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CO₂ emissions measured throughout the life cycle of products from the **ZERO** line in 2026, using Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology, verified and certified with EPDs, have been offset through the acquisition of certified carbon credits in support of forestry protection projects. A commitment to the planet, to people and to biodiversity.



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EDITOR'S VOICE



Hello and welcome to the July issue of **Tomorrows Contract Floors**.

As the contract flooring sector continues to evolve, one thing remains constant: success is built on making informed decisions. Whether

it's selecting the right products for demanding environments, specifying solutions that deliver long-term value or creating spaces that enhance the user experience, every project starts with the right foundations.

Value is a recurring theme this month. In a market where budgets remain under pressure, it's more important than ever to look beyond the initial price tag. With this in mind, F. Ball explores what buyers should consider when selecting adhesives to achieve genuine value for money, while ECOPROTEC manufacturer LTP explains how protecting external porcelain tiles during installation can safeguard both appearance and performance for years to come.

In our Commercial Kitchens focus, we take a closer look at specialist environments where flooring is essential to safety, hygiene and durability. Sherwin-Williams shares 10 essential considerations for specifying resin flooring in food production and manufacturing facilities, while F. Ball and Co. Ltd.'s System

LVT Range demonstrates its capabilities in the kitchen areas of a new £18m entertainment complex.

Then, in our Resilient Flooring feature, we spotlight how Forbo's extensive flooring portfolio helped create a sophisticated London workspace, balancing contemporary design with performance and sustainability. We also explore how modern resilient flooring now offers more than durability and safety as Altro's Dave Ford discusses how acoustic flooring can reduce noise and support environments that positively impact wellbeing, productivity and comfort.

Finally, we look at the transport sector, where Jamie Harris of Sunbelt Rentals outlines how the right flooring strategy can contribute to safer, more resilient passenger environments.

From adhesives and resilient flooring to commercial kitchens and transport, this month's issue is packed with expert advice and inspirational projects from across the contract flooring industry.

I hope you enjoy the issue.

Sarah Robinson

Sarah Robinson, Editor



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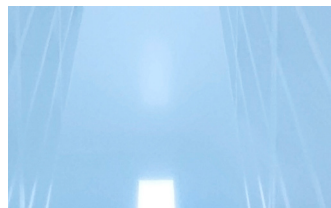
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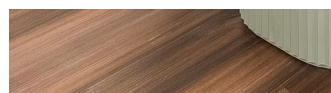
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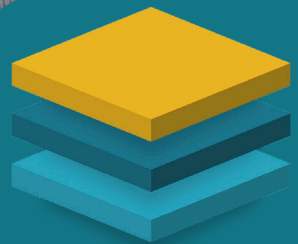
The right flooring strategy can help create safer, more resilient passenger environments, says Jamie Harris at Sunbelt Rentals

THEFLOORINGSHOW.COM

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Image courtesy of Cormar



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ARDEXACADEMY NORTH REOPENS FOLLOWING MAJOR REFURBISHMENT

The ARDEX Group UK has announced the official reopening of the ARDEXacademy North in Stoke-on-Trent.

The Academy has reopened following a significant programme of renovation and investment. The upgraded facility has been transformed into a modern, highly flexible training environment designed to support education across the full range of building and construction sectors served by the ARDEX Group and its brands – BAL, ARDEX and DUNLOP.

Replacing the previous Innovation & Technology Centre (ITC), used predominantly for BAL-branded training, the new ARDEXacademy offers new purpose-built areas to provide a much broader and diverse, practical training space. The facility is now capable of supporting multiple construction disciplines, including tiling, flooring, screeding, waterproofing and general construction.

With immersive, hands on and interactive learning at its core, the Academy has now fully reopened its doors to fixers, installers, contractors, architects, designers and distribution partners.

NEW AND ENHANCED FACILITIES

The upgraded ARDEXacademy North now includes:

- Brand-new moveable floor tiling and flooring bays.
- Larger practical wall bays for large-format tiling, waterproofing, and other preparation techniques.
- A fully refurbished auditorium, welcome room and reception.
- An upgraded Studio Room, featuring a large video wall and dedicated training area.

- Highly flexible spaces to support training across flooring, tiling, screeding, home improvement and general construction.
- Large flexible meeting rooms, which can be used for theoretical training and the delivery of CPDs.

Designed to adapt to a wide range of training requirements, the facility enables ARDEX Group UK to deliver tailored education for both practical and/or theoretical training requirements.

<https://ardexacademy.uk>



F. BALL SHEQ MANAGER NAMED BASA CHAIR



F. Ball and Co. Ltd.'s safety, health, environment and quality assurance (SHEQ) manager, Jenny Barnett, has been named chair of the British Adhesives & Sealants Association (BASA).

Jenny has been an active member of the BASA and working groups for more than 16 years, starting as a member of the Health and Safety working group, progressing to leading groups, including chairing Environment and Sustainability, before joining council and subsequently becoming vice-chair two years ago. Together with her colleagues on technical committees,

she has been active in helping to drive the BASA technical programme and identifying how to best support its members.

At F. Ball, she is responsible for compliance with standards, making sure that products are of a consistently high quality, as well as ensuring the health and safety of employees and everyone who interacts with the business, and protecting the environment. Jenny also leads both of F. Ball successful apprenticeship programs designed to secure future skills throughout the business and the industry.

Jenny's stated priorities in her role are promoting sustainability and attracting more young people into the industry and BASA.

Commenting on her appointment, she said: "More than 16 years with BASA has provided me with immense opportunity for personal and professional growth and a deeper understanding of the broader industry. I started as a relatively inexperienced member many years ago,

so progressing to the role of chair is a huge privilege and shows the support that BASA and its members provide.

"Securing a sustainable future for our industry goes hand in hand with attracting next-generation talent, and I'm incredibly keen to bring more young people into the adhesives sector and BASA.

"The success of any trade association relies entirely on its people getting involved. As chair, I hope to provide guidance and support to new members and leaders for them to make a difference."

Jenny's dedication to the sector was recognised last year when she was awarded the prestigious Max Kochmann Award by the British Adhesives & Sealants Association (BASA).

She follows in the footsteps of other F. Ball leaders who have held the role of BASA chair.

www.f-ball.co.uk

GEOFFREY BALL AWARDED MBE



Geoffrey Ball, great-grandson of the founder of flooring installation products manufacturer F. Ball and Co. Ltd., based in Cheddleton, has been appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the King's Birthday Honours List 2026.

The honour was made in recognition for Geoffrey's services to manufacturing, the flooring industry and to the local community in Staffordshire.

Geoffrey was integral in establishing the company as one of the UK's leading manufacturers of flooring adhesives and subfloor preparation products. Joining

the family business in 1965, he became managing director in 1982 and led with a focus on long-term sustainability and reinvestment in the business, with an ethos of honesty, fairness, and integrity.

He has also shown his support for the wider flooring industry, not least with the introduction of the Ball Rewards scheme to support flooring contractors during the 2009 recession, which continues to this day.

Furthermore, Geoffrey has long championed investment in skills and training across the industry, driving the development of the F. Ball Centre of Excellence and supporting the provision of free training opportunities for flooring professionals. This commitment to education and professional development has helped countless contractors enhance their skills and build successful careers.

Last year, he was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the UK flooring industry at the Contract Flooring Journal (CFJ) Awards.

Locally, Geoffrey has been the driving force behind F. Ball's support of the local community through charitable work and sponsorship of local sports teams and clubs, including becoming official stadium sponsor for Leek Town F.C, now known as the F. Ball Community Stadium.

Darren Kenyon, managing director of F. Ball and Co. Ltd., commented: "Everyone at F. Ball is absolutely delighted to see Geoffrey recognised with an MBE. It's testament to his decades of leadership, his unwavering commitment to the flooring industry and his determination to have a positive impact on the local community. His legacy continues to guide everything we do."

While Geoffrey has transferred day-to-day operations to the board of directors, he maintains an active interest in F. Ball, and his legacy of innovation and integrity continues to guide the company.

www.f-ball.co.uk

MAPEI UK MARKS CONTINUED EXPANSION WITH NEW DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

Mapei UK has acquired new warehousing and offices as part of its continued expansion. The new mega-hub, titled O2 Distribution Centre, is located at Titan 10, Bilston, near Wolverhampton, and spans over 260,000 sq. feet. It will provide warehousing for Mapei's increasing product lines for construction projects from basement to roof, including installation solutions for ceramic, stone, resilient, textile and wood flooring, structural waterproofing, roofing, concrete repair, paints and coatings, industrial flooring, external wall insulation, underground construction and more. Mapei's Midlands-located warehouses will continue to transfer to the O2 location during 2026 as part of Mapei's strategy to bring all logistics 'under one roof'.

A premium facility located just four miles from the M6, Titan 10 Bilston provides excellent connectivity for Mapei UK's regional and national distribution. The expected average Mapei tonnage that will be dispatched from the warehouse is 15,152 Tn/month.

Established in the UK in 1989, Mapei UK employs more than 450 people throughout the UK and Ireland. The

firm cemented its commitment to the local market in 2004 with the completion of a brand-new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Halesowen, West Midlands. It now also has a concrete admixtures manufacturing plant in Speke, Liverpool and two further manufacturing facilities in Burnley, a Mapei Academy training facility in Halesowen and a Specification Centre in Clerkenwell, London.

Office space at the O2 Distribution Centre will house Mapei UK's Technical Services and Marketing Departments.

"The new Distribution Centre will enable us to further enhance our customer service, efficiency and capacity. Being close to our main Halesowen plant, and in such a connected central location, it also brings additional sustainability benefits, enabling us to optimise transport routes and implement new initiatives from a central site," explained Phil Breakspear, Mapei UK Managing Director.

www.mapei.co.uk



ADP SUPERHEROES

ADP Distribution is a family-run business based in the West Midlands, bringing together more than 50 years of specialist experience within the visual merchandising industry.

