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

This spring, the flooring industry gathered for the inaugural edition of The Flooring Show South, and the

event certainly made an impression. We attended the show and spoke with exhibitors and visitors across the two days, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback about both the quality of attendees and the opportunities the event created for networking and business development. With strong visitor engagement, product innovation on display and a real sense of momentum across the sector, the launch event proved there is clear appetite for a dedicated southern flooring exhibition. You can read our full review on page 14.

Sustainability remains one of the industry's defining themes, and this issue explores the topic from several perspectives. On page 16, Cathie Clarke, CEO of the UKSFA, provides an overview of the key sustainability challenges currently facing the flooring sector, alongside the latest regulatory changes businesses should be preparing for. Continuing the theme, Kerakoll UK discusses its strategy for sustainable growth on page 22, highlighting major investment in low-impact facilities and innovation.

Elsewhere, our Floor Seals & Finishes feature focusses on surface protection and maintenance. Lisa Breakspear of Mapei UltraCare shares best-practice advice for enhancing natural stone floors with sealants and finishes, while LTP explores the growing demand for safer, more sustainable surface care products with PFAS-free and water-based treatments.

In Residential Flooring, we showcase inspiring projects including Havwoods' transformation of a traditional Edwardian property into a calm contemporary home, and EGGER's installation at a coastal Weymouth development.

Finally, in Public Sector Flooring, we examine the refurbishment of Trinity School in Dagenham, where Forbo Flooring Systems' Surestep safety vinyl helped deliver a practical and durable learning environment.

We hope you enjoy the issue.

Sarah Robinson, Editor



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## FIND A WAY TO BETTER FLOORING WITH BEAUFLOR AT HOUSING 2026

Exhibiting at Manchester's Housing 2026, Beauflor will show that its sheet vinyl flooring is a cost-effective solution in social and homes. Offering style, comfort and an easy-to-look-after floor for tenants, while giving providers a solution that's simple to install, multi-width and long-lasting in all areas; Beauflor sheet vinyl performs faultlessly.

With landlords increasingly looking to how they can improve the quality of their housing outside of regulatory compliance, Beauflor's sheet vinyl flooring provides a solution to improving living standards in living spaces, bedrooms and hallways through a safe, hygienic and comfortable floor. By specifying Beauflor throughout housing and not just in kitchens and bathrooms, providers can make a positive difference to the wellbeing of tenants.

Through easy fitting and multi-widths, Beauflor's sheet vinyl offers fast and cost-effective installation in all rooms, while the durable, water-resistant finish ensures that floors are easy to maintain and long-lasting. With options providing extra slip-resistance, improved acoustics and better hygiene; landlords and providers can find a solution

that works for their specific requirements. And with every floor offering home-like designs, underfoot comfort and warmth; tenants are given an attractive, welcoming floor that helps to create a sense of home.

Chris Roberts, regional sales manager UK & Ireland, said: "We're looking forward to welcoming visitors to the Beauflor stand throughout Housing 2026 to demonstrate how our sheet vinyl floors are affordable

for providers and can raise the quality of housing for tenants. The show will be a fantastic opportunity for social housing landlords and providers to also understand how our high-quality Belgian-made flooring also offers a more sustainable option too."

See Beauflor at Housing 2026, Manchester Central, 23-25 June.

[www.beauflor.com](http://www.beauflor.com)



## F. BALL AT CRUISE SHIPS INTERIORS EXPO MIAMI

F. Ball will exhibit its marine-certified range of flooring adhesives and subfloor preparation products at the Cruise Ships Interiors Expo America, in Miami.

Marine Equipment Directive (MED) certified and tested in accordance with International Maritime Organization (IMO) standards, products in F. Ball's marine range are suitable for use across a wide range of marine applications and are used to install floorcoverings in some of the most prestigious cruise ships in the world.

These include products for ensuring a long-lasting flooring finish when subject to the kinds of environments found on board cruise ships, such as its Styccobond F73 PLUS one-part adhesive for internal and external heavy-duty applications. This can be used to install a wide range of textile and resilient floorcoverings, including rubber, vinyl, linoleum, and synthetic grass – in indoor and outdoor areas with high levels of foot traffic and surface water onboard passenger ships.

Also in the F. Ball marine range are smoothing compounds with a range of specialist features for creating a perfectly smooth surface for floorcoverings.

Commenting on the company's presence at CSIE America, F. Ball head of sales for EMEAA, Jack Sant, said: "Building on the success of past Cruise Ship Interiors Expos, we are excited to return to Miami this year. As we increasingly connect with flooring professionals globally, we are introducing more products to our

marine range, ensuring we continue to meet the evolving needs of flooring installations on board the world's most luxurious vessels. We look forward to welcoming you to our booth."

The Cruise Ships Interiors Expo America will take place from 9–10 June at the Miami Beach Convention Center, Florida. F. Ball will be located at Booth 1228.

[www.f-ball.com](http://www.f-ball.com)





## RECOFLOOR ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ITS 2026 SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS AS MEMBERS COLLECT 563 TONNES IN 2025

Recofloor has announced the winners of its 2026 Recofloor Awards, recognising flooring contractors, distributors and individuals who are helping the sector keep materials in use for longer, and build recycling into everyday practice

The awards, run by the UK-wide vinyl flooring take-back scheme founded by Altro and Polyflor, celebrate the 'how' as much as the 'how much': the routines that prevent contamination, efforts to keep teams aligned on sustainable action, and the small operational tweaks that make waste prevention feel normal rather than exceptional.

In 2025, Recofloor members collected 563 tonnes of material for recycling (a 6% increase on 2024), and the scheme also facilitated the movement of 21 tonnes for reuse. Together, these figures point to a shift already under way in the supply chain: circular approaches that bring down waste and, increasingly, strengthen bids and help flooring businesses to win work in a competitive market.

A Recofloor award is a great milestone: reflecting consistent effort over time and giving businesses a credible story to share with customers, project partners and their own teams.

This year, Recofloor received 15 entries across categories, with all entries judged by the Recofloor team alongside representatives from Altro and Polyflor.

Carla Eslava, Recofloor project manager, said: "We're delighted with the brilliant entries we've received this year, which really demonstrate the depth of sustainability commitment across our members, and the sector at large."

### CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR: FINEWEAVE CARPETS LTD

Fineweave, led by managing director Lee Withers, has been named the 2026 Contractor of the Year. Having been a prolific collector since joining Recofloor in 2017, Fineweave has returned more than 80 tonnes overall and 17.76 tonnes in 2025. The firm, established in 1968, works across the new homes sector with a team of 44 specialist sub-contractors installing vinyl and luxury vinyl tile (LVT).

In its entry, Fineweave describes Recofloor as "a major focus in tenders", noting that house builders scrutinise recycling initiatives and that "this can be the difference between winning or losing a contract." Its practice of hands-on checking of material to maintain compliance, high installation standards and its wider efforts to recycle across its operations make it a worthy recipient of the award.

### DISTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR: NUTLAND CARPET ACCESSORIES LTD (CHANDLERS FORD)

A family-run distributor and long-standing scheme member since 2009, Nutland has collected 139 tonnes to date, including 10.18 tonnes in 2025. The business frames its drop-off points as practical customer service: providing bins that save local contractors time, promoting the scheme through newsletters and social media, and monitoring containers daily to keep material dry and suitable for recycling.

### RECOFLOOR CHAMPION: ED MURISON, VEITCHI FLOORING LTD

Contracts manager Ed Murison is recognised for driving engagement across Veitchi's Aberdeen and Glasgow divisions, combining day-to-day controls (regular checks, locked bins and team education) with wider reuse initiatives. His efforts include donating surplus materials to community partners (including Gray's School of Art) to keep usable materials in circulation before recycling.

### BEST NEWCOMER: DONNELLY WATSON FLOORING LIMITED

Donnelly Watson has built a team-led approach to sustainable action: from staff induction and daily checks to clear internal communications. The business also points to customer-facing benefits, including promoting the partnership online and adding "your old flooring will be uplifted and recycled" to relevant quotations, reporting that customers are often impressed by the effort.

In addition to its sustainability efforts through Recofloor, Donnelly Watson is working with a local company to recycle its plastic, aluminium, steel and film waste, bringing its commercial waste down even further.

### GREATEST IMPROVER AWARDS

Recofloor also named the top three members with the biggest year-on-year increase in collection tonnages in 2025:

- Hicks Flooring Ltd (1st place)
- Meadee Flooring Ltd (2nd place)
- Floorscope Ltd (3rd place)

A full list of award winners – including the members receiving Gold, Silver and Bronze awards for hitting designated tonnage targets – will be published on the Recofloor website.

[www.recofloor.org](http://www.recofloor.org)





## DISCOVER FLOORS WITH THE ABILITY TO IMPROVE LIVES AT HOUSING 2026

European manufacturer of sheet vinyl flooring, IVC Commercial will be exhibiting at Housing 2026, showcasing its dedicated social housing collections that are affordable for providers and which have the ability to improve lives for tenants.

The Zenura collection includes specifications designed to provide a durable and low-maintenance solution in living areas. Across Zenura Style, Zenura Luxe, Zenura Ultimate and Zenura Elegance LVS, housing landlords can choose a specification to meet their requirements, benefitting from a cost-effective floor that's easy to install. Available 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: "Our Zenura collection has been designed for social housing, so that providers can benefit from our high-quality, European-made sheet vinyl flooring. We've added a range of enhanced features, such as additional slip-resistance or better acoustics to give an option for every application. We're looking forward to welcoming delegates at Housing 2026 to explain how our floors can meet their needs while bringing tenants comfort and style in a floor that's easy to look after, hygienic and safe, not just in kitchens and

bathrooms, but hallways, bedrooms and living spaces."

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, Pionier 70 offers the same exceptional durability and homelike design with 18dB of impact sound reduction.

Find IVC Commercial at Housing 2026, Manchester Central, 23-25 June.

[www.ivc-floorsforhousing.co.uk](http://www.ivc-floorsforhousing.co.uk)



## NEW PLANEX HR MAXI EXTENDS MAPEI SMOOTHING RANGE

Mapei has introduced Planex HR Maxi to its range of self-levelling/smoothing compounds. Rapid-drying and moisture-resistant, the new mortar is designed to level new and existing substrates, both indoors and outdoors, eliminating thickness variations from 3 to 30mm. It can be used to prepare surfaces before installation of all types of flooring, including ceramic tiles, resilient and textile flooring.

