guide is available as a printed booklet and features more recommendations than ever before, each the result of stringent testing and endorsed by the individual floorcovering manufacturer. A continuously updated version of the RAG is also available as a free app and on the F. Ball website.

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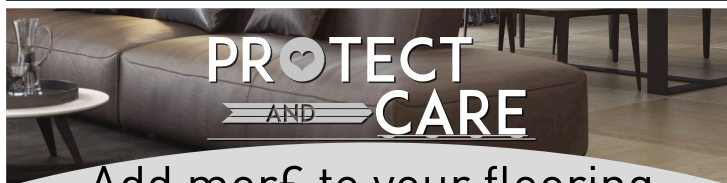
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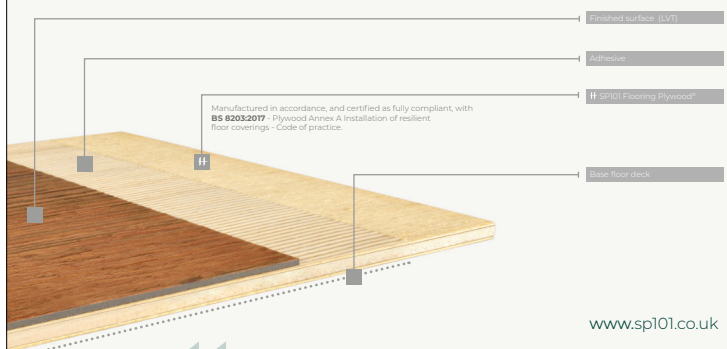
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