As ADP Distribution celebrates 20 years in business, the company continues to provide a comprehensive range of services, including distribution, carpet distribution, installation, merchandising, project management, sampling, and fulfilment.

Its dedicated Solutions Team works closely with every client to understand their individual requirements, delivering tailored solutions, specialist expertise, and a consistently professional service.

ADP Distribution is proud to work with a diverse client base, ranging

from major electrical and computer retailers to national and European carpet and flooring companies. The company also has the capability and flexibility to support a wide range of other sectors and product categories. Regardless of the size or scope of a project, ADP Distribution has the skills, expertise, and infrastructure to deliver

high-quality results on time and within budget.

To find out more about ADP's services, call 0121 559 6783, email enquiries@adp-distribution.co.uk, or visit the website below.

www.adp-distribution.co.uk



BEAUFLO DELIVERS THE TOTAL EXPERIENCE AT FLANDERS FLOORING DAYS

At the fourth edition of Flanders Flooring Days, Beauflor demonstrated the endless possibilities of digital printing in vinyl flooring, leaving a lasting impression on visitors from across the globe.

Inspired by the trend 'Return to Being' that's rooted in craftsmanship, authenticity, human connection, botanicals and individuality; Beauflor surprised visitors at May's Flanders Flooring Days with an immersive concept at the Design Studio within its Experience Centre at Wielsbeke.

On entering the Design Studio, visitors walked upon a digitally printed pathway featuring stepping stones set among small pebbles, guiding them into a serene and tranquil Zen Garden: a lifelike landscape created using realistic interpretations of grass, moss, bark, earth and sand. Five organically shaped islands, thoughtfully positioned throughout the garden, formed a striking artistic installation. Each of these elements was topped with beautifully designed vinyl flooring inspired by natural materials such as wood, limestone, terrazzo and marble. Soft textures, calming tones and subtle nature-inspired details enhanced the sense of harmony and authenticity.

Alongside the exclusive installation, Beauflor introduced a flooring collection aligned with its 'Return to Being' theme.

Shown on a unique sliding display, visitors experienced every design at a realistic scale and in a highly tangible way. The collection is available on demand starting from a minimum order of one roll (four-metres wide) with delivery times up to eight weeks depending on the composition.

To further enrich the Flanders Flooring Days experience, Beauflor added in soft ambient music and subtle aromas, creating a complete sensory journey that elevated cushion vinyl beyond expectation. An inspirational digital leaflet

helped visitors connect the designs with the manufacturer's extensive in-house capabilities and boundless customisation possibilities.

The concept, presentation and collection were met with enthusiasm from customers, highlighting the success of Beauflor's presence at Flanders Flooring Days 2026 and reinforcing its position as a leader in digitally printed vinyl flooring.

www.beauflor.com



IMPROVE THE LIVES OF SOCIAL HOUSING TENANTS WITH IVC COMMERCIAL

Flooring plays a pivotal role in supporting tenants. Improving hygiene, safety, comfort and appearance, it's the foundation of a good quality home. By installing appropriate IVC Commercial sheet vinyl flooring throughout the whole property, not just in kitchens and bathrooms, social housing providers can raise the standard of their homes while benefitting from an affordable, low-maintenance, durable floor.

IVC Commercial's floors for social housing have been designed to improve the environment and support the physical and emotional wellbeing of tenants, without compromising on longevity and durability. Easy to install, cost-effective to purchase and with

the capability to outlast equivalently priced carpets, it is an exceptional choice for landlords and providers seeking out the best value. And when it comes to the change of tenancy, it's easy to assess the integrity and condition of the floor, making ongoing use a real possibility.

The Zenura collections are designed for varying levels of use and different applications in residential areas. From the value-focused specification of Zenura Style to the premium looking Zenura Elegance LVS, the range includes welcoming and popular natural designs to create a strong sense of home, while offering comfort and easy maintenance for tenants. Alongside the durability on offer, it makes IVC Commercial sheet vinyl ideal for every room.

IVC Commercial can also offer heavy-duty floors for communal spaces. Across its Isafe 70 and Pioneer 70 collections it delivers safety (PTV 36+) and acoustic (18dB impact sound) benefits respectively. Class 34 rated and offering exceptional longevity and appearance retention in busy areas, these floors come in attractive designs that feel anything but 'heavy-duty', helping tenants to feel connected to the space without compromising the ultimate goal of a floor that can withstand constant use.

Designed and made in Belgium for a high-quality flooring solution, IVC Commercial's wide range of sheet vinyl can help to elevate social housing quality and deliver landlords and providers an affordable, lasting answer to flooring.

www.ivc-floorsforhousing.co.uk



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- ✓ Ensure Proper Installation
- ✓ Avoid Callbacks and Repairs

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COLOUR IS CALLING FOR CAMBERLEY CLASSIC & TEXTURES FROM CAUSEWAY CARPETS

Crafted with care in Portugal from a wool-rich, recycled polyester blend, Camberley Classic & Textures tufted loop pile carpets add to rooms a tactile quality that's enduringly timeless. In the multi-level loop of Textures and the level loop of Classic, homeowners have a choice of Camberley styles, each capturing the natural softness and resilience of wool.

As interior schemes shift towards richer, more indulgent colour and texture palettes, Causeway Carpets, has refreshed Camberley Classic & Texture with a palette of 12 entirely new colours.

Inspired by the vivid tones of Marrakesh, Causeway Carpets designers and colourists have given Camberley a new personality, showing that colour is not something to be feared. With personality, warmth and visual impact, softer hues of Moroccan tones such as Terracotta Dune, Willow Reed and Moss Glen add a less saturated colour that's refined and elegant, and in balance with the harmony of the interior scheme.

Joined by equally poised richer neutrals, sees a new palette that ensures Camberley achieves the perfect balance between colour, sophistication and timeless style.

Richard Moore, commercial director of Causeway Carpets, said: "As part of our Natura collection, Camberley Classic & Textures celebrates the beauty, comfort and resilience of natural wool fibres and its loop pile texture is enjoying something of a return to the spotlight. Homeowners are looking for textures that add a sense of luxury and richness to their homes and Camberley certainly delivers. Our new colours make sure the style continues to appeal and accompanies modern interior palettes beautifully."

Camberley Classic & Textures is available in four and five-metre widths and is made with Causeway Carpets' durable three-ply yarn for longevity in busy family homes. Moth resistant and with a 10-year wear warranty, this heavy domestic rated style represents a true investment in quality carpeting for the home.

www.causewaycarpets.com



CONNECTED TO CREATIVITY AT FLANDERS FLOORING DAYS

IVC unlocked the secrets of how it designs floors that create happiness, comfort, connection and trust throughout May's Flanders Flooring Days, welcoming visitors from across the globe to its home, the Flooring Development Centre (FLDC). Through themes of trust, purpose, happiness and the next generation, IVCcreate explored the journey of insights, innovation and sustainability breakthroughs that have kept the Belgian manufacturer at the forefront of the sheet vinyl industry in Europe for over 25 years.

Visitors to the FLDC were connected to the discoveries, developments and ground-breaking collaborations that are shaping the company's future. From the newest trend-led designs to progress in a sustainable future; they explored the innovative projects and technologies, patents and certifications and updated collections that set IVC apart.

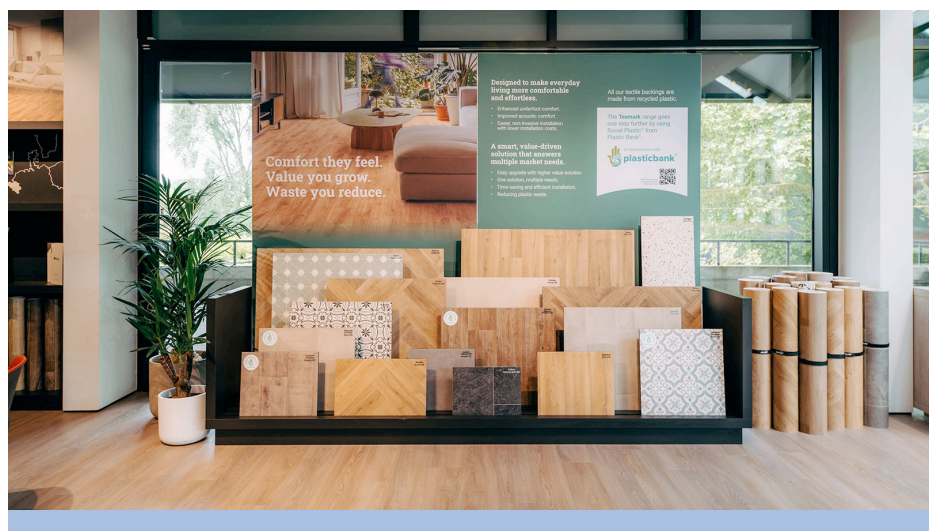
With the warm and friendly welcome that's always the hallmark of a visit to IVC at any event or exhibition, customers and industry partners were given an exclusive opportunity to get ahead of the pack with a first look at global design trends and the

new designs created because of them, and how IVC floors can be the canvas for life and happiness. The company's new Floorward collection, reimagining vinyl for today's generation, proved to be a popular destination, highlighting the appeal of its fresh, fashion-forward take on what vinyl can be.

