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EDITOR'S VOICE



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

With The Flooring Show just around the corner, there's plenty to look forward to as the UK flooring industry prepares to head to Harrogate later this month. Taking place from 20–22 September at Harrogate Convention Centre, the show promises three days of new products, practical learning, networking and the chance to catch up with colleagues and customers from across the industry. We're excited to be there and hope to see many of you at the show.

To help you make the most of your visit, our Flooring Show Guide gets you up to speed on what to expect, while elsewhere in this issue we explore some of the latest developments, and trends shaping the contract flooring sector.

Our vinyl and LVT feature includes a look at how Forbo Flooring Systems' floorcoverings helped meet the sustainability brief for a refurbished chiropractic clinic at the University of South Wales, with its Allura Flex vinyl flooring installed using IOBAC's innovative MagTab system. We also look at the importance of getting the foundations right, as Kerakoll showcases five smoothing compound solutions designed to help installers create the ideal substrate for LVT.

Training remains a key theme, with F. Ball head of training Tim Green explaining why continuing professional development is essential for maintaining a competitive edge, and how flooring professionals can access high-quality training for free. We also catch up with FITA & CFA training manager Mark Graham to find out how the FITA Digital App is helping floorlayers put their training into practice.

And in our carpet focus, Alternative Flooring brand manager Kirsty Barton explores the growing influence of pattern, explaining why patterned carpets are becoming the new neutrals for both contemporary and classic interiors.

As ever, we hope this issue provides plenty of inspiration and practical insight to take into your next project. And if you're heading to Harrogate, do come and visit us on Stand B56.

Sarah Robinson, Editor

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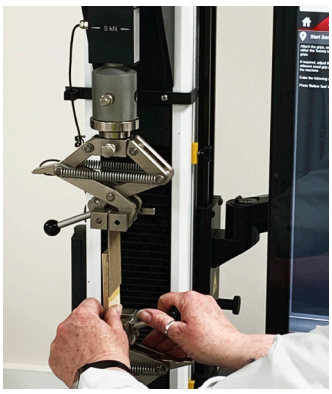
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Registered in England & Wales No: 06786728, Opus Business Media Ltd, Zurich House, Hulley Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2SF, ISSN: 2059 – 979X

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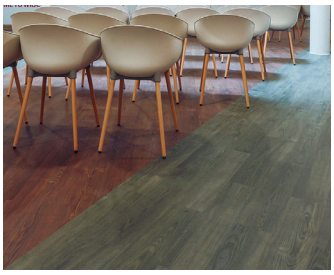


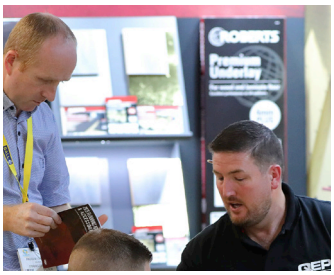


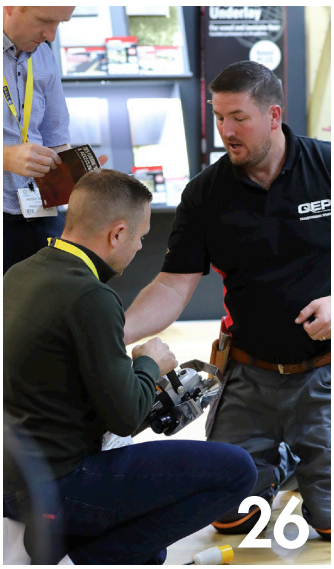




















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FURLONG FLOORING EXPANDS VINYL PORTFOLIO WITH THE LAUNCH OF SIGNATURE AND OAKLAND RANGES

Furlong Flooring has strengthened its comprehensive flooring portfolio with the launch of two new vinyl collections, Signature and Oakland. Designed to meet the needs of modern households, both ranges combine stylish aesthetics with practical performance, reinforcing Furlong's reputation as a leading UK flooring supplier.

Available in 2-metre, 3-metre and 4-metre widths, Signature and Oakland offer flexibility across a wide range of residential applications. Both collections are compatible with underfloor heating and offer strong resistance to household chemicals, ensuring long-lasting performance in busy homes.