Ideal for areas subject to static and dynamic loads – from industrial or retail spaces to healthcare environments – Planex HR Maxi benefits from a specially developed formulation with exceptional resistance to moisture; this makes it particularly suitable for external applications and substrates that are not fully dry or that contain elevated levels of residual moisture.

The mortar also offers high compressive and flexural strength and is resistant to shrinkage, cracking, indentation and abrasion. Additionally, it features a very low VOC formulation with EMICODE EC1 Plus certification, helping to ensure a safe application environment.

Once mixed with water, Planex HR Maxi forms a rapid-drying, free-flowing compound with excellent workability and strong adhesion to the substrate. It can be applied manually or by automatic pressure pump over distances exceeding 100 metres. Ceramic tiles can be installed after just three hours, while resilient and wood flooring can be laid after 24 hours. In light-duty applications, the mortar can also be left exposed in areas subject to light foot traffic.

[www.mapei.co.uk](http://www.mapei.co.uk)



## BAND OF BUILDERS COMPLETES 50TH PROJECT ON 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Construction charity Band of Builders (BoB) has completed its 50th project as it marks its 10th anniversary, transforming the home of Ipswich builder Jay House, who was forced to abandon renovation work after being diagnosed with cancer of the spine.

More than 30 volunteer tradespeople from across the UK gave their time free of charge to complete the project in just 14 days, turning an unfinished building site back into a family home for Jay, his partner and their four children.

Jay had begun building a two-storey extension himself, but work stopped in August 2024 when he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer affecting plasma cells in the bone marrow. The condition caused fractures in 10 vertebrae, leaving his spine collapsed and shortening his height by five inches. Already a below-knee amputee following years of ankle complications, Jay also underwent intensive chemotherapy and stem cell treatment.

With the project halted, the family had been living without a functioning kitchen for 18 months, relying on a temporary unit with an air fryer, portable hob and no sink.

Working in partnership with Howdens, BoB coordinated a full refurbishment that included a new kitchen, flooring and interior finishes. Howdens supplied a Frome kitchen in Ash Green with Lamona appliances, while Oak and Grey rigid vinyl flooring, doors, skirting and architraves were installed throughout the property.

The flooring installation formed a key part of the transformation, helping create durable, practical living spaces suitable for modern family life.

Jay said: "It's amazing that they've done so much in such a small space of time. We can't thank Band of Builders enough because it's lifted a dark cloud hanging over our family."

Founded in 2016 following a social media appeal to help a terminally ill tradesman, BoB became a registered charity in 2019 and now provides practical, financial and emotional support to members of the construction community facing illness or life-changing circumstances.

BoB CEO Gavin Crane said: This milestone isn't about numbers – it's about people, compassion and community. We are proof that when tradespeople unite, we don't just build houses: we rebuild lives."

[www.bandofbuilders.org](http://www.bandofbuilders.org)



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## THE CRAFT COLLECTION: WHERE ART MEETS RUG CRAFT

The Craft Collection from Louis De Poortere is where artistic interpretation meets rug craftsmanship for a series of bold and expressive Ecorugs designs.

Introduced in 2025, Louis De Poortere's Craft Collection stood out for its vibrant Ribbon and Chess designs, capturing the confident energy of free-flowing calligraphy and the daring graphic deconstruction of classic checkerboard. For 2026, Louis De Poortere has expanded the series with three new designs that continue the same artistic sentiment.

A step between serenity and playful geometry, Zen Garden captures the stillness and asymmetry of kare-sansui as if living in a tetris world. A palette of uplifting and fresh colourways create a rug that's both soothing and surprising. Zen Garden is available in the tones of Pomelo, Scots Pine, Grenadine and Dried Banana and comes in five sizes.

For Brush, Louis De Poortere has sought inspiration from the expressiveness of contemporary art. Bold lines mimic the force of broad brushstrokes on canvas, combining minimalism and movement for a spontaneous design that energises any room. Delightful tonal nuances echo

paint over paint in three strong colours of Diva Blue, Orange and Mastic. Brush is available in six sizes.

2026 also sees Marble join the Craft Collection. The pebble-like design sees colours overlap, mingle and blend in an interplay of transparency, echoing a story of the movement, chance and randomness of nature. Bringing a sense of calm and lightness to rooms in the

colourways of Larch, Oak, Rosewood and Kanell, Marble comes in four sizes.

As part of the Ecorugs collection, all qualities in the Craft series are made from 70% recycled polyester from plastic bottles, completely recyclable through the Take Care programme, machine washable and suitable for indoor and outdoor use.

[www.louisdepoortere.com](http://www.louisdepoortere.com)



## GET READY FOR ANY FLOOR WITH FLOORWISE FLOORPLY

If you're looking for a premium quality flooring grade plywood that's fully compliant with BS 8203, you now have more options thanks to FloorPly from floorwise. Independently tested by TFT Woodexperts to achieve the prestigious Diamond Mark certification, FloorPly is ready to deliver a strong and stable substrate on which to install a wide range of floorcoverings and is ideal for use with other products across the floorwise range such as our screeds and installation tools.

Made from responsibly sourced tropical hardwood, FloorPly is free from core gaps and overlaps and features a high-quality face veneer for a plywood that's reliable every time it's laid. What's more, it's available in three thicknesses and two plan sizes for a versatile solution that's ready for residential and commercial installations alike.

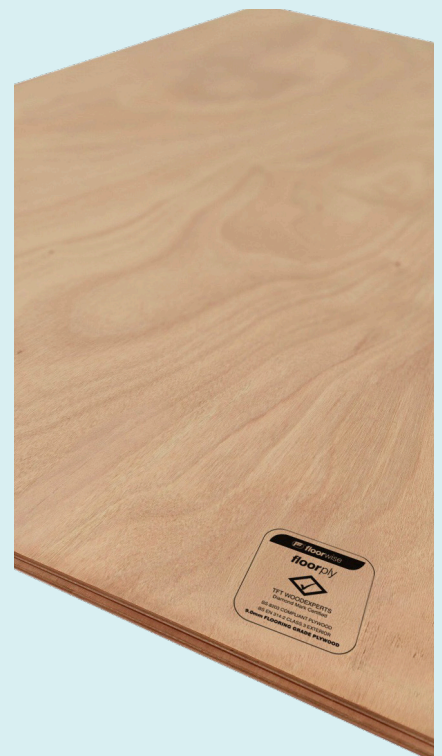
Andrew Gill, product manager at floorwise, said: "We're keen to ensure

that every product we introduce is relevant, reliable, and supports our commitment to delivering consistent, high-quality solutions for flooring professionals. Introducing FloorPly, a product that complements our existing range and responded to fitter enquiries, was simply a natural progression.

"We worked with TFT Woodexperts to achieve the prestigious Diamond Mark for FloorPly so that installers can be sure they have a product that will provide consistent quality and excellent resistance to warping and movement for a solid substrate and the start of a fantastic floor."

Fully compliant with the CFA Guidance Note on flooring grade plywood, FloorPly lets installers realise the unmistakable quality and value of floorwise in flooring-grade plywood for every job. FloorPly is now available from your local floorwise distributor.

[www.floorwise.co.uk](http://www.floorwise.co.uk)





## THE FLOOR FOR INTERIOR ARTISTS

Full of gorgeous, patterned looks that lift any home out of the ordinary, Artiste is the new cushion vinyl collection from LeoLine

When it comes to something a little different, LeoLine's Artiste collection is the perfect muse. For exhibitionists or those that just love bold pattern and colour, Artiste features LeoLine's most adventurous and daring designs, making the floor the star of the show. From classic tile designs to trending terrazzo, Artiste is all about finding something completely unique.

In eight tile designs, Artiste offers a wide range of highly decorative flooring options. Including the classic black and white diamond of York and Evora that takes a traditional tile design and reimagines it in hues of modern blue and grey, these designs make a bold statement in any room. And with the subtle concrete effect of George and trending terrazzo of Marmette, Artiste is rounded out to perfection with sophisticated contemporary looks.

David Wray, UK sales manager at IVC, said: "Our new Artiste collection is the place to be for anyone that takes their interior artistry seriously. With inspirational and exciting looks, it's sure to lift any room out of the doldrums and makes high design flooring wonderfully accessible."

Artiste features LeoLine's Natural Look & Feel for a matt finish that looks impressive at every angle. With added slip-resistance and great underfoot comfort thanks to its cushion backing, it makes a great choice for bathrooms, or anywhere else that deserves a unique looking floor.

[leoline.co.uk](http://leoline.co.uk)

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- ✓ Ensure Proper Installation
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## CFA PAYS TRIBUTE TO HAMISH MACGREGOR, 1952 – 2026

It was with great sadness that the Contract Flooring Association (CFA) learned of the passing of Hamish MacGregor. A respected figure within the flooring and wider construction sector, Hamish served the Association with distinction over many years as a CFA Council member, past president and passionate advocate for the industry.

Hamish's flooring career began with Marley before he founded MacGregor Flooring in 1985. Under his leadership, the business grew to become one of Scotland's leading flooring contractors, earning a strong reputation for professionalism, quality, and commitment to the sector. While his business achievements alone would merit recognition, it was Hamish's wider contribution to the flooring industry that also set him apart.

A longstanding supporter of the CFA, Hamish joined the Association's Council in 1999 and remained an active and influential voice for the membership throughout the following decades. He served as CFA President on two occasions, first between 2004 and 2006, and again from 2020 to 2022, becoming one of only two individuals to hold the position twice.

Throughout his involvement with the CFA, Hamish was known for his passion for the industry and his willingness to speak up on behalf of contractors and the wider flooring community. He was a strong advocate for raising standards, improving training, and ensuring the industry had a clear and respected voice within construction.

His commitment to those goals extended beyond the CFA. In 2009, Hamish was elected president of the National Specialist Contractors Council (NSCC), later becoming involved with Build UK and Build Scotland, where he worked to strengthen relationships between specialist contractors and main contractors. He consistently championed the importance of the specialist sector and the vital role it plays in the successful delivery of construction projects.

Closer to home within the Association, Hamish was active within the CFA's Scottish Committee, contributing to its work right up until

his passing. He played an important role in discussions around apprenticeship standards and training delivery in Scotland, helping to create opportunities and clearer career pathways for young people entering the flooring industry, something he believed in strongly.