David Wray, UK sales manager residential, said: "Flanders Flooring Days is a great

opportunity to show our customers and partners from across the industry just what makes us different and this year was no exception. The UK team was delighted to engage with customers who made the trip and tell how creativity drives everything within our business. We're already looking forward to the next edition."

www.floorward.eu





MAPEI EXTENDS ZERO RESILIENT FLOORING INSTALLATION RANGE

Mapei UK has extended its Zero Line with the addition of five best-selling resilient products, four of which are manufactured in the UK. The new series provides a full Zero resilient range – featuring established, core products – now with CO₂ fully offset in the entire life cycle. Each of the products also benefits from a very low VOC EMICODE: EC1 Plus certified formulation, providing a safe, high-performance solution for contractors and specifiers.

The Zero resilient range includes an all-in-one adhesive, a fibre-reinforced adhesive, a universal acrylic primer, an ultra-fast hardening self-levelling compound and a fast-track patching compound, each developed to provide a safe and sustainable low-odour solution.

Universal adhesive, Ultrabond Eco V4 Evolution Zero is a ready-to-use and easy to apply adhesive, with a strong rapid initial tack and a long open time. It can be used with PVC, LVT and rubber flooring, as well as textile floor and wall coverings. It's also suitable in wet lay or pressure sensitive applications and for use with underfloor heating. Specifically developed for LVT floors, the second adhesive – Ultrabond Eco 4 LVT Zero – is a fibre-reinforced, high temperature adhesive that guarantees exceptional performance in terms of adhesion and dimensional stability. Product features include easy application, with low to no waiting time, excellent initial grab and peel strength and high shear resistance.

Two floor preparation products also join the range: Eco Prim T Plus Zero – a fast-track universal acrylic resin-based primer developed to improve the adhesion of levelling compounds on all absorbent and non-absorbent substrates, and Ultraplan Eco 3215 Zero – an ultra-fast hardening, water-mixed, self-smoothing compound. Fine-grained, ultra-fast drying cementitious patching compound – Planipatch Xtra Zero – completes the series and is used for local repairs and skim coating down to a 'feather-edge'.

Each of the Ultrabond products are also certified to Blauer Engle DE-UZ113 and M1 Emission Class, and the adhesives are castor compliant in accordance with EN 12529.

The Zero Line series demonstrates Mapei's commitment to the planet, to people and to biodiversity. CO₂ emissions measured throughout the life cycle of products from the Zero line in 2026

using Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology, verified and certified with EPDs, have been offset through the acquisition of certified carbon credits in support of forestry protection projects. The Zero Line currently includes products from Mapei's ceramic and stone materials, cleaning, maintenance and protection, mortars and masonry restoration, waterproofing and coatings lines.

www.mapei.com/it/en/zero

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THE ULTIMATE IN CUSHION VINYL STYLE WITH LEOLINE

From rich and dark wood planks that tantalise to hypnotising geometric tiles, LeoLine's new Ultimate Essence cushion vinyl collection always leave a great first impression. Bringing together the best and latest looks, such as cracked concrete, chevron – the 'new' herringbone – and beautifully decorative modern tiles; Ultimate Essence brings sophistication, substance and style to any room.

Deserving of its luxurious looks, Ultimate Essence is one of LeoLine's most feature-packed floors. Superguard protected for a floor that's easy to keep looking fabulous, with added slip-resistance for a safer surface in bathrooms and kitchens and tough enough for use in the busiest of family rooms; it's the ultimate way to add a unique sense of style in any home.

David Wray, UK sales manager residential, said: "Ultimate Essence

is one of three new ranges joining the LeoLine family for this year, giving our collection the freshest, most fabulous styles around. Ideal for giving rooms a memorable makeover in an instant, we've made sure that homeowners not only enjoy a smart new look, but that they also benefit from a floor that's wonderfully easy to live with and will keep looking good for years to come."

Designed and made in Belgium for a high-quality floor, LeoLine Ultimate Essence is available in 15 designs and comes in two, three and four metre widths to keep waste and seams to a minimum. In rooms below 24m² it can be installed without glue thanks to the additional stability of its glass fibre layers. A 15-year warranty promises years of fuss-free flooring and free samples can now be ordered directly from the LeoLine website.

leoline.co.uk



HEADLAM GROUP TO CONSOLIDATE NORTH EAST DISTRIBUTION CENTRES

Floorcoverings distributor Headlam Group plc has agreed terms to lease a new state-of-the-art 65,000 sq ft regional distribution centre in the North East of England.

The new facility will help the Group to better support operations, customers, and the business' future growth. It is located in the heart of Team Valley, at the Centralway 65 business estate, and will serve Headlam customers across the region, with a new enlarged trade counter supported by more parking. Existing sites at Newcastle and LGS will be closed, including the two trade counters at those sites.

All Headlam employees across both sites will move to the new single Centralway65 facility over July and August as the site becomes fully operational.

Boasting a minimum eaves height of 10.6m, a 65 metre dedicated yard with dock and level access loading, together with several sustainable features, the facility will help Headlam continue to improve service levels to its independent retailers and contractor customers across the North of England.

The new distribution centre opening is the latest evidence of progress with Headlam's 'core customer strategy' announced in March 2026 to focus

on its core independent retailers and contractors, while also reducing its site footprint, as the business targets a return to profitability in 2027.

Rob Barclay, CEO of Headlam Group, commented: "We are laser focused on rebuilding our base of core independent retailers and contractors, the customers on which the strength of this business depends. Bringing two of our teams together at our new, modern distribution facility in the North East is the latest step in our journey to create a simpler, more

effective business that is better aligned to these customers. It will help us bring our teams together into one location, creating a stronger and more connected operation that better supports our customers and our future growth.

"Our team are already hard at work getting the site ready and we look forward to welcoming our customers from across the North of England in the summer months ahead."

www.headlamgroup.com



HOW TO CLAIM CASHBACK

F. Ball and Co. Ltd. sales director, Karl Brannigan, on how to claim cashback on all purchases of the company's products.

Now more than ever, it's useful for contractors to know how to keep costs down without compromising on installation quality.

One method that is open to members of the Ball Rewards scheme is to claim cashback on all purchases of F. Ball products made through approved distributors. The scheme is completely free to join, and in addition to regular cashback on purchases, members gain access to a wide range of benefits, including the opportunity to enter monthly competitions to win exclusive prizes, advanced previews of new products and access to F. Ball's e-newsletter, F-Talk. The usual cashback value is 2.5% on all F. Ball products, but there are special promotions each quarter, giving the chance to claim extra cashback on particular products. In the 17 years since Ball Rewards launched, the scheme has returned more than £9.5m to flooring contractors and retailers.

You would be forgiven for thinking that no one would let the opportunity to save money pass them by, but you might be surprised by the sums that go unclaimed, particularly given the process involves just the following simple steps.

■ SIGN UP

You first need to become a Ball Rewards member by applying online via the F. Ball website.

We'll send your Ball Rewards card with your unique number to put on claims forms, and you then have two options to make a claim for cashback – each quarter.

Many F. Ball wholesalers will automatically process your cashback claim on your behalf, so ask your local wholesaler or your F. Ball Technical Representative for details about participating distributors.

This is the most popular method for claiming cashback, with around 90% of claims coming through wholesalers. Once you are registered with a wholesaler, you don't need to take any further action – just wait for the cashback.

■ MAKING A CLAIM

Alternatively, you can submit a cashback claim yourself. To do this, you need to download and print a claims form for the relevant period from the Ball Rewards site.

Then simply complete the form by inserting your company name as shown on your Ball Rewards card and Ball Rewards card number and list the distributor's name, invoice numbers, dates and F. Ball goods values. If there are more than one F. Ball product on an invoice, just list the invoice once with the total value of those goods.

You must enclose a copy of the invoices you have listed as proof of purchase for verification purposes. These need to clearly show the information requested on the claims form.

The next step is to post everything to us at the address on the form.

There are four claims periods per year, corresponding with the quarters January-March, April-June, July-September and October-December.

You have two months after the end date of each period to submit your claim.

■ RECEIVE YOUR CASHBACK

Once we have received your claim, we will work out the cashback amount due to you, including any extra promotional value and send the cashback via BACS payment to your nominated account, and you will receive a notification of the payment.

It's as easy as that.

Currently, Ball Rewards members can claim an extra 7.5% cashback (10% in total) on purchases of F. Ball's Stopgap 1500 smoothing compound and Styccobond F48 PLUS and Styccobond F58 PLUS adhesives, in addition to the usual 2.5% cashback that they are able to claim on purchases of all other F. Ball products.

For further information about claiming cashback and details of current Ball Rewards promotions, visit the website below or telephone F. Ball on 01538 361633.

www.f-ball.com/rewards

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CHOOSING THE BEST

The application of a suitable floor smoothing compound helps to ensure a surface that is free of imperfections for the installation of floorcoverings. While formulations with specialist features are often advantageous, or even highly recommended, general-purpose options should be the 'go-to' for many situations, explains Neil Sanders, technical director at F. Ball and Co. Ltd.

F. Ball recommends the application of a smoothing compound as part of any flooring installation to create a smooth base to prevent subfloor imperfections affecting the appearance of the finished floor, as well as optimising the bond between the flooring adhesive and the subfloor.

Our technical service department will often advise flooring contractors to consider using a specialist smoothing compound. These products have been developed to provide a long-lasting, professional flooring finish, as well as to optimise the installation process, in particular situations.

■ FAST-TRACK APPLICATIONS

Examples of when it will be advantageous to use a specialist smoothing compound include working to tight timescales.

The fastest-drying products are walk-on hard from just 30 minutes after application and ready to receive floorcoverings in as little as 45 minutes later. Another development that has sped up subfloor preparation is the arrival of smoothing compounds that can be applied directly over old adhesive residues, eliminating the need to spend valuable time mechanically removing them.