SIGNATURE: REFINED DESIGN WITH PREMIUM PERFORMANCE

The Signature range sits at the top of the Furlong vinyl collection and represents a step up in design and comfort. The collection, available in 14 different decors, includes both plank and tile designs, delivering a natural, contemporary appearance that complements both modern and traditional interiors.

With a thickness of 3.8mm, Signature's felt backing provides enhanced comfort underfoot and delivers excellent 21dB sound reduction, helping to create quieter, more comfortable living spaces. Suitable for living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms and kitchens, the range is backed by a 15-year guarantee, offering reassurance alongside long-term durability.

OAKLAND: MODERN STYLE MADE PRACTICAL

The new Oakland collection has been developed to offer stylish design with everyday practicality. Available in 12 decors Oakland features a modern combination of herringbone and plank finishes that bring warmth and character to homes.

At 2.8mm thick, Oakland offers a more streamlined composition while still delivering dependable performance, including 18dB sound reduction. The range is supported by a five-year guarantee, making it a versatile, value-driven option.

A COMPREHENSIVE FLOORING PORTFOLIO

The launch of Signature and Oakland further enhances Furlong Flooring's extensive range of flooring solutions, which includes vinyl, carpet, laminate, LVT and barrier matting options. This breadth of product allows retailers, contractors and specifiers to source multiple flooring solutions from one trusted supplier, while maintaining consistency in quality and service.

Furlong Flooring's continued investment in UK manufacturing and operational capability enables greater control over quality, responsiveness and supply. By combining in-house expertise with design-led product development, Furlong remains well positioned to support the evolving needs of the UK flooring market.

DESIGNED TO WITHSTAND MODERN LIFE

Both new vinyl collections have been engineered with modern living in mind. Their durability, chemical resistance and suitability for underfloor heating ensure they perform as well as they look, making them ideal for busy households where practicality is just as important as design.

"With Signature and Oakland, our aim was to offer two distinct vinyl ranges that deliver on style, performance and value," said Ian Collacott, sales director at Furlong Flooring. "These collections reflect our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality flooring solutions that are designed, developed and supplied with the needs of modern UK homes firmly in mind."

With the introduction of Signature and Oakland, Furlong Flooring continues to build on its reputation for dependable quality, thoughtful design and comprehensive flooring solutions, reinforcing its position as a trusted partner to the trade.

www.furlongflooring.com



CFA ELECTS FIRST FEMALE VICE-PRESIDENT AS NEW COUNCIL TAKES SHAPE

The Contract Flooring Association held its Annual General Meeting on 14 July at Leicester Racecourse, electing a new leadership team and Council to represent members through 2026/27.

Mat Brown of Uzin Utz UK Ltd takes over as President from Alan McEwan, who steps down after two years at the helm. In a landmark moment for the Association, Louise Walters of Designer Contracts becomes the CFA's first female Vice-President, a milestone that reinforces the Association's growing focus on women in flooring. Carl Harper of Westcotes Flooring Co Ltd was elected Treasurer.

The CFA Council numbers 15 members, deliberately structured to reflect the make-up of the industry: eight contractors, five manufacturers, one distributor and one consultant, spanning businesses of every size. New and returning Council members include Kenny Smith of MacGregor Flooring, alongside re-elected representatives from across the sector.

CEO Richard Catt reported a strong year for the Association, citing successful lobbying that helped protect the specification of textile and timber flooring in new-build homes, continued progress on competence and site conditions, growth in apprenticeship numbers through FITA, and a financial position ahead of budget.

CFA can provide support for members in, bridging the skills and labour shortage, apprenticeships, wider training, technical support, late payment, dispute resolution and the emerging situation where flooring contractors will no longer have to suffer withheld retention. Members hear first!

Companies interested in the benefits of CFA membership, including direct input into the Association's Council and lobbying agenda, can find out more at the website below.

www.cfa.org.uk



CUT DOWN ON OCEAN WASTE AND FIGHT POVERTY WITH COMFYTEX DELUXE MAX

LeoLine Comfytex Deluxe Max features a textile backing for easy, glue-free installation, but it's no ordinary textile backing, saving the eqivalent of six bottles from the ocean for every 10 square metres installed.