In recognition of his contribution to the sector, Hamish received the CFJ Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023. The award reflected not only the success of MacGregor Flooring, but also the respect he had earned across the industry through decades of service, leadership, and advocacy.

Paying tribute, CFA CEO Richard Catt said: "I last saw Hamish at our Spring Ball in Glasgow in March this year and was fortunate enough to speak with him again only a couple of weeks before he passed away. During that conversation we reflected on more than 20 years of working together through the CFA and, characteristically, Hamish remained hugely positive about both the Association and the industry.

"Hamish cared deeply about flooring and construction and was always prepared to give his time, experience and energy to improving standards and conditions for the sector. Whether the issue was training, skills shortages, competence, payment practices or wider industry challenges, he was someone who believed the industry could and should improve, and he was prepared to help drive that change.

"What always stood out was the pride Hamish had in being part of the CFA and in the work of specialist contractors more broadly. His passion, optimism and willingness to speak up made a lasting impact on the Association and on many people across the industry.

"Hamish will be greatly missed and his contribution to the CFA and the wider flooring sector will be long remembered. His direct impact leaves a lasting legacy within both the CFA and wider construction."

<https://cfa.org.uk>





## CFA SECURES MAJOR WIN IN FUTURE HOMES AND BUILDING STANDARDS

The Contract Flooring Association (CFA) has achieved a significant success for its members and the wider sector, following the publication of the new Future Homes and Building Standards in March 2026.

In the original consultation draft, proposed limits on thermal resistance risked creating an unintended but serious consequence: commonly specified floorcoverings such as carpet and timber would no longer have been practical options in new-build properties. Recognising the potential impact on the entire supply chain, the CFA worked closely with industry partners and government to challenge this approach. As a result, the final version of Approved Document L, which governs energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions in buildings, adopts a far more balanced, holistic, performance-based methodology.

Richard Catt, CEO of the CFA, commented: "This is a major achievement for our members and the wider sector. In the original draft, an unintended consequence of proposed thermal limits for flooring would have effectively ruled out carpet and timber in many new-build applications. By working closely with government and industry partners, we were able to promote a more holistic approach, one that still meets wider energy efficiency targets while maintaining specification flexibility. It is a great example of industry, trade bodies and government working together to deliver a practical outcome."

At the centre of this success is the updated guidance on underfloor heating within Approved Document L. Subsection 5.38 now confirms that underfloor heating systems must be designed with full consideration of the thermal resistance of floorcoverings, ensuring required heat output is achieved. Importantly, the guidance explicitly directs professionals to the CFA's Beyond Installation: Guidance on Underfloor Heating, alongside supporting material from BEAMA. This marks a decisive shift away from earlier proposals that sought to impose strict maximum thermal resistance thresholds. Had those limits been adopted, they would have severely restricted the use of many widely used flooring materials.

Instead, the final guidance places responsibility on system design, ensuring that floorcoverings, heating systems, and heat sources such as heat pumps are considered together to achieve overall building performance.

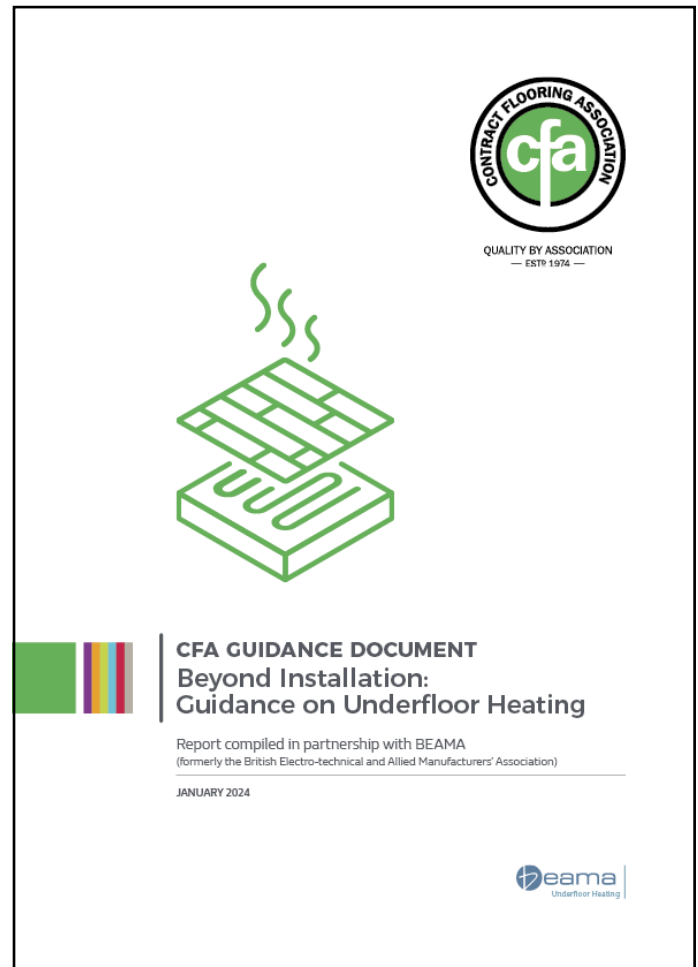
This outcome safeguards specification choice across the contract flooring industry. Members can continue to offer a full range of materials for new build projects, provided they are integrated into a well-designed heating system.

Crucially, this avoids what could have been a significant disruption to the sector, preventing potential loss of work and income across multiple product categories. Equally important is the formal recognition of the CFA within national regulation. Being directly referenced in Approved Document L not only raises the profile of the Association but also reinforces its role as a trusted authority influencing policy and best practice. The inclusion of the CFA's guidance demonstrates the value of proactive engagement with government and highlights the Association's ability to deliver meaningful outcomes for its members.

This achievement represents more than a short-term win. It establishes a forward-looking framework that supports innovation in heating systems while reflecting the practical realities of flooring

specification. With further work already underway, including additional guidance on flooring over underfloor heating for members, the CFA remains at the forefront of shaping standards that are both ambitious and workable. Combined with recent progress on wider industry issues such as payment and retention, this success reinforces the CFA's growing influence and its commitment to delivering tangible benefits for members and the wider sector.

[www.cfa.org.uk](http://www.cfa.org.uk)



# BALL REWARDS

F. Ball explains how its Ball Rewards loyalty programme is helping flooring contractors earn cashback, access exclusive benefits and win premium prizes through its latest promotional offers.

F. Ball's Ball Rewards customer loyalty programme is free to join and rewards members with cashback each time they purchase F. Ball products.

In the current promotion, which runs until the end of June, Ball Rewards members can claim triple cashback (7.5%) on purchases of F. Ball's Stopgap F77 and F78 waterproof surface membranes, Stopgap Fast-track 30 smoothing compound and Styccobond F46 pressure sensitive adhesive. This is in addition to the regular 2.5% cashback on purchases of all other F. Ball products.

Over 10 years since its original launch, the Ball Rewards programme has returned more than £9.5m to flooring contractors and retailers.

Ball Rewards members also gain access to a wide range of exclusive benefits, including advanced previews of new products, the opportunity to enter monthly competitions to win exclusive prizes and access to F. Ball's e-newsletter, F-Talk.

F. Ball is giving Ball Rewards members the chance to attend The Flooring Show 2026 in style, with the opportunity to win a two-night stay in a luxury hotel.

Winners will also receive a Betty's Tea Room hamper and a bottle of Lyme Bay English sparkling wine.

To have the chance of winning this great prize, all you have to do is answer the competition question on the Ball Rewards section of the F. Ball website correctly. The winner will be the first correct entry drawn at the end of the month.

Flooring contractors can find out more about Ball Rewards, including details of current competitions and promotions and how to claim cashback, as well as apply for a card at:

**[www.f-ball.com/rewards](http://www.f-ball.com/rewards).**

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

**"Over 10 years since its original launch, the Ball Rewards programme has returned more than £9.5m to flooring contractors and retailers."**







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- Evening meal for two
- Bettys Tea Room Hamper
- Bottle of Lyme Bay English Sparkling Wine

**BALL Rewards**

**THE FLOORING SHOW**  
20-22 SEPTEMBER 2026  
HCC, HARROGATE





# SHOW SUCCESS

We shine a spotlight on the inaugural Flooring Show South exhibition, which took place at Sandown Park this April.

Building on more than 60 years of success in Harrogate, The Flooring Show South welcomed more than 1,400 flooring professionals to Sandown Park on 14–15 April 2026, delivering two busy days of networking, product discovery, and business opportunities for retailers, contractors, distributors, and specifiers from across the industry.

Launched to provide flooring professionals across London and the South with a more accessible opportunity to connect with suppliers, discover new products, and network with the industry closer to home, the inaugural event received a hugely positive response from visitors and exhibitors alike.

As the UK's biggest event dedicated to the flooring industry, The Flooring Show once again brought together leading manufacturers and suppliers under one roof, giving visitors the opportunity to explore the latest innovations, trends, and product launches across the sector.

This year's show featured a strong mix of returning exhibitors and new brands, with attendees able to source everything from carpets and LVT to wood flooring, underlays, tools, and accessories. The event also provided a valuable platform for face-to-face conversations, helping exhibitors strengthen existing relationships while generating new business leads.

Research conducted following the event highlighted the strong commercial value of the launch show, with 46% of visitors placing orders onsite and a further 32% planning to place orders following the event. In addition, 56% of attendees discovered new brands or products that will be added to their future offering.

Visitors also praised the convenience of a southern-based event, with one attendee commenting: "A highly worthwhile event that provided fresh ideas, useful contacts and real business benefits."

Another visitor had this to say: "A good show where it felt like most of the industry was."

Commenting on the success of the event, Suzy Makin, sales director for The Flooring Show, said: "I couldn't be more proud of how the show continues to grow beyond all expectations. It remains the UK's biggest event dedicated to flooring – where else can you discover the latest designs all under one roof?"

"The Flooring Show team would also like to thank the event's launch partners for their continued support in helping bring the industry together and making the inaugural Flooring Show South a success."

Following the successful launch of Flooring Show South, attention now turns to the industry's flagship event, The Flooring Show Harrogate, taking place from 20–22 September 2026 at the Harrogate Convention Centre.