When it comes to preparing floors that will be subject to heavy loads or high levels of foot traffic, a heavy-duty smoothing

compound should be selected for its high compressive strength, which will ensure that installations can withstand this kind of treatment for years to come.

■ OTHER SITUATIONS

The application of a smoothing compound that is designed to accommodate slight movements or flexing in the subfloor is recommended when working over subfloors of steel. These products are reinforced with tiny fibres that maintain the integrity of the smoothing compound when subject to minor subfloor movement as a result of normal foot traffic or temperature fluctuations.

When working over electrical wired or water-fed underfloor heating systems that are increasingly installed over subfloors as part of new build or refurbishment projects, it is advisable to allow at least 15mm of a special-purpose smoothing compound above the pipes to avoid hotspots and ensure its structural integrity.

■ EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS

Where contractors are working over subfloors in a good condition, perhaps in multiple areas, such as new-build developments, and they don't require advanced features, such as suitability for use over adhesive residues or flexible substrates, general-



purpose smoothing compounds are often the best choice. The ease with which some formulations can be applied helps flooring contractors to work quickly and efficiently.

For example, F. Ball has drawn upon the latest cement formulation technology to create a 'best-in-class', high flow smoothing compound: Stopgap 1400.

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

Stopgap 1400 can be applied between 2 - 10mm thick to a wide range of absorbent and non-absorbent primed subfloors, including sand/cement and calcium sulphate (e.g. anhydrite) screeds, concrete, granolithic, sound asphalt, terrazzo, epoxy and polyurethane resins, ceramic and quarry tiles, as well as Stopgap waterproof surface membranes. Furthermore, its low-odour, protein-free formulation allows it to be used in biologically sensitive areas.

■ INITIAL PREPARATIONS

Before a smoothing compound is applied, always make sure that the subfloor is suitably sound, smooth and dry enough for the receipt of subfloor preparation products and floorcoverings. This should include the removal of any surface contaminants. There are also situations where additional preparations, such as the application of a repair compound, will be required to achieve a perfectly smooth base – where sand/cement screeds are mechanically damaged, for example.

A subfloor moisture test should be undertaken as part of any flooring installation. Where relative humidity (RH) levels within the subfloor are above 75% (65% if installing bonded wood floorcoverings), the application of a waterproof surface membrane will be required to prevent excess subfloor moisture attacking

adhesives and floorcoverings, potentially leading to floor failure. The application of a primer is also recommended in almost all circumstances prior to installing a smoothing compound.

After these steps have been undertaken, the application of an appropriate smoothing compound is the final stage in the subfloor preparation process before new floorcoverings can be installed.

■ SUPPORT AVAILABLE

F. Ball's technical service department is on hand to answer questions about subfloor preparation and floorcovering installation, including the best smoothing compound for a particular situation. They are contactable by phone or WhatsApp on 01538 361633, as well as via a contact form and live chat facility on F. Ball's website.

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





PORCELAIN PERFECTED

Textured porcelain paving is booming, but getting the installation right is key. The experts at ECOPROTEC manufacturer LTP explain how to protect tiles during fitting and keep them looking their best for years to come.

Last year saw a significant shift in textured external porcelain, with engineered slabs dominating market growth. Once a niche product, these tiles have become a top choice for external patio installations, especially in more contemporary settings – and deservedly so. They're exceptionally durable and resistant to stains, frost and fading. Being dense and low-porosity, they absorb very little moisture, so they stand up brilliantly to heavy foot traffic and our increasingly extreme weather. They also open the door, literally, for seamless home-to-garden installations, as the same tile can often be used indoors and outdoors – a popular choice for single-level applications through bi-fold doors.

DO ALL PORCELAIN TILES NEED TO BE SEALED?

As a general rule, only polished porcelain tiles need to be sealed. This is because the polishing process opens up tiny fissures in the tile which can create a porous surface that's vulnerable to stains. Polished porcelain tiles aren't recommended outdoors because they don't provide sufficient grip underfoot. Matt porcelain tiles with a textured finish are the safe and practical option for patio areas, and for seamless installations. However, whilst these tiles don't need to be sealed, there are lots of benefits to be gained from the application of a pre-grout 'barrier' treatment.

THE BENEFITS OF A BARRIER TREATMENT

Tiles that have a textured surface can easily become stained by grout and installation residues, which become trapped in the high and low surface points. This is particularly common in external applications, where brush-in jointing compounds are frequently used. Once these residues build up, the texture of

the tile can become congested, and the tile's slip resistance may be reduced. Ongoing cleaning and maintenance can also become more difficult. To prevent these issues, we recommend the application of ECOPROTEC Pre Grout Protection.

A water-based treatment that's applied before grouting, ECOPROTEC Pre Grout Protection creates a barrier that protects tiles from staining and makes the removal of residues easier. It also makes installation easier, as it extends grout working times by preventing rapid moisture absorption and keeping the grout fluid for longer. A final coat after installation also makes ongoing maintenance easier.

ECOPROTEC Pre Grout Protection is applied to clean surfaces using a broad paint brush, foam roller or light pressure sprayer. It cures in approximately 30 minutes, after which a second coat is applied and left for a minimum of one hour before grouting or pointing. Once grout or pointing is dry, and all residues have been removed, a further coat can be applied to cover both the tile surface and joints.

Additional protection can be provided outdoors with the application of ECOPROTEC Porcelain Paving Enhancer. A water-based, PFAS-free solution, ECOPROTEC Porcelain Paving Enhancer creates a 'just washed look' without compromising slip-resistance. As well as enhancing appearance, the finish also provides further resistance to foot traffic, wear and stains.

For more advice, browse ECOPROTEC TV on YouTube, contact the ECOPROTEC team direct on 01823 662722 or email technical@ecoprotec.co.uk

www.ecoprotec.co.uk



PRICE CHECK

With ongoing cost pressures affecting both businesses and customers, it is essential to ensure you are getting value for money when purchasing adhesives. This includes considering coverage rates and being aware of differences in how quantities are detailed on packaging, says F. Ball.

The standard metric for adhesives in the UK has traditionally been volume (litres). However, a growing trend sees manufacturers listing quantities by weight (kilos). While there is nothing wrong with this in itself, there is the chance that it could be inadvertently misleading for contractors who might equate volume with weight. In fact, a given number of litres of an adhesive will often give a significantly greater volume than the same number of kilos of the product because of its relative density.

■ COVERAGE RATES

This is important because adhesives are applied by volume, not weight. Ensuring that the correct amount of adhesive is applied is critical for achieving adequate bond strength, and 15kg of product will cover less surface area than 15 litres of product. If too little adhesive is used, it may not deliver the required bond strength throughout the life of the installation, potentially leading to floor failure. Apply too much and it can extend the drying time of the adhesive or mean that it fails to dry properly, also reducing bond strength. Furthermore, excess adhesive may seep through carpet floorcoverings and cause bleeding at joints and indentations to appear in sheet or tile floorcoverings.

If two containers of adhesive (one litres and the other kilos) are being sold at virtually the same price, as is often the case,

it means that you are getting significantly less product for your money from the product that is sold in kilos. Perhaps even worse, it could give contractors the impression that they are getting the correct amount of adhesive they require for an installation while leaving them short.

■ CASE IN POINT

For example, F. Ball's Styccobond F58 PLUS fast-drying, fibre-reinforced, pressure sensitive adhesive for LVTs is available in 15L and 5L units, but 15 litres of the product weighs 17.25kg nearly 20% more than 15kg. The difference will depend on the density of the particular adhesive.

The problem may be exacerbated by similarly sized packaging. Visually, buckets may not appear to be too different in size, but there can be a stark difference in what's inside, and contractors may lose out financially. F. Ball has recently refreshed the visual designs of its iconic yellow buckets used for the company's Styccobond adhesives to aid selection as well as help flooring contractors assess value when comparing products. Product information on the front of the buckets includes key features and volume, along with coverage rates, to help flooring contractors work out how much of an adhesive they need for a particular project and compare value with alternative products.

■ COVERAGE CALCULATOR

Purchasing the correct amount of adhesive is also critical for avoiding unnecessary expense. For this purpose, F. Ball's RAG app, which details the compatibility of all of the company's adhesives with over 6,000 floorcoverings produced by over 200 manufacturers, features a handy product coverage calculator for working out exactly how much adhesive that you will need for a particular project. The app is free to download from the Apple App store or Google Play, and the same coverage calculator can be used to work out how much of an F. Ball smoothing compound or waterproof surface membrane will be required for an installation based on subfloor area.

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





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H40: A TILING ADHESIVE YOU CAN CHOOSE WITH CONFIDENCE

Kerakoll's H40, first launched in 1968, has evolved into one of the world's best-selling tile adhesive ranges. The range is trusted by professionals worldwide to deliver consistent, reliable performance, even on the most challenging substrates and in demanding environments.

To ensure this performance translates from theory to practice, Kerakoll's R&D team has developed a series of stringent proprietary tests, known as SAS Technology, designed to replicate the real-world stresses experienced by tiled installations on site, rather than relying solely on standard laboratory conditions.

The H40 range comprises four products, each designed to cover a broad spectrum of substrates, tile types and site conditions, giving installers a complete versatile system. The range is formulated using Gel-Technology which is known for its high performance, unique workability and excellent durability on site.

H40 GEL, THE TRUSTED FIRST CHOICE

Leading the range is H40 Gel, a standard-setting gel adhesive that combines ease of application with high performance. Its smooth, workable consistency allows for effortless trowelling, giving installers a high level of control during application. Its superior flow characteristics promote full wetting of the tile back, eliminating voids and delivering a complete structural bond. A non-slump formulation means that it supports the weight of large-format tiles. The extended open time prevents premature drying, reducing thickening and surface skinning, and allows for more controlled installation, particularly on larger areas or more complex layouts.