While all textile backings from LeoLine include recycled plastic, it's only the Comfytex Deluxe Max range that features Social Plastic from Plastic Bank. Every day, Plastic Bank communities in Indonesia, the Philippines, Egypt, Brazil, Thailand and the Cameroon collect ocean-bound plastic waste and bring it to local centres, ready to turn into new material.

That means for every 10 square metres of LeoLine Comfytex Deluxe Max installed, the equivalent of six plastic bottles is saved from reaching the ocean. What's more, Plastic Bank rewards its local collectors with life-improving benefits including health, work and life insurance, grocery vouchers, school supplies and more. With Comfytex Deluxe Max, LeoLine is cutting down on ocean plastic and improving the lives of people in vulnerable coastal communities.

David Wray, national sales manager residential, said: "Using Social Plastic in our Comfytex Deluxe Max collection helps us to make a positive impact, not just in reducing ocean-bound plastic but also in supporting the lives of people affected by plastic waste. It means that every homeowner can choose Comfytex Deluxe Max knowing that they are playing a part in cutting down on waste and fighting poverty."

The use of Social Plastic comes as part of a wide range of initiatives undertaken by IVC to reduce the environmental impact of its cushion vinyl floors. This includes the Recover recycling programme for installation waste and old floors, replacing fillers with egg shells, recycling plasticizer condensate and using wind, solar and water in production.

leoline.co.uk



A SUPERHERO SAMPLING SERVICE FROM ADP

In a competitive marketplace, first impressions matter. Whether you're launching a new flooring collection or presenting to a key customer, the quality of your sampling can make all the difference. That's where SampleWorx, ADP's specialist sampling division, comes in.

With more than 50 years of combined industry experience, SampleWorx creates innovative sampling solutions that help flooring brands showcase their products professionally and effectively. From luxury vinyl tiles (LVT) and carpet tiles to vinyl flooring and accessories, every project is designed to bring products to life and leave a lasting impression.

The team offers a comprehensive range of bespoke sampling products, including folders, display boards, swatches, shade cards and swatch carriers, all tailored to suit individual brands and product ranges. Every project is supported by a commitment to exceptional customer service, competitive pricing, expert project management and reliable fulfilment.

Beyond production, SampleWorx provides complete warehousing and distribution services, ensuring samples are delivered accurately and on time. Whether it's a single swatch card, a nationwide product launch or direct-to-consumer fulfilment, the team has the expertise and infrastructure to keep your samples moving.

For manufacturers and distributors looking to elevate their product presentation, SampleWorx delivers creative sampling solutions backed by the service and reliability of ADP.

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

www.adp-distribution.co.uk.



IVC COMMERCIAL SHOWS ITS CARING SIDE AT THE CARE SHOW BIRMINGHAM

IVC Commercial is exhibiting at the Care Show Birmingham, the UK's leading event for the care community. It will use the show to demonstrate how its European-made sheet vinyl floors can support the wellbeing and independence of care residents while delivering excellent long-term value, durability and ease of maintenance.

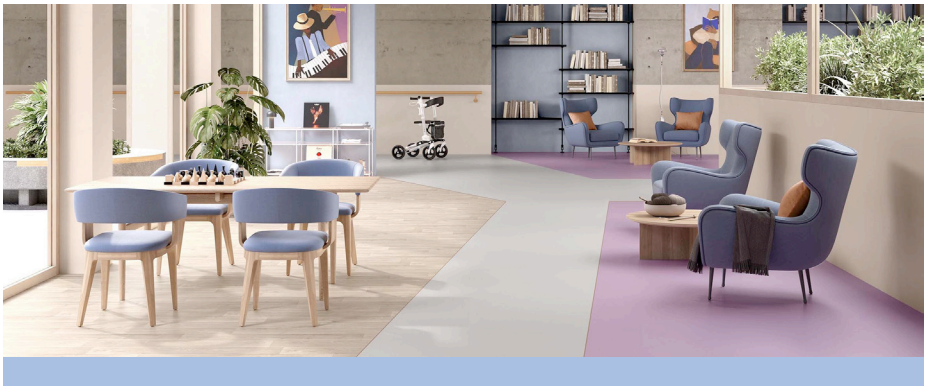
Jake Parks, national sales manager commercial, said: "As the UK's leading event for the sector, the Care Show is a fantastic opportunity for us to spend time with specifiers and explain how our sheet vinyl floors can deliver the durability, safety and hygiene they need while also ensuring residents benefit from welcoming designs that help them to feel settled in their environment. We're looking forward to meeting delegates and hearing from the sector on what they need from their choice of flooring."