On the show in Harrogate, Suzy said: "One of the real advantages of Harrogate is its convenience; once you arrive, everything is on your doorstep, with hotels, restaurants, and bars all within easy walking distance."

You can register for the show on the website below.

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



Bjelin MD Simon Darbyshire receives the TCF Awards 2026 first-place trophy for The Salte Collection, with key account manager Richard Banham.



Gemma Coulthard, marketing manager at Marldon, receives the TCF Awards 2026 second-place trophy for MXS110 Smoothing Compound.



## F. BALL CELEBRATES 140 YEARS AT THE FLOORING SHOW SOUTH

F. Ball and Co. Ltd. exhibited at the inaugural Flooring Show South exhibition as a launch partner, showcasing the latest advancements in subfloor preparation products and adhesives for floorcoverings.

These include the latest addition to F. Ball's range of smoothing compounds, Stopgap 1400. 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.

It also celebrated the 140th anniversary of the company, which was founded in 1886 and has remained an independent, family-run business ever since.

Visitors to the F. Ball stand had the opportunity to win a range of prizes, including a weekend break away, by playing an on-stand competition, and watch live demonstrations featuring Styccobond adhesives and Stopgap subfloor preparation products delivered by the company's Head of Training.

Contractors and retailers also had the opportunity to sign up to the Ball Rewards loyalty programme, which entitles them to claim cashback each time they purchase F. Ball products, as well as a range of exclusive benefits, such as the opportunity to enter regular competitions and earn extra cashback on promotional products.

Commenting on the company's exhibition, F. Ball sales director Karl Brannigan said: "It enabled us to strengthen relationships with a wider audience of industry decision-makers, including retailers, contractors and specifiers, and attendance figures were very strong, with over 1,400 visitors to the show on the first day alone, so we're pleased to be launch partners for the event. We'd like to thank everyone who took the time to come and see us."

[www.f-ball.co.uk](http://www.f-ball.co.uk)



## CAUSEWAY CARPETS SHINES IN THE SOUTH

Causeway Carpets continued to showcase its unwavering commitment to serving the needs of independent retailers at the inaugural The Flooring Show South, where the brand showcased its latest premium carpet collections and retail display concepts to wow visitors from across the South of England.

Over two busy days, Causeway Carpets used the event to highlight its focus on successfully pairing form with function with every range, presenting a selection of new and refreshed ranges alongside flexible in-store merchandising solutions aimed at independent retailers.

A key attraction on the stand was the launch of Mayfair, a sophisticated loop pile collection made from 100% pure new wool in a durable four-ply yarn. Available in 20 elegant colourways, the range is offered across four coordinated styles – Mayfair Rib, Mayfair Linea, Mayfair Weave and Mayfair Texture – delivering a timeless aesthetic suited to both traditional and contemporary interiors.

Visitors also had the opportunity to see refreshed versions of the popular Nature Earth and Nature Core collections. Crafted from 100% British wool using a chunky four-ply yarn, the updated ranges introduce five new shades alongside three established best-sellers. The enhanced palette adds greater depth to the collections' signature flecked neutral tones, reinforcing their appeal for homes seeking a relaxed countryside-inspired look.

Alongside its carpet ranges, Causeway Carpets demonstrated its latest retail display solutions. The Compact Display Unit attracted attention for its space-saving design and flexibility, while the larger Multi Display Unit showcased samples from eight

collections and featured a pull-out lower shelf for easy access. Both systems can be combined to create larger branded display walls, giving retailers scalable merchandising options tailored to their showroom space.

Richard Moore, commercial director, said: "The first edition of The Flooring Show South provided Causeway Carpets with a really effective platform to connect with independent retailers and underline its commitment to quality products, thoughtful design and strong retail support. A great success and we are already looking forward to next year!"

[www.causewaycarpets.com](http://www.causewaycarpets.com)



# FLOORING AT A CROSSROADS

Cathie Clarke, CEO of the UK Sustainable Flooring Alliance (UKSFA), explains why the flooring sector is facing a period of significant change, and what this means for contractors.



Image credit: Unilin



Tougher waste regulation and rising sustainability expectations, as well as increasing scrutiny around product transparency and carbon reporting, means contractors are operating in a market that is becoming more complex and more accountable.

For flooring businesses, the challenge is not only to keep up with regulations, but also to understand how to turn these changes into opportunities rather than risks.

## ■ WASTE CRIME ACTION

One of the clearest signals has come with the government's new Waste Crime Action Plan 2026, which positions waste crime as a serious organised issue rather than a minor compliance matter. For the flooring sector, where large volumes of uplifted material move through complex supply chains, the implications are considerable.

The Environment Agency (EA) is receiving a £45m funding boost to strengthen enforcement activity, including more inspections, faster shutdowns of illegal waste sites, and closer collaboration with HMRC and police forces. Flooring businesses should expect greater scrutiny across the waste chain, not just at the disposal stage.

The reforms also include expanded powers for EA officers, faster financial penalties, and mandatory Digital Waste Tracking (DWT),

which is expected to be introduced from October 2026. Under the new system, waste movements will need to be digitally recorded, replacing paper-based processes with real-time reporting accessible to regulators.

For contractors, this means waste records and disposal routes will become far more visible. Inconsistencies in paperwork, unclear end destinations, or poorly understood supply chains could trigger investigations much more quickly than in the past.

At the same time, permitting rules are changing. Waste carriers, brokers and dealers are set to be reclassified as "transporters" and "controllers", with additional competence checks and permit requirements. Flooring businesses arranging or moving waste may fall within these updated categories.

Contractors should already be mapping their waste supply chains carefully, by understanding who is collecting material and transporting it, and critically, where the final destination of the waste actually is. Businesses should also be speaking with waste partners about readiness for Digital Waste Tracking and reviewing whether any exemptions they currently rely on may change under the revised framework.

## ■ REUSE AND RECYCLING

Alongside compliance, the issue of flooring reuse and recycling is moving rapidly up the industry agenda.

Reuse sits at the top of the waste hierarchy, but flooring presents unique challenges. Most flooring products are designed for



durability, not disassembly. Multiple bonded materials, adhesives and contamination make uplift and separation difficult, often limiting recycling options and increasing disposal volumes.

This creates practical and commercial pressures on contractors. Uplift can become slower and more labour-intensive, while recycling infrastructure remains inconsistent across the UK.

However, momentum is now building in this area. Some manufacturers already operate take-back schemes, while specialist recyclers are emerging to process flooring waste into products for other sectors. The challenge remains scale, consistency and accessibility.

To help address this, we are working with industry partners to develop more practical nationwide solutions. One example is TakeMyFlooring, now trademarked, whereby we are creating an online portal designed to help contractors identify available take-back and recycling options more quickly and efficiently.

The longer-term ambition is to improve regional collection and sorting infrastructure, making it easier to move materials at scale and increase recycling viability.

Importantly, reuse is also gaining attention. Good-quality second-hand flooring has potential value, particularly for community and charity projects, but storage, logistics and redistribution remain barriers. As infrastructure improves, contractors could find new opportunities to divert reusable flooring away from waste streams while reducing disposal costs.

## ■ POLICY DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING FLOORING

Sustainability pressures are increasingly being driven by international policy developments.

Although the UK is no longer bound by EU legislation, the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) is already influencing market expectations. The directive aims to accelerate low-carbon construction through improved energy performance, whole-life carbon measurement, and greater product transparency.

For the flooring sector, this means embodied carbon is becoming a more important consideration alongside traditional factors such as durability, aesthetics and cost.

Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), recycled content information, and end-of-life transparency are increasingly expected on commercial projects, particularly where lifecycle emissions reporting is required.

The EPBD also introduces concepts such as Digital Product Passports and Digital Building Passports, designed to improve access to environmental and technical data throughout a building's lifecycle. While the UK may develop its own framework, the overall aim is for greater traceability, transparency and digital reporting.

Many clients already operate across both the UK and EU markets, meaning expectations around sustainability data are becoming increasingly aligned regardless of geography.

For contractors, this creates both challenges and opportunities. Businesses that can demonstrate strong environmental practices, transparent waste management and credible sustainability data are likely to be in a stronger position for future tenders and client requirements.



The industry is also seeing increasing focus on competency and best practice around uplift and installation. Better handling practices can reduce contamination, improve recyclability and retain more value in materials at the end of life.

Guidance is currently being developed by UKSFA to support installers and strip-out contractors as expectations evolve.

## ■ HOW UKSFA CAN HELP

None of these issues exists in isolation. Waste regulation, carbon reporting, product transparency, competency and circularity are all becoming interconnected parts of the same conversation around the future of our built environment.

UKSFA continues to work with manufacturers, contractors, distributors and wider stakeholders to help the flooring sector navigate these changes practically and collaboratively. As the pace of change accelerates, industry engagement has never been more important.

[www.uk-sfa.com](http://www.uk-sfa.com)



# COUNTING THE WAYS...

Junckers explains why solid hardwood flooring is a sustainable choice in more ways than one.

There is more to specifying flooring than looks. In the last decade, we have become increasingly aware of how our actions and choices have a direct impact on the environment. Steps to mitigate the climate crisis are being put in place, not least in the construction industry with the focus on net zero carbon status for buildings. It is no longer a far-removed subject from our day-to-day working practices. This issue is not just for designers and architects, governments, and specifiers for landmark projects, it needs to be brought into the conversation for every type of project, from small domestic installations and maintenance projects to large corporate buildings.

There are so many arguments for a sustainable flooring choice. Not only will it benefit the environment, but there are also benefits for the flooring contractor and ultimately the customer or end user.

## ■ MADE IN WOOD

Wood is naturally low in embodied carbon, a renewable resource that does not produce waste or pollution. As a tree grows, it absorbs carbon dioxide and stores it in the wood. Through a process known as photosynthesis, a tree captures CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere thereby reducing the amount of carbon in our atmosphere, reducing the amount of greenhouse gases, halting global warming while at the same time giving us oxygen. Wood is the only building material that has the natural ability to take carbon from the air and store it. In this way, a solid wood floor has a positive impact on the environment in comparison to other flooring surfaces.