High initial grab prevents vertical slip, even with extra-large slabs, while S1 deformability accommodates movement within the substrate, reducing the risk of cracking in applications where flexibility is required.

H40 ADVANCED, ENGINEERED FOR FASTER INSTALLATION

H40 Advanced builds on these core characteristics as a rapid-setting gel adhesive, combining extended workability with a fast set to improve on-site efficiency. This balance allows installers to maintain productivity without compromising application quality, making it particularly suitable for time-sensitive projects.

H40 ULTIMATE, GUARANTEED EXTRA FLEXIBILITY

H40 Ultimate further develops the performance of the range as a rapid-setting gel adhesive with an S2 deformability rating. By reducing stress transfer between substrate and tile, it helps to minimise the risk of cracking and reduce the likelihood of costly call-backs.

H40 EXTREME, DEVELOPED FOR THE MOST DEMANDING CONDITIONS

The fourth product in the range is H40 Extreme, a hybrid gel adhesive engineered for the most demanding applications. It combines very high fluidity, up to five times lower viscosity than traditional polyurethane adhesives, with exceptional flexibility, delivering significantly higher deformability than standard S2 adhesives. This unique combination of properties allows it to

adapt to complex installation requirements where both flow and accommodating movement are critical.

Together, the four products within the H40 range provide a comprehensive, high-performance solution for modern tiling requirements. Whether the priority is workability, speed, flexibility, or adaptability to challenging substrates, the range offers a targeted solution without compromising overall performance.

To find out more or arrange a demonstration contact the Kerakoll team to discuss your requirements.

www.kerakoll.co.uk



FLOOR INSTALLATION COVERED WITH ULTRABOND ZERO LINE ADHESIVE DUO

Designed to meet the demands of modern flooring installation, Ultrabond Eco V4 Evolution Zero and Ultrabond Eco 4 LVT Zero are the latest additions to Mapei's Zero Line range. Manufactured in the UK, the adhesives are suitable for a wide range of resilient and textile floorcoverings, combining high performance with recognised environmental credentials. CO2 emissions are fully offset throughout their entire life cycle, and the adhesives also benefit from EMICODE: EC1 Plus certified formulations, providing a safe and sustainable low-odour solution.

Universal adhesive, Ultrabond Eco V4 Evolution Zero is a ready-to-use and easy-to-apply adhesive, with a strong rapid initial tack and a long open time. It can be used with PVC, LVT and rubber flooring, as well as textile floor and wall coverings. It's also suitable for wet lay or pressure sensitive applications and for use with underfloor heating.

Specifically developed for LVT floors, the second product – Ultrabond Eco 4 LVT Zero – is a fibre-reinforced, high temperature adhesive that guarantees exceptional performance in terms of adhesion and dimensional stability. Product features include easy application, with low to no waiting time, excellent initial grab and peel strength, and high shear resistance.

Both products are certified to Blauer Engel DE-UZ113 and M1 Emission Class, and the adhesives are castor-compliant in accordance with EN 12529.

The Zero Line series demonstrates Mapei's commitment to the planet, to people and to biodiversity. CO2 emissions measured throughout the product's life cycle using Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology, verified and certified with EPDs, have been offset through the acquisition of certified carbon credits in support of forestry protection projects. The Zero Line currently includes products from Mapei's ceramic and stone materials, cleaning, maintenance and protection, mortars and masonry restoration, waterproofing and coatings lines.

www.mapei.com/it/en/zero



BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE TOGETHER.

MARLDON LAUNCHES RESILIENT FLOORING ADHESIVES

Marldon, a trusted name in wood flooring adhesives since 2009, has announced the launch of its new range of resilient flooring adhesives, marking a significant step forward in the company's continued growth and product development.

Built on almost two decades of expertise in wood floor installation, Marldon has established a strong reputation for quality, reliability, and performance. This latest expansion reflects a natural progression for the brand, combining its deep understanding of flooring requirements with its proven track record in subfloor preparation products.

The new resilient adhesive range has been carefully developed to meet the demands of modern flooring installations, including luxury vinyl tile (LVT) and PVC coverings. Designed for professional contractors, the range includes solutions for a variety of site conditions, offering high performance, ease of use, and dependable results across different applications.

The new range sees the introduction of:

Marldon MXA700 High Temperature Adhesive – the ideal solution for bonding resilient floorcoverings in areas impacted by heat from direct sunlight, such as conservatories and rooms with large windows.

Marldon MXA750 Pressure Sensitive Adhesive – a highly versatile adhesive that can be used as a pressure sensitive, wet-lay or contact adhesive, giving complete flexibility on site with just one product.

Marldon MXA800 Universal Adhesive – a high strength, acrylic universal adhesive designed for the permanent bonding of a wide range of resilient floorcoverings, including Marldon Strata Acoustic Underlay.

“Our heritage in wood flooring adhesives has always been rooted in performance and trust,” said John Chambers, managing director at Marldon. “With our established background in subfloor preparation, expanding into resilient adhesives allows us to offer a more complete system to our customers. We understand the full installation process, from subfloor to final finish, and this range reflects that knowledge.”

The new resilient adhesives range is available to purchase now from Marldon or online via FloorBase.

www.marldon.co.uk



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

From hygiene and slip resistance to thermal shock and chemical exposure, Sherwin-Williams outlines 10 key considerations for specifying resin flooring in food production and manufacturing environments.

Once the decision to install a resin floor has been made, the real work begins. Because understanding the right specification for your facility is far from straightforward – but with the right approach it can be easy to achieve a long-lasting finish that avoids the need for expensive downtime later on.

Resin floors are seamless, polymer-based surfaces which are applied in liquid form directly to a prepared surface and cure chemically to form a durable, abrasion-resistant finish.

Yet there is no one-size-fits-all system. The chemistry and thickness are just some of the factors to consider, along with variables such as resistance to chemicals, thermal shock, types and volume of traffic, as well as slip resistance.

At Sherwin-Williams, our customers often ask for a resin floor without fully considering what they will need from it. Luckily, it is fairly simple to ensure the final product meets their needs, thanks to 10 simple steps.

■ UNDERSTAND RESIN FLOORS

Resin floors are formulated using synthetic resin binders, usually made of Epoxy, polyurethane, polyaspartic, PU cement and methyl methacrylate. They are applied to a prepared substrate, where a chemical reaction 'cures' the liquid to provide the final finish.

Different resin types provide different combinations of application, characteristics, and performance. The right system for your facility, then, will depend on its unique use case.

The Resin Flooring Association (FeRFA) categorises systems according to thickness and formulation. Type 1, for example, is classed as floor seal, has a thickness of up to 150µm, and is suitable for light duty. At the other end of the scale, Type 8, or heavy-duty resin flooring systems, contain specialist aggregates and are impervious throughout their more than 6mm of thickness, meaning it is suitable for very heavy duty.

This is why careful consideration is crucial when specifying a resin floor.

■ AVOID FALSE ECONOMY

On a 500m² area, a Type 3 system, or high-build epoxy coating, may cost around £20 per square metre, or £10,000, to install. If used in a high-traffic area, however, it may need to be replaced in around two years. A Type 8, or heavy-duty resin flooring system, costs more, at around £60 per square metre or £30,000 for a 500m² area, but will last for a decade or more.

In this context, selecting a thin system for a heavy-duty environment becomes a false economy. Even before considering



inflation or repair costs, the lifecycle cost of repeated replacement can exceed the cost of a single heavy-duty installation.

Importantly, the real cost is not the floor itself, but in the shutdown. Every time a production facility closes for floor replacement, the operational loss can far exceed the cost of a new floor. Lost manufacturing time, labour disruption, and product delays often dwarf the material price difference.

■ CONSIDER HOW THE AREA WILL BE USED

Remember that usage determines system type, thickness, and durability requirements. Is the space, for example, a dry production room, a warehouse, a logistics hub, or a wet washdown area? Whereas a pharmaceutical packaging suite may experience light foot traffic, a finished goods warehouse may operate forklifts seven days a week.

It's not just what traffic occurs, but how frequently. Constant forklift loading demands a heavier-duty system than occasional pallet movement. Thicker systems, such as FeRFA Types 4 to 8, are designed for medium to very heavy-duty environments, whereas thinner coatings, or Types 1 to 3, suit lighter use.

■ CONSIDER CHEMICAL EXPOSURE LEVELS

Next, consider the chemicals, including those used for cleaning and sterilising, that the floor may come into contact with, as well as the extent, frequency, and temperature of any spillage.

Food production may involve aggressive cleaning chemicals, and pharmaceutical or chemical plants may use acids or solvents. FeRFA types 1 to 3 are not generally recommended here as the thin layer is susceptible to impact damage, and more likely to suffer thermal shock or struggle to cope with regular washdowns.

Of course, not all chemicals will lead to structural failure, and some will discolour though not damage a floor. The key to maximising the system's life expectancy is selecting the correct resin chemistry for your facility.

■ CONSIDER EXTREME TEMPERATURES

Manufacturing facilities often need to contend with extreme temperature variations. Steam cleaning will expose flooring to temperatures of up to 120C, for instance, while blast freezers may operate as low as -40C. Considerations include the type, nature, and duration of exposure.

Some resin systems typically perform well up to around 120C, depending on the chemistry and thickness. Certain chemistries soften at temperatures above 60C, which, when trafficked can cause them to be damaged easily. The right chemistry will ensure your floor performs in a wide variety of temperature variations.

■ CONSIDER HYGIENE VERSUS SLIP RISK

Where floors are regularly wet, systems must include slip resistance, which is achieved by adding aggregates to create texture in the surface finish.

In the UK, the main method of measuring slip resistance is the pendulum test, in which a rubber slider is swung across a floor surface to simulate heel strike, with the distance it travels translating to a numerical pendulum test value (PTV).

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) mandates a minimum PTV of 36 for commonly wet areas, from food manufacturing washdown areas which are cleaned with chlorinated foams, to manufacturing environments, where oils and grease are commonplace.

However, increased texture can affect cleanability, so the right balance must be struck between safety and hygiene.

■ CONSIDER THE TYPE AND CONDITION OF THE SUBSTRATE

Resin flooring follows the profile of the substrate, whether that is concrete or screed. If the substrate is pitted or damaged, a screed system may be needed to bring the surface back to level to provide a consistent, durable and suitable surface.

■ IS THERE A DAMP-PROOF MEMBRANE?

Older buildings may lack a functioning damp proof membrane (DPM). Without proper moisture control, certain epoxy systems can blister or fail.

As such, moisture-tolerant systems or a surface-applied DPM may be necessary. Knowing this early on helps avoid expensive remediation later down the line.

■ WILL PRODUCTION CONTINUE RUNNING DURING INSTALLATION?

In food and pharmaceutical facilities especially, installation must often occur during limited shutdown windows.

Odour control, avoiding taint, dust management and fast curing times can be critical factors. In some cases, a more robust system installed during a planned shutdown is preferable to repeated short closures for repairs.

■ DOES THE FACILITY HAVE ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS?

Certain environments require additional properties of their resin flooring. Electronics manufacturers or facilities where powders or solvents may be used, for example, may need electrostatic dissipative (ESD) flooring to mitigate the risks. Food production areas may need hygienic, impervious systems, and pharmaceutical operations may require systems that comply with good manufacturing practice (GMP) regulations.

All this should be built into the original specification to ensure the final product meets the facility's individual needs. And, of course, if a building's use changes, the floor specification should be reviewed accordingly.

■ THE BIGGER PICTURE

When correctly specified, resin flooring systems can deliver seamless, hygienic, high-performance surfaces for well over a decade.

The key is early consultation and honest discussions around operational demands, environmental conditions, maintenance expectations, and the true lifecycle cost. Because when viewed through the lens of total cost of ownership, investing in the right system from the outset is almost always the most economical decision.



PERFECT PREP

Products from F. Ball and Co. Ltd.'s System LVT Range have been used to install floorcoverings in kitchen areas at a new £18m entertainment complex at the White Horse leisure park, in Selsey, West Sussex.

Contractors from Sovereign Flooring, which has locations in Bognor Regis and Hayling Island, installed a range of floorcoverings throughout the White Horse leisure park development, including in new restaurants and bars, a function room, adjoining kitchens and bathrooms, as well as showers and changing rooms.

In all areas, contractors began by making sure that the newly installed concrete screeds were suitably sound and smooth, using hand tools to remove loose materials and debris.

A moisture test conducted by an F. Ball technical representative indicated that subfloor relative humidity (RH) levels were higher than the maximum 75% threshold for floorcoverings to be installed without a moisture management solution in place. Therefore, F. Ball's Stopgap F77 waterproof surface membrane was applied to create a barrier against excess subfloor moisture where relative humidity levels are up to 98%.

Once the membrane had cured, contractors used F. Ball's Stopgap 1200 high performance smoothing compound to create a perfectly smooth base floorcoverings in the ground-floor sports bar, kitchen and bathrooms, upstairs private members bar, function room, changing rooms and shower rooms. The product is a low odour, fast-setting, fast-drying, two-component smoothing compound that is suitable for preparing sound internal subfloors prior to the installation of new floorcoverings. It offers the benefit of being suitable for use over old adhesive residues (including bitumen and carpet tile tackifiers), in which case there is no need to prime beforehand.

Contractors then used F. Ball's Styccobond F46 pressure sensitive adhesive to install a combination of luxury vinyl tiles and safety flooring.

F. Ball's Styccobond F46 pressure sensitive adhesive was then used to install safety flooring in the areas behind the bars, kitchens and bathrooms, shower rooms and changing rooms. Polyflor Expona wood-effect vinyl planks were installed in the sports bar. Contractors opted for Polyflor Expona Endgrain vinyl planks, which create the appearance of wood blocks, in the areas in front of the bars in the eatery, private members bar and function room.

The pressure sensitive nature of Styccobond F46 adhesive makes it ideal for installing LVTs. It provides a high bond strength, which increases as it is trafficked, and strong initial tack, meaning that tiles or planks won't move around once positioned by contractors. The indefinite open time offered by the product reduces the risk of late placement and makes it ideal for creating more complex designs or patterns. It is also formulated to inhibit trowel serrations showing through thin vinyl floorcoverings, which can be aided by going over the adhesive with a roller that has been coated with the adhesive.

Sovereign Flooring used F. Ball's Stopgap P131 primer to prime the subfloor area in the eatery where carpet would be installed before using a moisture resistant adhesive to install underlay followed by carpet to create a dual bond system, which would allow the carpet to be easily removed and replaced at a later date.

Stycco Flex rapid-curing, flexible adhesive was used to affix the stair nosings on the central staircase that connects the sports bar and eatery. The high strength build-up and fast curing time means it can secure stair nosings and trims in as little as 60 minutes, without the need for mechanical fixings.

In the wet rooms, Polyflor flexible PVC sit-on skirting was installed using Styccobond F60 contact adhesive, seams between sheet floorcoverings were welded to prevent water ingress, and seals were formed where floorcoverings meet drains and skirting.

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

12 months:
6 months:

VIDEO SHOWCASE

VIDEO SHOWCASE

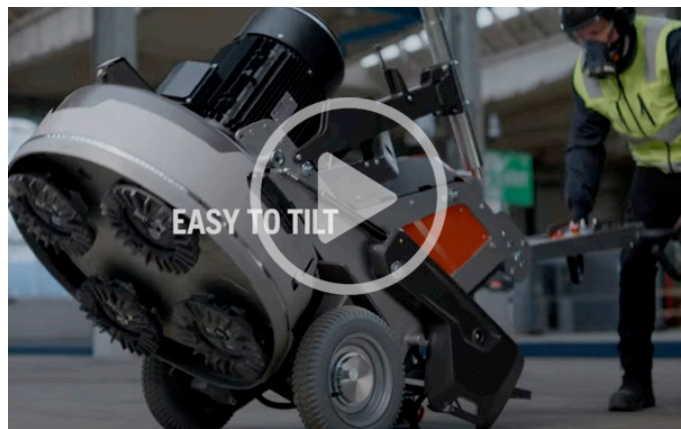
Measure Square™



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

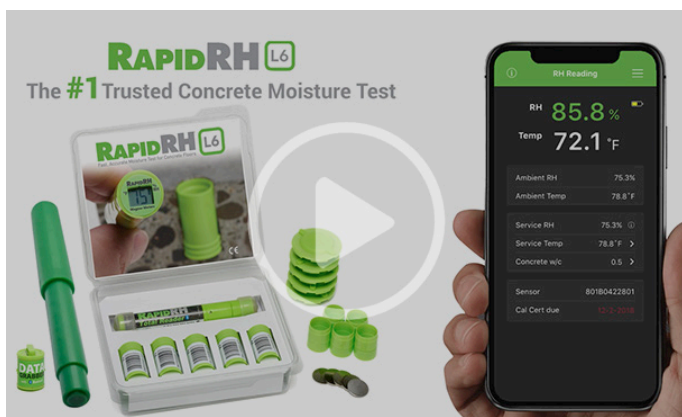
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here



Whatever the flooring challenge, you can tackle it with **Husqvarna's** new range of large floor grinders. It's easier than ever to choose the right machine, work faster and get the results you want – whether you're removing a coating, grinding or creating a beautifully polished surface. The range is part of a full solution that includes machines, diamond tools, dust extractors, and support – all from The Complete Partner in Surface Preparation.

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Full video
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Since 1965, Wagner's field proven moisture measurement technology has helped thousands of valued customers improve profits and eliminate wood and concrete moisture-related problems. Wagner's superior products include hand-held wood moisture meters with a 7-year warranty and the Rapid RH®, with Touch-n-Sense™ technology for accurate, "virtually automatic" RH testing for concrete.

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(844) 574-0228
WagnerMeters.com

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email: clare@opusbm.co.uk

ELEVATED OFFICE DESIGN

Tucked away in a green pocket of London is 8 Laurence Pountney Hill, offering over 4,000m² of workspace. Recently refurbished, with the focus on creating an elegant, refined and professional aesthetic, designers BC Workspace looked to Forbo and its comprehensive flooring portfolio.

Described as a '4,336 sq ft innovative workspace in a timeless location', 8 Laurence Pountney Hill is a beautiful period building tucked away in a quiet area of the city, just moments away from Bank Station. When a previous tenant vacated the building, the landlord seized the opportunity to revamp the whole space, changing the layout to let the office on a floor-by-floor basis.

As well as five open-plan offices spread across the floors, each including individual kitchen areas, the building also offers a business lounge in the basement, complete with meeting rooms.

Having already worked with the client on several office-based projects, design and fit-out company BC Workspace Ltd was brought in to consult on the design finishes.

Speaking about the project, Claire Lammiman, interior designer at BC Workspace, said: "The design brief was about creating a refined look and feel, one that set the space apart from other offices in the local area. It was important that the interior felt comfortable, open and light, while at the same time being professional and finished to a high-standard. A key part of this was to retain and celebrate the building's beautiful original features, which included high ceilings and incredible amounts of natural light.

"When it came to the colour palette, we tried to keep it fairly neutral – leaving it open for future tenants to add their own spin on the space – while also including some brighter pops of colour through the kitchen finishes and furniture.