## ■ BIOGENIC CARBON – THE NEW REGULATIONS

The reduction in carbon is also referred to biogenic carbon; a process is now widely recognised as a positive element of designing and building. The latest construction framework by the Department for Education, CF 25, outlines that designs for any new and refurbished school buildings should use natural materials to create a healthy learning environment, targeting biogenic carbon of – 20kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup> from sequestration for the whole building. As a reference, installing a Junckers solid beech floor in a typical 690m<sup>2</sup> four-court sports hall will contribute a figure of – 18,699kg CO<sub>2</sub>e or – 27.1kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>.

## ■ REUSE AND RECYCLE

Some flooring options may be made in recycled materials but what does that mean in terms of harmful gases and the burden on landfill sites? Ask yourself: can it be recycled again; and what happens to it when it is lifted and disposed of? In stark contrast, a solid wood floor from Junckers contains, you guessed it, nothing but solid wood. It can be sanded and re-finished, lifted and reused as flooring or repurposed as a building material and at the end of its long life, the timber will decompose naturally.







## ■ LONGEVITY

It is not unusual to find a 60-year-old Junckers floor in excellent condition – a good quality material can and should last for generations. A Junckers floor can be sanded and refinished up to 10 times, returning it to as-new condition. With 12-year intervals between professional sandings, (typical for sport and commercial flooring) a Junckers floor will last well beyond the gold standard of 60+ years. For the client, a long-lasting floor with low life cycle costs has obvious benefits; and for the contractor, a regular maintenance programme can provide a secure income for many years. Junckers offers customers a 25-year lifetime warranty on the product, installation, and maintenance of the floor, run through the company's network of Approved Maintenance Contractors. A well-managed maintenance scheme also offers the customer peace of mind and a way to avoid unexpected costs.

## ■ THE AIR WE BREATHE

Another core target set out by the RIBA 2030 Climate Challenge is user health and wellbeing. Daylighting, overheating, CO2 levels, VOCs and formaldehyde are all taken into consideration as key factors influencing how we live in and use buildings. All Junckers floors hold the Danish Indoor Climate label and have undergone extensive degassing and odour testing to ensure there are no chemical substances in the flooring which adversely affect the air quality in a room.

## ■ BEING FLEXIBLE AND USE WITH FF&E

Strong and durable, a solid wood floor offers its owners a flexible and adaptable surface to work with. A floor might have originally been installed to do one job, such as a sports hall floor in a school, but it can easily cope with being turned into an exam or dining hall or used for community events without the need to cover it. Any school building being built or refurbished under the new framework needs to specify and install a timber floor if it is to be used with any fixtures, fittings or equipment to comply. It can be a solid hardwood floor or an engineered floor with a minimum wear layer of 6mm.

## ■ BACKING UP OUR CLAIMS

Even though respecting the environment has always been part of Junckers way of working, having the right company policies and practices is not enough. Today, providing independently verified accreditation and certification is essential. We have achieved independent accreditation by a number of international schemes including FSC, PEFC and ISO 14001. We have also had independent product testing carried out for VOCs and our products' effect on indoor environment under CDPH standards and the Danish Indoor Climate scheme. We have completed EPDs (Environmental Product Declarations) for our floors. The certificates are an important tool for anyone designing buildings to the high environmental standards required under BREEAM and Passivhaus schemes, for example, and offer reassurance to residential customers.



# GOING GREEN PAYS OFF

Flooring contractors across the UK are reducing waste disposal costs and supporting sustainability goals through the growing success of the F. Ball Recycling Scheme.

Flooring professionals are not just saving the Earth, but also saving money by using the F. Ball Recycling Scheme, with contractors cutting waste disposal costs by thousands.

The initiative, first introduced in 2019, provides commercial waste bins at select distributors around the country where empty recyclable F. Ball buckets and bottles can be disposed of for recycling, for free.

Since January last year alone, contractors Fineweave Carpets in Reading has returned over 1,300kg of plastic bottles using the service.

Lee Withers, director of Fineweave Carpets, said: "It's a win-win for us. We pride ourselves on doing what we can for the environment, and the F. Ball Recycling Scheme gives us another opportunity to do this whilst also cutting our costs."

Wholesaler Nutlands Carpets, which has branches in Poole and Chandlers Ford, has sent over 1,100kg of plastic buckets and bottles for recycling since the beginning of 2024.

James Smith, managing director of Nutlands Carpets, highlighted the benefits: "Customer convenience drives us, and offering this service saves contractors significant time and the expense of trips to commercial waste centres. As a result, we know that some choose to buy F. Ball products from us rather than other wholesalers.

"As a family-run distributor, we take great pride in doing our part to reduce the environmental impact of our operations, including being a part of innovative recycling schemes like this."

Another flooring wholesaler, John Palmer Carpets Ltd, has returned 480kg of plastic via the recycling scheme.

All F. Ball plastic buckets and the company's five- and 20-litre plastic bottles used for liquids, primers and tackifiers can be recycled via the scheme, with much of the packaging itself manufactured from recycled materials.

The scheme has been steadily expanded in response to a positive reception from flooring contractors, and there are now more than 40 recycling points at wholesaler partners across the UK.

Commenting on the figures, F. Ball sales director Karl Brannigan said: "With costs continuing to rise, finding ways to save money without compromising on installation quality has never been more important, nor has addressing our environmental impact. The F. Ball Recycling Scheme provides an effortless way to do both. We're delighted by some of the numbers around amounts recycled and savings by those benefitting from the scheme, and we urge more to get involved."

More information about the F. Ball Recycling Scheme, including participating wholesalers, is available on the company's website.

<https://f-ball.com>







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# BUILDING FOR TOMORROW

Kerakoll UK explains how the company is aiming for sustainable growth with a major investment in new low-impact facilities and innovation.

Kerakoll UK Ltd is a subsidiary of the Kerakoll Group, a multinational company working in the construction industry, offering an integrated range of products and services for building better places to live.

Sustainability has been at the core of Kerakoll's philosophy since 1984, when Romano Sghedoni, the founder, declared that "there is no value in industrial success if it is not linked to sustainable development". And this approach has widened and deepened over the years to include a comprehensive commitment to ESG issues, with the Italian company becoming a Benefit Company in 2021 and the Group, including the UK, gaining B Corp certification in 2023.

Kerakoll UK is one of the few companies operating in the UK flooring sector that is investing in growth in the current tough economic climate. In the view of management, growth should be sustainable, and that sustainability should include the people who work for, buy from and supply the company, the surrounding community, and the buildings that the company operates from. When the company decided to expand their operations, they thought long and hard about where to place the new premises, with sustainability as a key driver.

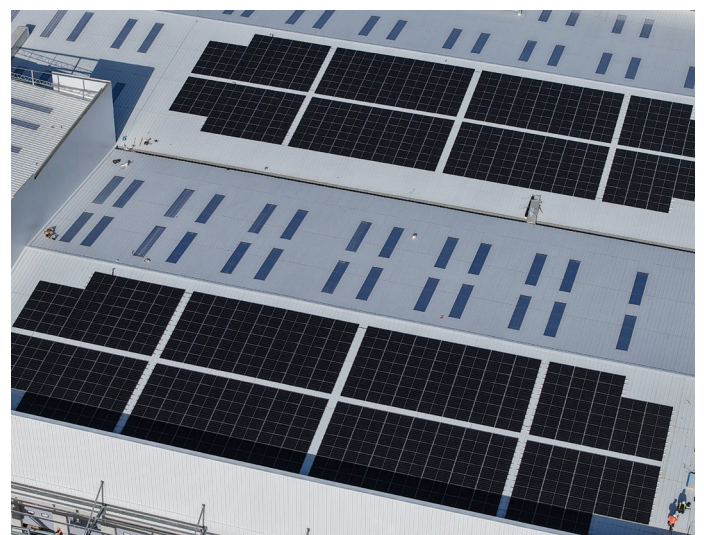
The decision was taken to build as close to the old factory as possible where the company is a key local employer, and to continue to use the old premises which occupy most of a small industrial estate. This avoids hollowing out the area, supports the local community, and keeps commutes to a minimum for those that live close to the Leyland plant.

The new site is a short drive away on the outskirts of Preston, again keeping the business in the local community and allowing people to continue working for the company without having to relocate.

Phase 1 is due to be completed in Q4 2026 and will include a warehouse, high bay storage area, SHS office area, and three-storey office building. This investment, in the region of £20m, will allow the company to consolidate and expand its UK operations and better serve the market.

"Our new site will set the baseline for the next step in improved levels of service for our customers, and the second phase in two-to-three years will incorporate a production tower to allow more volume for new initiatives," said managing director Carl Gardner.

As you would expect, the new buildings are being constructed to BREEAM Very Good standards. A total of 2360m<sup>2</sup> of photovoltaic panels have already been installed on the roof. These should generate an estimated 340MWh per year, and save 65 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions each year.





Rainwater harvesting with a capacity of 30,000m<sup>3</sup> will serve the toilets in the main offices, giving an estimated water saving of 3000 litres per day. The car park will feature EV charging, dedicated bicycle parking and car-share parking spaces.

A pre-build ecosystem evaluation has allowed planning for noise, existing plant retention and replanting, a wildlife migration strategy, the creation of an attenuation pond, and compensation for nesting and roosting habitats. An external living wall is being installed on the main office façade.

Some of Kerakoll's own range of products are being used for the surface finishes in the offices, which have been designed with the health and wellbeing of staff in mind. Natural light and air quality have been made priorities. Moss walls will feature on each floor of the reception areas, with plants and greenery throughout the offices. There will be an internal canteen and relaxation areas on all floors.

The new site will also feature a fully equipped R&D lab of 230m<sup>2</sup> separate from the Quality Control laboratory for the development of sustainable, innovative products for the UK market.

The company's approach to product development fits with the overall approach to sustainability, that is, to make products

that perform excellently and do the least possible harm to the environment to enable the construction of safe, healthy and beautiful buildings. This means researching materials and processes to reduce the impact on the environment, with a built-in respect for natural resources and the circular economy.

The company's flooring offering includes the Proflow range of smoothing compounds. This features five different products, covering all possible site, substrate and covering requirements. They include Proflow Smooth, the best-selling product in the range which gives a free-flowing smooth finish, and Proflow MVS, a revolutionary new product which has a built-in moisture vapour suppressant barrier that is effective up to 95% RH, removing the need for a DPM and thus condensing a potential three-product application into one single application. The double component product is free-flowing, with excellent self-smoothing properties giving a flawless surface finish.