"Looking at the flooring, durability was of course essential, as was a good product warranty, providing additional assurances that it will be high quality and long lasting, potentially even through several tenant changeovers. Sustainability was also a priority, with the client aiming for an EPC A rating – a goal that they successfully met. While this is largely achieved through the M&E fittings, it's still important that the same approach and mindset is present when specifying the more aesthetic-led finishes.

"It's for all these reasons that we chose to work with Forbo Flooring Systems on the project. We've specified their flooring solutions a lot over the last 12 years and have a great relationship with our local Forbo representative James Barber. As a result of their extensive portfolio, we're always able to find the right product that perfectly aligns with the design brief, as well as hitting the price point we've been assigned."

Forbo's Tessera Cloudscape carpet tiles were specified throughout the office areas, meeting rooms and staircases, helping to enhance user comfort and productivity. Trusted for their exceptional performance, Tessera carpet tiles contain a minimum of 60% recycled content as standard and are manufactured in the UK using 100% renewable energy. While Allura Flex, Forbo's loose lay luxury vinyl tile solution, was installed within the kitchens and basement space in the Dark Twine colourway, providing a rich and nutty tone. Suitable for a variety of demanding and heavy traffic applications, Allura Flex floors deliver unprecedented dimensional stability, strength, performance and quality.

Claire continued: "Tessera Cloudscape offers a beautiful aesthetic that really complemented the building's interior space. While neutral in colour, it still offers so much pattern and texture, which we love. The design also means it is very forgiving if the substrate itself isn't 100% or in the event of food and beverage spillages.

"While Allura Flex is perhaps the most popular loose-lay vinyl that we use – everyone loves it. It's the same height as a carpet tile, which means you can avoid the use of transition strips. This was important on this project, as the emphasis was on having the spaces flow together. We wanted the tea point area to be very much a part of the office, rather than feeling like two separate spaces. The loose lay installation also offers the flexibility to access underneath the floor if required, such as for cabling and pipework."

Another advantage of the loose lay method is that individual tiles can be easily removed and replaced in the event of damage, as well as being suitable for reuse and recycling at the end of its life.

Claire concluded: "The feedback has been incredibly positive from everyone involved – our client is over the moon with the finished interior."



www.forbo.com



COMMUNITY SPIRIT

F. Ball has donated subfloor preparation products to support the refurbishment of the Coventry Caribbean Community Centre, helping transform the venue ahead of its reopening.

Products donated by F. Ball and Co. Ltd., including the company's Stopgap 1200 smoothing compound, have been used to prepare subfloors as part of the renovation of the Coventry Caribbean Community Centre prior to its reopening to coincide with Coventry's UK City of Culture status last year.

Opened in 1983, the centre was established as a permanent base for what was the Coventry West Indian Association, which aimed to promote integration of members of the Windrush generation and the wider community. Apart from serving as a meeting place, the centre hosted events, including weddings, charity fundraisers and Caribbean music performances. However, it had fallen into disrepair prior to the coronavirus pandemic.

A call-out for volunteers and sponsors was issued, with the aim of revitalising and relaunching the centre in 60 days. This was answered by instructors from the Amtico Training Academy in Coventry, who came forward to install luxury vinyl tiles (LVTs) in the 150m² function room for free, with F. Ball supplying the subfloor preparation products.

Firstly, they removed old floorcoverings, revealing a rough screed. A moisture test also indicated that subfloor relative humidity levels were above the 75% maximum threshold for installing floorcoverings.

Installers therefore opted to use F. Ball's Stopgap 1200 to smooth subfloors. The smoothing compound can be applied directly over minimal, well-bonded old adhesive residues. In such applications, there is no need to prime surfaces beforehand. It is also moisture tolerant, meaning that it can be used to smooth

rough or uneven subfloors prior to the application of a waterproof surface. This avoids the liquid waterproof surface membrane pooling in undulations and necessitating a greater quantity of the product to achieve full coverage.

F. Ball's Stopgap F77 one-part waterproof surface membrane was then applied 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 was then used to create a perfectly smooth base for the receipt of new floorcoverings.

Once the smoothing compound had cured, Amtico Spacia Metropolis Smoke stone-effect LVTs were installed in the majority of the floor area, with premium Amtico Form Opal hexagonal tiles positioned around the bar area for visual interest.

Commenting on the project, Paul Ager, Amtico technical training instructor, said: "We were very pleased to offer our expertise to help with this invaluable community project. Using F. Ball's Stopgap 1200 Pro meant that we didn't have to mechanically prepare the subfloors, saving time and avoiding disruption to other trades, helping to complete the renovation in the allocated time frame."

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OH SO QUIET

Modern resilient flooring delivers more than durability and safety. Dave Ford, specifications manager for the north at Altro, explores how acoustic flooring can reduce noise and enhance wellbeing across a range of environments.



Reducing sound is more than just a 'nice to have' – it promotes the health of staff and service users. 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.

A positive sound environment occurs naturally outdoors; our ears are tuned to the natural environment, and the sky absorbs noise. We need to create the same indoors, absorbing or diffusing noise to help support a stress-free environment. Designs that have good acoustics, along with natural light and ventilation, help create a positive, therapeutic atmosphere.

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.

WHERE CAN ACOUSTIC FLOORS BE USED TO BEST EFFECT?

Commercial kitchens – Whether in a restaurant, hotel, hospital, university, school or care home, they have one thing in common: they are really noisy. Trolleys clatter over the floor bearing loads of wobbling crockery; plates are loaded and unloaded in dishwashers; food processors blitz away and chefs need to make themselves heard above all this reverberating noise. Acoustic and impact sound-reducing floors can help reduce noise significantly to enhance the wellbeing of all those who work here.

Hotels – Nothing disturbs a good night's sleep more than the sound of other guests moving about in the room above yours or wheeling their suitcase past your door at midnight. Acoustic flooring will help reduce sound transmission between storeys and adjacent rooms and increase sound absorption along corridors to keep your guests coming back for some peace and quiet.

Care homes – 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.



Education – Libraries, student accommodation, study areas, drama studios, music rooms, dining rooms and playrooms; all spaces that either demand quiet up front or would benefit from minimising noise transmission to other areas. The right floor can reduce impact sound transmission not just into adjoining rooms but also to other storeys.

Housing – Reduce tenant complaints about noisy neighbours next door, above or below them, by installing appropriate sound-absorbing floors.

Hospitals – Peace and quiet 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.

Offices – Office equipment, people on the move and conversations can all make noise levels so loud as to make offices a stressful working environment – not good when you spend the best part of your day there. Create a more positive working environment with less noise pollution in open-plan spaces, communal areas and meeting rooms.

Retail – No-one like a noisy shop. Retail therapy by its very nature demands quiet for it to count as therapy and create the right atmosphere; thereby providing not only a more peaceful environment for staff, but also one in which shoppers will linger.

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.

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 18dB and 20dB respectively.

www.altro.com



SAFE PASSAGE

Jamie Harris, head of sales for flooring solutions at Sunbelt Rentals, explores how the right flooring strategy can help create safer, more resilient passenger environments.



Every day, millions of passengers move through the UK's transport hubs, and these environments operate under constant pressure. They must remain safe, accessible and welcoming while accommodating high volumes of foot traffic, tight maintenance schedules and evolving passenger expectations.

While flooring is often viewed as a finishing element, its role extends far beyond appearance. Flooring influences passenger safety, accessibility and long-term maintenance requirements. Transport hubs have unique demands on flooring systems, with surfaces required to withstand continuous pedestrian movement alongside wheeled luggage, cleaning equipment, trolleys and service vehicles. They are also exposed to dirt, moisture and changing weather conditions throughout the year, all of which can accelerate wear if flooring is not selected with the operational environment in mind.

with understanding how people move through a space and how different areas are used throughout the day.

Entrance areas, concourses and passenger circulation routes all present different challenges and may require different levels of slip resistance. Effective entrance matting systems can help reduce the amount of moisture and debris entering a building, while carefully designed transitions between flooring types can minimise trip hazards. Flooring can also support accessibility through visual contrast and wayfinding cues that help passengers navigate busy environments with greater confidence.

■ THE ROLE OF ROBOTICS

Technology is also helping facilities teams manage flooring assets more effectively. Data-driven maintenance planning, connected cleaning equipment and autonomous cleaning solutions are becoming more common within large transport environments, including airports. These technologies can improve cleaning consistency, provide greater visibility of maintenance activities and support more efficient use of resources.