## ■ TECHNICAL HELP

Kerakoll's dedicated Technical team is available to help with any product queries and is happy to get involved in putting together specifications.

<https://gb.kerakoll.com>



# SEAL OF APPROVAL

Lisa Breakspear, head of sales for Mapei UltraCare, shares a best-practice guide to enhancing natural stone floors with sealants and finishes.

When it comes to sealants and floor finishes for natural stone, there are many different options to choose from. Based upon the look that you want to achieve, you can opt for a natural finish or a colour enhanced sealant; as well as accentuating the tone of a limestone tile, other natural stones like slate really lend themselves to colour enhancement.

Before application, it's very important to address the correct preparation of the floor. Whether you're looking to treat a newly installed floor, or you're restoring an existing floor, ensuring that the surface is completely clean is crucial to the success of the application of the floor sealant or finish. In the case of a newly installed floor, ensure all installation and grout residues are removed and, for an existing floor restoration, ensure that any remaining finishing product is stripped back and that the surface is thoroughly cleaned to remove all residue. Depending on the finish of the stone, we recommend either Mapei UltraCare HD Cleaner on an unpolished natural stone, in a dilution of 1:5 – 1:10, or Mapei UltraCare Multicleaner in a dilution of 1:30. For newly installed natural stone that's acid resistant, you can use Mapei UltraCare Keranet diluted 1:5 – 1:10 to remove cementitious grout residues and installation dirt. In all cases, ensure that the solution is removed and thoroughly rinsed with plenty of clean water.

## ■ WATER-BASED V SOLVENT-BASED FINISHES

Having prepared the floor, and considered the finish, you'll need to decide between a water-based or a solvent-based product. In terms of practicalities, water-based products offer an element of speed, as they can generally be applied with residual moisture present, whereas solvent-based products should only be applied to stone that's completely dry. Factors that affect drying time are the thickness of the stone, its porosity, temperature, air flow and humidity. Using a moisture meter can help to understand the level of moisture in the stone.

**“The strongest natural stone finishes begin with the right preparation – a clean, residue-free surface is essential for sealant performance.”**

In addition to speed of application, water-based solutions also bring environmental and safety benefits, as they're solvent-free and produce significantly fewer volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These formulations reduce harmful emissions, minimise concerns relating to hazardous waste disposal and they offer a safer, low-odour option for the contractor.







For a natural-look finish, we recommend Mapei UltraCare Stain Protector W Plus for all types of finishes to the stone and, for unpolished stone, Stain Protector W; both of these are UV stable, water-based impregnators that allow the stone to breathe. If you have a very dense natural stone, and if you prefer a solvent-based impregnator, then you can use UltraCare Stain Protector S. Again, this is a product that allows the stone to breathe and it's UV stable. For colour enhancement, you can apply UltraCare Intensifier S for polished stone and UltraCare Intensifier W for unpolished stone. Once again, both products are UV stable and allow the stone to breathe.

## A CLOSER LOOK AT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Mapei UltraCare formulations are from the Zero Line, which has been specifically designed to minimise environmental impact across the entire product life cycle. Its embedded carbon is measured using recognised Life Cycle Assessment methodologies and is fully offset through certified carbon credits that support forestry protection projects.

**“Water-based sealants not only speed up installation, they also offer safer, lower-emission solutions for contractors and clients alike.”**

Mapei prides itself on transparency and to communicate the environmental performance of the Ultracare range, it produces Environmental Product Declarations (EPD), ensuring environmental performance – from raw material extraction through to disposal – is accessible to all of Mapei's stakeholders. This combination of lifecycle assessment, carbon offsetting, and third-party certification demonstrates a clear commitment to sustainability, biodiversity and reducing the overall environmental footprint of construction and maintenance products.

## FINISHING WAXES

In addition to the sealers, you can also consider the application of an UltraCare finishing wax. These products can alter the natural finish after the application of a natural-look sealer; UltraCare Lucida creates a high gloss finish and UltraCare Lucida a matt or satin finish. The waxes also offer some additional protection against foot traffic and spillages, and can make maintenance on heavily textured floors easier. In relation to acid spillages, in particular, they can provide a small window for liquid to be mopped up before any etching damage occurs on acid-sensitive stone.

## ONGOING MAINTENANCE REGIME

After application of a sealer, a good ongoing maintenance regime using a pH-neutral solution should also be adopted, to maximise lifespan of the protection. Look for a cleaner like UltraCare Multicleaner that delivers high coverage, is rinse-free, and works effectively with floor cleaning machines in large commercial areas.

# FUTURE-PROOF PROTECTION

LTP is leading the move towards safer, more sustainable surface care solutions with PFAS-free protectors and high-performance water-based treatments for outdoor paving and commercial flooring applications.

Developed for the contract flooring and landscape sectors, LTP's specialist ECOPROTEC range includes sustainable surface care products for all types of natural and engineered stone, in both internal and external settings. All treatments are made in the UK and benefit from the most advanced research in water-based technology – combining high performance with low odour and low VOC formulations. In addition, two protectors feature PFAS-free formulations – ECOPROTEC Porcelain Paving Enhancer and ECOPROTEC Black Stone Colour Restorer.

## ■ PFAS-FREE FORMULATIONS

The first formulation, ECOPROTEC Porcelain Paving Enhancer is a water-based self-shine solution that gives tiles an enhanced appearance. It also provides practical benefits, being highly resistant to foot traffic, general wear and stains, and it promotes easier maintenance. The treatment is UV-resistant and, whilst glossy in nature, causes minimal change to a tile's slip resistance properties.

The second protector, ECOPROTEC Black Stone Colour Restorer is a water-based treatment that contains a permanent colour-intensifying pigment. It is applied in multiple coats until the desired colour effect is achieved – from dark grey to ebony – to restore the appearance of pavers faded by UV rays, humidity and rainwater, and to protect them from the elements going forward.

ECOPROTEC is currently working towards a complete range of PFAS-free sealers that contain no perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, with further reformulations scheduled for introduction later this year.

## ■ WATER-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR SEASONAL PROJECTS

To protect tiles and stone laid outdoors, as part of summer landscaping projects, the ECOPROTEC range includes Pre-Grout Protection – a water-based 'pre-and-post-grout' solution designed for external porcelain – and three stone sealers.

ECOPROTEC Pre-Grout Protection is formulated to protect pavers from staining, while allowing easy removal of residues from cement-based grouts and two-part resin-based jointing compounds, as well as stubborn organic matter. Creating a barrier, without forming a film or altering appearance, the protector helps to improve and increase the working time of grouts and jointing compounds while greatly reducing the risk of cement and resin staining. It also assists with future cleaning and aftercare.



The three additional protective treatments are ECOPROTEC Ultimate Sealer, Patio Sealer and Colour Enhancing Sealer. Each treatment is designed to protect all types of natural and engineered stone in outdoor settings, including smooth, honed and rough-cut surfaces. Featuring a water-based impregnating formulation, the protectors strongly repel water, oil, dirt and grease, help reduce efflorescence and allow the surface to breathe. Each provides a different finish: Ultimate Sealer leaves pavers virtually unchanged in appearance; Patio Sealer provides a delicately enhanced natural finish and Colour Enhancing Sealer creates a more pronounced enhancement, bringing out the natural warmth, tone and colour pigment of the stone.

All ECOPROTEC water-based treatments offer equal performance to their spirit-based solvent equivalents. "The water or spirit elements within a sealer don't play a part in the actual protection," explained LTP's Mark Atkins. "They just facilitate application and evaporate as the treatment dries."

As well as providing a fast, safe and easy application, the treatments' water-based formulations also make transportation, shipping and storage easier, and typically provide up to 50% greater coverage than spirit-based solvents.

ECOPROTEC external sealers are offered alongside a comprehensive range of maintenance products developed for the contractor and landscaper. The ECOPROTEC range also includes a comprehensive range of protection and maintenance solutions for interiors. To find out more about ECOPROTEC treatments and to request free samples, please call 01823 662 722, email [technical@ecoprotec.co.uk](mailto:technical@ecoprotec.co.uk) or visit the website below.

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# SCANDI STYLE, EDWARDIAN SOUL



Havwoods flooring helps transform a traditional North London home into a calm, contemporary family space inspired by Scandinavian simplicity while preserving its original character.

Set within a traditional Edwardian property in North London, this residential project explores the balance between heritage architecture and contemporary Scandinavian design. The client brief was to transform the existing home, rich in original features, into a contemporary and cosy environment. In response, the design retains key period details while introducing a simplified palette and Scandinavian-inspired furniture and fittings. The result is a refined interior where historic character is complemented by a lighter, more modern material language.

While the property retained strong architectural foundations, the interiors no longer aligned with the needs of a young family. Architecture and interior design practice TAK Studio approached the redesign with a focus on creating a calm, practical home that could support everyday living while offering a sense of retreat from the city.

Where possible, original features were retained to honour the property's history. The existing hallway tiling was carefully preserved, maintaining a sense of arrival rooted in the home's Edwardian character. Elsewhere, worn floorboards were replaced with engineered timber flooring from Havwoods which is better suited to contemporary living, offering both durability and visual consistency.

Timber surfaces play a central role in shaping the interior of this home. Havwoods' Alsace Chevron was specified across the kitchen, dining and living areas, while Serres Plank was

introduced in the bedrooms. Both finishes, selected from the Platinum colour group, feature pale, light-reflective tones that enhance natural light and contribute to the home's calm, Scandinavian aesthetic.

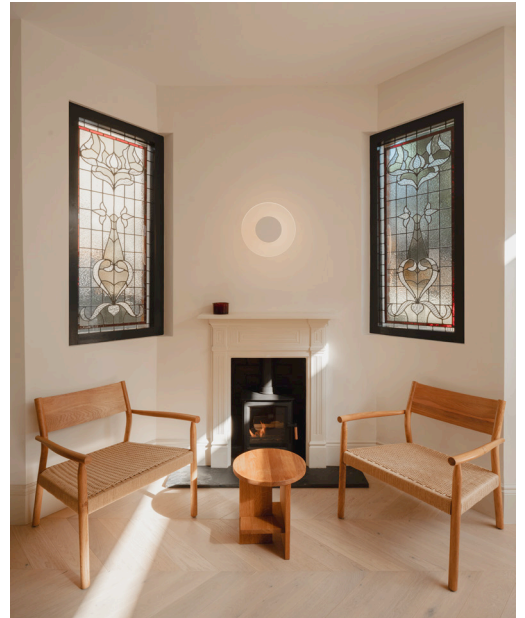
In the main living areas, the chevron pattern introduces a subtle sense of movement, adding texture without interrupting the overall clarity of the space. As light shifts throughout the day, the pattern creates gentle variation across the floor, bringing a quiet sense of rhythm to open-plan areas. In contrast, the wide-format planks used in the bedrooms establish a more restful atmosphere, offering continuity and visual stillness suited to more private spaces.