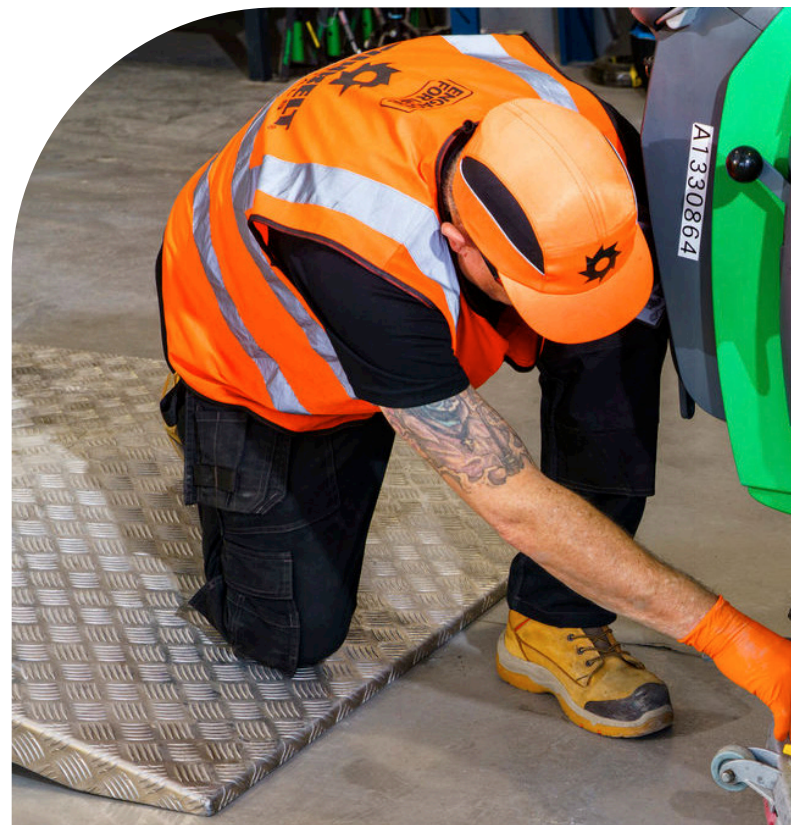
The use of autonomous cleaning equipment can also help facilities teams focus on other maintenance priorities while maintaining cleanliness standards across large public spaces. As transport hubs continue to look for ways to improve operational efficiency, technology is likely to play an increasing role in supporting flooring maintenance programmes.



As flooring begins to deteriorate, the impact can extend beyond aesthetics. Damaged surfaces can increase maintenance requirements, create accessibility challenges and result in safety risks for passengers. Repair works can also disrupt passenger flow and place additional pressure on operational teams. For this reason, many facilities managers are taking a more strategic approach to flooring, viewing it as an asset that contributes to the safe and efficient operation of the facility.

■ SAFER JOURNEYS START FROM THE GROUND UP

Passenger safety remains a key consideration within any transport environment. Slips, trips and falls continue to be among the most common incidents across public spaces, particularly during periods of wet weather. Effective flooring design starts





KEEPING PASSENGERS MOVING DURING MAINTENANCE WORKS

Maintaining flooring in an airport environment presents its own challenges. Unlike many commercial facilities, airports often operate for extended hours or around the clock. Cleaning, repairs and refurbishment therefore need to be carried out while minimising disruption to passengers and day-to-day operations.

Successful flooring projects rely on detailed planning, thorough risk assessments and a clear understanding of passenger flows. Temporary access routes, out-of-hours working and effective communication can all help ensure maintenance activities are completed safely while facilities remain operational.

Ultimately, flooring remains one of the most heavily used elements within any transport environment. Every passenger journey begins and ends on a floor surface, making its performance an important factor in both safety and passenger experience. By taking a long-term approach that considers safety, maintenance and lifecycle performance, operators can create environments that are better equipped to meet future demands.

www.sunbeltrentals.co.uk/category/hire/floor-care

AGAINST THE CLOCK

Fast-track flooring solutions from F. Ball have helped deliver a major refurbishment at Worcestershire County Cricket Club, allowing contractors to complete the project within a strict deadline.

F. Ball and Co. Ltd.'s Stopgap 1200 high-performance smoothing compound and Styccobond adhesives have been used to prepare subfloors and install floorcoverings extensively at Worcestershire County Cricket Club as part of significant investments in modernising and upgrading facilities.

Cheltenham Flooring Services, who were contracted to undertake the work, had a strict two-week window in which to complete the project while the team were training away.

They began by removing old carpet and vinyl floorcoverings in the main changing rooms, umpires' rooms and players' and officials' areas. This also required lockers and other fixtures and fittings to be moved.

Stopgap 1200 was then applied throughout the areas. 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. Low-odour, self-smoothing and fast-drying, Stopgap 1200 is walk-on hard from 60 minutes and dry enough to receive floorcoverings in as little as four hours when applied at a thickness of 2-5mm.

Once the subfloor was fully prepared, Stockade carpet was installed in the changing rooms and main areas using F. Ball's Styccobond F3 adhesive for textile floorcoverings. The water-based rubber/resin flooring adhesive offers excellent wet grab and benefits from an early build-up of strength.

Flooring contractors then used F. Ball's Styccobond F44 pressure sensitive acrylic adhesive to install Polyflor Polysafe safety flooring in the changing rooms. Styccobond F44 is a solvent-free, acrylic emulsion adhesive, which provides high bond strength, strong initial tack and a long open time. It is protected against bio-degradation and suitable for securing a wide-range of vinyl sheet and tile floorcoverings, rubber floorcoverings and some PVC or polyurethane-backed textile floorcoverings.

Also as part of this phase of works, F. Ball's Styccobond F73 PLUS was selected to install artificial grass on the balcony of the ladies' pavilion. The fibre-reinforced adhesive is designed to be a user-friendly, one-part, moisture-curing alternative to traditional polyurethane and epoxy adhesives for internal and external heavy-duty applications. It offers high initial grab and, once cured, is highly resistant to surface water, making it ideal for outdoor areas subject to heavy foot traffic. Furthermore, its fast-setting properties allow the welding of sheet floorcoverings to take place from as little as two hours.

Kevin Keegan of Cheltenham Flooring Services said: "The project went incredibly smoothly despite the tight turnaround. There were long days, but we got it done. F. Ball products helped with the tight time constraints. We use them all the time, so we knew we could rely on them. Fast-track properties allowed us to work quickly, and the client was extremely happy with the quick turnaround and the high-quality finish."

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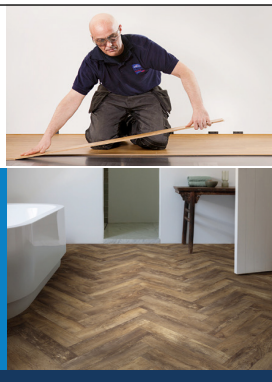
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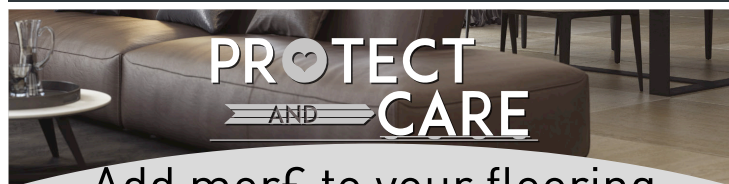
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www.howarth-timber.co.uk

www.idsurfaces.co.uk

www.quick-step.co.uk

LOOSE LAY FLOORING

www.ecotileflooring.com

MICROFIBRES

www.karcher.co.uk

MOISTURE METERS

www.rapidrh.com

www.tramexmeters.eu

PLYWOOD UNDERLAY

www.hanson-plywood.co.uk

POINT OF SALE

www.adp-distribution.co.uk

PREPARATION EQUIPMENT

www.husqvarnaconstruction.com/
uk/

www.thepreparationgroup.com

www.preptec.co.uk

RECYCLING AND REUSE OF CARPET AND TEXTILE FLOORING WASTE

www.carpetrecyclinguk.com

RESIN FLOORING

www.altro.co.uk

www.ardex.co.uk

www.flowcrete.co.uk

www.resdev.co.uk

www.uzin.co.uk

RUBBER FLOORING

www.jaymart.net

SAFETY FLOORING

www.altro.co.uk

SCRUBBER DRYERS

www.karcher.co.uk

www.thepreparationgroup.com

SCREEDS

www.cscscreeding.co.uk

www.flowcrete.co.uk

www.resdev.co.uk

SCREEDS, RESINS AND COATINGS

www.tremco-illbruck.com

SMOOTHING COMPOUNDS

www.bostik.com

www.marldon.co.uk

www.uzin.co.uk

SPORTS FLOORING

www.boensport.com

www.floorstock.co.uk

www.junckers.co.uk

www.stauf.de/en/

STAIR NOSINGS

www.floorstock.co.uk

www.floorwise.co.uk



WEB SEARCH

SUB-FLOOR PREPARATION

www.bartellglobal.com
www.bostik.com
www.marldon.co.uk
www.thepreparationgroup.com

SUB-FLOOR PREPARATION & INSTALLATION

www.marldon.co.uk
www.wedi.net/uk

SURFACE PREPARATION

www.bartellglobal.com
www.husqvarnaconstruction.com/uk/
www.thepreparationgroup.com
www.preptec.co.uk

SUSTAINABLE CLEANING

www.thepreparationgroup.com

TOOLS & ACCESSORIES

www.floorstock.co.uk
www.husqvarnaconstruction.com/uk/
www.bostik.com
www.stauf.de/en/
www.thepreparationgroup.com

www.tramexmeters.eu

TRAINING

www.fita.co.uk
www.wedi.net/uk

TRIMS: HARDWOOD/METAL

www.floorstock.co.uk
www.marldonuk.com

UNDERLAY

www.ballandyoung.com
www.floorstock.co.uk
www.marldon.co.uk

UPRIGHT VACUUMS

www.karcher.co.uk
www.thepreparationgroup.com

VACUUM CLEANERS & ACCESSORIES

www.karcher.co.uk
https://www.preptec.co.uk/
www.thepreparationgroup.com

VACUUM SPARES & ACCESSORIES

https://www.preptec.co.uk/
www.thepreparationgroup.com

VINYLS

www.altro.co.uk
www.hanson-plywood.co.uk
www.malmoflooring.com
www.tarkett.com

WATERPROOFING

www.wedi.net/uk

WOOD FINISHES

www.floorstock.co.uk
www.junckers.co.uk
www.stauf.de/en/

WOODEN FLOORING

www.akirby.co.uk
www.artwood-floors.com
www.elkaflooring.com
www.floorstock.co.uk
www.hanson-plywood.co.uk
www.junckers.co.uk
www.tuscanflooring.co.uk
www.quick-step.co.uk

WOOL CARPETS & RUGS

www.britishwool.org.uk

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