Throughout the home, the flooring has been kept deliberately simple, acting as a consistent backdrop rather than a focal point. The soft, pale tones of the timber bring warmth to the space without feeling heavy, helping the interiors feel light, open and easy to live in. This approach allows the original features, furniture and day-to-day family life to take centre stage, while maintaining a sense of cohesion throughout.

The completed project demonstrates how thoughtful material selection can bridge architectural eras, bringing together the elegance of Edwardian design with the clarity and simplicity of Scandinavian living.

[www.havwoods.com/uk](http://www.havwoods.com/uk)







# SMOOTH FOUNDATIONS

F. Ball offers the solution for an anhydrite floor at a beautiful residential property.

Stopgap 1100 smoothing compound has been used to achieve a luxurious floor finish for a beautiful family home, set in rural Leicestershire. The product is specially formulated for use over calcium sulphate screeds, and was specified for the ground floor refurbishment of the kitchen, breakfast room and utility room areas in the property,

To begin the installation, contractors at Welland Flooring Ltd., cleaned and suitably prepared the 130m<sup>2</sup> anhydrite surface, before applying two coats of F. Ball's Stopgap P121 primer. The use of the acrylic primer is recommended when using Stopgap 1100, as it helps to promote the adhesion of the smoothing underlayment to the calcium sulphate surface, and prevents the product drying too rapidly, which can cause cracks and imperfections in the finished surface.

Stopgap 1100 was then applied over the primed surface at a thickness of 3mm. The formulation of the new underlayment is calcium sulphate based to ensure compatibility with this type of subfloor screed, and provided a smooth surface prior to the installation of the final Amtico floorcovering.

As well as providing a specialist solution for the levelling of suitably prepared calcium sulphate screeds, Stopgap 1100

can also be used over a wide range of other surfaces, including Stopgap waterproof surface membranes, concrete and sand/cement screeds.

*"Stopgap 1100 smoothing compound is specially formulated for use over calcium sulphate screeds."*

Agris Krumins, director of Welland Flooring Ltd, comments on the installation: "This project required the highest quality finish to complement the wonderful interior of the family property. Stopgap 1100 offers a simple solution when working with an anhydrite surface, and was so easy to use. I regularly use F. Ball products, and this is another great addition to the Stopgap smoothing underlayment range."

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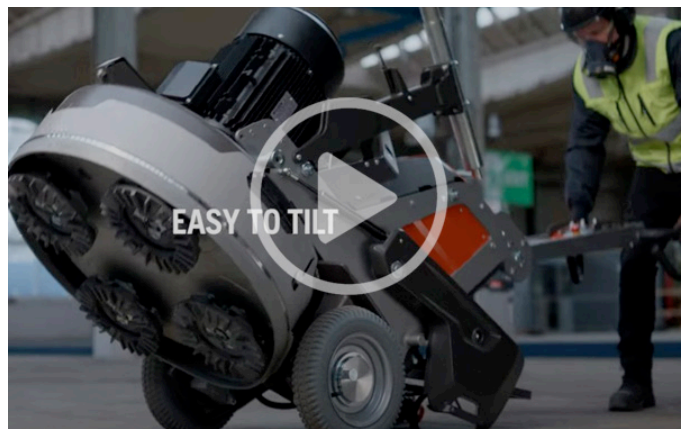
## Measure Square™



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

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# COASTAL LIVING, ELEVATED

With the emphasis on combining modern comfort with elegant design, EGGER's NatureSense Aqua+ was the flooring of choice for Halo Developments on its latest Weymouth development.

Moonfleet Compass is the latest residential development by Halo Developments, located just a few minutes away from the soft sands of Weymouth beach. Offering 31 one and two-bedroom apartments, the core aesthetic was centred around seamlessly blending the town's rich history with modern elegance. Offering contemporary everyday living, the spacious apartment interiors feature quality kitchens and boutique bathrooms, as well as thoughtfully integrated technology such as app-controlled heating.

With the emphasis on high-quality finishes and a contemporary style, Halo Developments turned to EGGER UK for the laminate flooring, installed throughout all 31 apartments.

Speaking about the project, Konrad Laslowski, site manager at Halo Developments, said: "As a developer, we are committed to creating exceptional developments that both enhance the local landscape and elevate the lifestyle of those who get to call Weymouth home. At Moonfleet Compass, we are offering homes that combine modern comfort with elegant design, with this mindset present throughout our finish and material choices.

"Personally speaking, I was already well aware of EGGER and its reputation for quality flooring. As a manufacturer, their products are incredibly popular across Europe. On this project, working closely with the kitchen supplier, it was very important that our chosen flooring complemented the worktops specified. EGGER's Turin Oak colourway was the perfect match, with a natural, warm and authentic wood aesthetic."

EGGER's NatureSense Aqua+ is a modern laminate that speaks to the senses. Manufactured from 80% renewable raw materials, it creates an authentic wood feel thanks to the synchronised pore texture and special embossing techniques. With a hardwearing surface, special swell protection formula and Aqua CLIC it! click system, it is also water-resistant for up to 72 hours, as well as providing strong protection against stains, scratches and scuffs.

Konrad continued: "For us, it was very important that the chosen laminate flooring offered a good level of water resistance, given its application across the kitchens and bathrooms – areas where water and spillages are likely. Here, NatureSense Aqua+ provided assurances of a high-quality and long-lasting finish, as well as being hassle-free to install. To help create a harmonious look and offer ease of maintenance for homeowners, the oak-effect laminate flooring was then continued throughout the apartments, including in living areas and bedrooms."

The Moonfleet Compass development was completed in 2026, with the apartments currently on the market. Halo Developments already plans to use EGGER flooring on its next project in Ringwood, Hampshire, a conversion of The Corn Exchange, which was formerly the Regal Cinema, into 12 luxury apartments.

[www.egger.com](http://www.egger.com)











# MAKING THE GRADE

When Trinity School in Dagenham was being refurbished, principal contractor Medifloor utilised over 1,300m<sup>2</sup> of Forbo Flooring Systems' Surestep safety vinyl.

An all-through (meaning it serves children through all stages of schooling) special education needs and disabilities (SEND) school in Barking and Dagenham, Trinity School currently has over 310 students. With a vision to be a leading centre in complex SEND provision and ensure outstanding person-centric achievements, the school recently looked to upgrade its existing facilities.

Medifloor was brought in to manage these upgrades and installed over 1,300m<sup>2</sup> of Forbo flooring across the school's core circulation areas. James Gordon, director at Medifloor, said: "With over 300 vulnerable students with various special educational needs and disabilities, safety was crucial. This was one of the reasons behind the specification of Forbo flooring, with the school actually reaching out to the manufacturer directly. Forbo's showroom manager Chris Crowley recommended the Surestep Wood collection, with the Step range of safety vinyl providing a complete portfolio of non-slip floorcoverings, designed for a range of applications.

"As well as providing a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) compliant R10 rating and guaranteed lifetime slip resistance performance, the school desired a wood-effect design. The Shell Twine colourway was recommended, helping to create a linear pattern that flowed with the direction of travel through the corridors, as well as being reminiscent of a true wood flooring. When it came to the installation, I ensured that this continuous pattern was maintained, perfectly matching up each vinyl sheet to do so."

Forbo's Surestep safety vinyl was installed across all of the school corridors, which presented its own challenges. James explained: "The school building is formed of two sections – one that was built in the 2000s and the other dating from the 1970s. We had to carefully consider this when it came to fitting the new floor, with the older section presenting more issues in terms of damp and damaged substrates, requiring damp proof membranes (DPMs) and additional preparation.

"Another challenge was the amount of material we were working with, with some of the corridors measuring up to 60 metres long. This meant we had to be careful when fitting the floorcoverings to ensure we were matching up the linear patterns on each sheet. Through a combination of cross joining and carefully going over the top of the flooring to ensure it was completely straight, we were able to achieve this appearance."

With work beginning at the end of July and taking around five weeks to complete, the school is now back open and in full use. Jo Long, Headteacher at Trinity School, commented: "We're really pleased with the work done by Medifloor – the flooring looks fantastic and adds an extra layer of safety for our students. Thanks also goes to Chris Crowley at Forbo who helped us pick out the flooring in the first place, with his knowledge and expertise proving invaluable throughout the whole process and indeed in achieving the finished product."

[www.forbo.com](http://www.forbo.com)







# FAST-TRACK FINISH

## F. Ball cuts waiting times at Suffolk County Council.

Donnelly Watson Flooring, based in Ipswich, opted for fast-track subfloor preparation products from F. Ball and Co. Ltd. to create a perfectly smooth, hardwearing base for the receipt of vinyl floorcoverings as part of a canteen refurbishment at Endeavour House, Suffolk County Council.

Faced with an uneven screed and high subfloor relative humidity levels, contractors used Stopgap 1200 moisture tolerant smoothing compound to create a level surface prior to the application of Stopgap F77 waterproof surface membrane. A layer of F. Ball's Stopgap 300 heavy duty smoothing compound was then applied to ensure the floor would be able to withstand the high levels of foot traffic it was expected to be subject to.

The first point of action was to assess the condition of the subfloor. This included carrying out a moisture test, which indicated the Relative Humidity (RH) levels in the newly-installed concrete screed were higher than the 75% maximum threshold for installing floorcoverings. Rather than waiting for the residual construction moisture to evaporate, it was decided to apply a waterproof surface membrane to stop excess subfloor moisture damaging adhesives and floorcoverings and potentially causing complete floor failure.

Contractors also noted that the screed was particularly uneven. If a waterproof surface membrane is applied over a rough or uneven subfloor, it may pool in undulations on the surface. This will necessitate a greater quantity of product to achieve full coverage, adding more expense to the project. It can also result in an extended curing time for the areas where the membrane has pooled.

In instances such as these, a smoothing compound can be applied over the uneven subfloor to help achieve a more even

coverage rate of a subsequently applied waterproof surface membrane. In these situations, a moisture tolerant smoothing compound must be used, so contractors opted to apply F. Ball's Stopgap 1200 smoothing compound.

Stopgap 1200 is a low-odour, fast-setting, fast-drying smoothing compound suitable for preparing sound internal subfloors prior to the installation of new floorcoverings. It has the added benefit of being suitable for application over old adhesive residues, such as bitumen and carpet tile tackifiers without the need for priming. It is also ready to receive floorcoverings from as little as four hours after application, adding to its suitability for fast-track installations.

Once the smoothing compound had cured, F. Ball's Stopgap F77 waterproof surface membrane was applied over the area where floorcoverings were to be installed. Stopgap F77 cures to create a barrier against excess subfloor moisture where RH levels are up to 98%, with a single coat application, in as little as three hours.

Contractors then applied F. Ball's Stopgap P141 primer, which is designed to create a textured finish to enhance bond performance between smoothing compounds and non-absorbent surfaces, including waterproof surface membranes. Stopgap P141 is also rapid-drying, allowing contractors to quickly proceed to the next stage of the subfloor preparation process.

Finally, Stopgap 300 heavy-duty smoothing compound was applied to create a perfectly smooth and hardwearing base for the receipt of luxury vinyl tiles. As well as being suitable for use in areas subject to heavy traffic and high footfall, such as the canteen, it is also fast-setting and fast-drying, and is walk on hard from just 90 minutes following application.

Commenting on the project, Daniel Donnelly, director at Donnelly Watson, said: "Using a particular combination of fast-track products from F. Ball meant that we could move quickly and efficiently from one stage of the subfloor preparation to the next, minimising the time the area remained off limits, avoiding waste and enabling the canteen to open on time."

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# TOP MARKS

Bostik helps overcome the flooring challenges of modular construction at a Derby secondary school, delivering a durable, high-performance solution on schedule.

When Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy in Derby required a flooring system for its new two-storey building, delivered by modular building specialist Algeco, Envira Floors Ltd turned to Bostik for technical support and a comprehensive product solution. The multi-million-pound project demanded a flooring approach that could address the unique challenges of modular construction whilst meeting the rigorous demands of an active educational environment. The new block brings together the academy's science laboratories and teaching spaces, increasing the need for a safe, durable and easy-to-clean flooring solution.

## ■ JOINTS & MOISTURE MANAGEMENT

Modular construction offers significant advantages in speed and cost-efficiency, but it also presents distinct flooring challenges. At Saint Benedict's Academy, Bostik's technical team identified two primary concerns during their initial site assessment.

Moisture testing revealed a split condition across the building. The ground floor recorded elevated humidity levels requiring a surface-applied damp proof membrane, whilst the upper floor tested satisfactorily dry and did not require additional moisture protection.

The second challenge centred on the joints – the seams where individual modular units are bolted together. These joints,

measuring between 3mm and 6mm, are subject to vibration and slight lateral movement. Without proper treatment, they could telegraph through the floorcovering or compromise the integrity of the installation. A flexible, resilient solution was essential to accommodate this movement whilst maintaining a smooth, level surface.

“The joints were a particular concern – we needed a solution that would remain stable over time.”

“Modular builds move quickly, so we needed a flooring system that could keep pace with the programme whilst addressing the technical issues specific to this type of construction,” explained Emma Wilson, contracts director at Envira Floors Ltd. “The joints were a particular concern – we needed a solution that would remain stable over time.”

## ■ A COMPLETE SYSTEM APPROACH

Following a comprehensive site inspection and moisture assessment in accordance with British Standards, Bostik's Technical Consultant specified a complete system solution tailored to the project's requirements.

The first phase involved addressing the joints using Bostik GRIP X910 FILL & WOOD, a two-component resin-based primer and filler. This product's high bond strength and inherent flexibility made it ideal for accommodating the slight movement at the





joint interfaces. The material was trowelled into the joints to create a level, stable base that would flex with the substrate rather than crack or delaminate.

For the ground floor, where moisture readings exceeded acceptable levels, Bostik specified HYTEC P510 RENORAPID – a fast-drying, single-component damp proof membrane. This two-coat system provides protection against moisture levels up to 95% RH and dries in just one to two hours per coat, allowing the installation to proceed without lengthy delays. The rapid cure time was particularly valuable on a fast-track modular project where programme adherence was critical.

Once the DPM had fully cured, the entire substrate was primed with Bostik GRIP A526 UNIVERSAL, a water-based acrylic dispersion primer. This multipurpose product improved the bond of subsequent layers and extended the working time of the smoothing compound for an optimal finish.

The smoothing phase relied on Bostik SL C530 FLEX, a fibre-reinforced, flexible smoothing compound with a compressive strength of 30N/mm<sup>2</sup>. Its flexibility made it particularly suited to substrates subject to minimal vibration or movement, whilst its rapid-setting characteristics aligned with the project's tight schedule. Applied at a thickness of 3mm, it provided a smooth, level surface ready to receive the final floorcovering.

"Bostik's technical support throughout the installation was invaluable," added Emma Wilson. "They didn't just recommend products – they visited the site to support the installation team, which made a real difference to the quality and efficiency of the work."

The final floor finish comprised sheet PVC, in the form of Altro Walkway 20 safety flooring, bonded using Bostik STIX A800 PREMIUM – an ultra-high-performance adhesive designed for resilient floorcoverings. With its strong initial grab, extended open time, and very low VOC emissions, STIX A800 PREMIUM

delivered a reliable, long-lasting bond suitable for the high-traffic demands of a school environment.

## ■ ON SCHEDULE

The flooring installation at Saint Benedict Catholic Voluntary Academy was completed on schedule, with the Bostik system

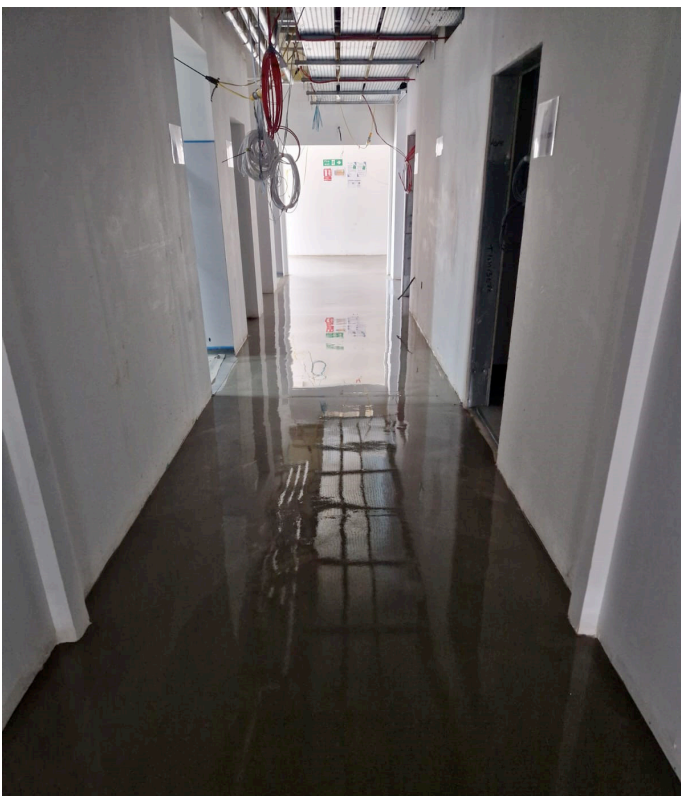
"Everything went smoothly, and the client was delighted with the finished result – fit for purpose, on time and problem-free."

solution successfully addressing both the moisture and bay joint challenges inherent in the modular construction. The combination of rapid-curing products and expert technical support ensured minimal disruption to the overall project timeline and aligned with Algeco's overarching modular construction programme.

"The team were really happy with how the products performed," Emma Wilson confirmed. "Everything went smoothly, and the client was delighted with the finished result. It's exactly the kind of installation you want – fit for purpose, on time, and problem-free."

The project demonstrates the importance of selecting the right system for the specific demands of modular construction. By combining comprehensive site assessment with targeted product solutions, Bostik ensured a durable, high-performance flooring installation that will withstand the rigours of daily school life for years to come.

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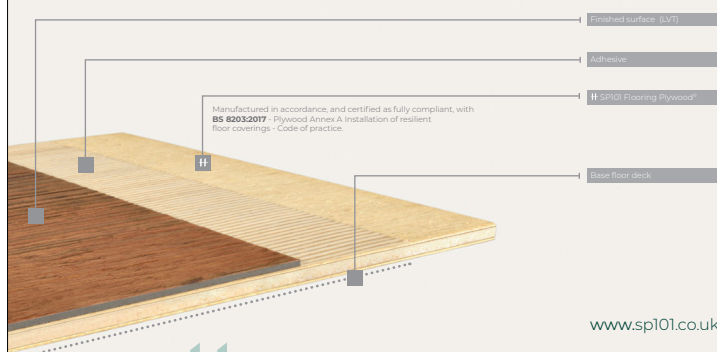
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www.stauf.de/en/  
www.uzin.co.uk

## ACOUSTIC FLOORING & INSULATION

www.wedi.net/uk

## ASSOCIATIONS

www.americanhardwood.org  
www.cfa.org.uk  
www.carpetrecyclinguk.com

## BESPOKE FLOORING

www.artwood-floors.com

## BLAST CLEANING

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

## BUILDING MATERIALS

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## BURNISHERS

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## CABLE MANAGEMENT TRIM

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## CARPET

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## FLOOR PREPARATION

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## LAMINATE FLOORING

www.elkaflooring.com

www.floorwise.co.uk

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## SAFETY FLOORING

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## SMOOTHING COMPOUNDS

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www.tramexmeters.eu

## TRAINING

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## TRIMS: HARDWOOD/METAL

www.floorstock.co.uk  
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## UNDERLAY

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## UPRIGHT VACUUMS

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## VACUUM CLEANERS & ACCESSORIES

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## VACUUM SPARES & ACCESSORIES

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## VINYLS

www.altro.co.uk  
www.hanson-plywood.co.uk  
www.malmoflooring.com  
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## WATERPROOFING

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## WOOD FINISHES

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