Through ranges with a highly durable and long-lasting 0.70mm wear layer that delivers class 34 performance, IVC Commercial's floors can withstand intense use, including from wheeled traffic such as wheelchairs, mobility aids and care equipment. They are also finished with Hyperguard+, a permanent PUR coating that resists stains and scuffs and makes cleaning easier. Selected floors include Sanitec anti-bacterial protection to inhibit the growth of bacteria and mould and improve hygiene. Specialist slip-resistant safety and acoustic specifications are also available.

Across all its collections, IVC Commercial delivers a wide range of natural wood designs that offer a homely, welcoming feel for care settings. With LRV available for all its designs and different planks sizes, grain effects and colours; they can be used to aid navigation and help residents to understand their space, while also creating a 'sense of home'. Helping residents to feel calmer, IVC Commercial floors support their wellbeing and independence.

IVC Commercial, Stand M25, Care Show Birmingham, NEC, Birmingham, 7-8 October 2026

www.ivc-commercial.com



FORBO REFRESHES ITS POPULAR TESSERA LAYOUT, OUTLINE AND INLINE RANGES WITH CONTEMPORARY COLOUR PALETTES



Reaffirming its expertise in commercial textile floorcoverings, Forbo Flooring Systems has curated a refreshed colour palette for three of its core design ranges within the Tessera collection of carpet tiles: Layout, Outline and Inline.

These latest updates reflect the ever-evolving colour trends within education and office interiors, shifting the Tessera palette from bright, bold and eccentric accents to more muted and softer styled colourways, in turn enhancing its compatibility with modern design. Layout, Outline and Inline form a versatile family of ranges with connecting yarns and colours, helping specifiers and contractors to create complementary schemes all at an accessible entry-level price.

Manufactured and stocked in Lancashire, UK, the updated Layout and Outline ranges consist of a selection of 41 colourways, (34 Layout and 7 Outline) each bringing a new level of elegance to the low-level loop category of carpet tiles. While Layout offers a more subtle texture and block colour palette, Outline showcases a refined linear stripe that features highlight colours present in the Layout range.

Accompanying Layout and Outline is Tessera Inline, with the multi-level loop construction providing a unique pattern and texture. Available in 12 colourways, each incorporating subtle pops of colour in more muted tones, its geometric and linear patterning is subtle and soft, ideal for a wide range of commercial locations.

Speaking on the updated ranges, Donna Hannaway, head of marketing UK and Ireland at Forbo, said: "The Tessera Layout, Outline and Inline collections have long been a go-to flooring solution, trusted by architects, specifiers and contractors as an affordable choice for a wide range of office and education environments. This latest relaunch introduces a series of refreshed designs that respond to evolving interior trends and the growing demand for beautifully integrated flooring schemes. The result is a versatile portfolio, available at an accessible entry-level price point."

Tessera Layout, Outline and Inline are all available in 50cm x 50cm tiles. Designed and made in the UK using 100% renewable energy (electricity and biogas), they contain a minimum of 61% recycled content and offer low embodied carbon of less than 4kg e/m2 (A1-A3) without offsetting. The ranges are made with 100% solution dyed polyamide, making them hardwearing and achieving class 33 for commercial use, ideal for sectors like workplaces and education. As well as ensuring healthier indoor environments with its Indoor Air Comfort Gold and GUT certification.

Forbo further expands its efforts towards sustainable standards with its partnership with The Salvation Army and support of the Take Back scheme. Creating opportunities to re-use recycled carpet tiles, support local communities and benefit the environment, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill.

www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/Tessera



BAL LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE WITH ENHANCED DIGITAL TOOLS

Full tiling solutions specialist BAL has launched its new brand website, www.bal-adhesives.com, delivering a streamlined, user-friendly experience designed to make it easier than ever to find products, access technical information and plan tiling projects.

The new website marks a significant evolution from the previous platform, moving away from a complex segmented user experience to provide a single, intuitive destination suitable for tilers, fixers, distributors and specifiers alike.

Built with a responsive and fluid design, the new website has been developed with mobile users in mind, reflecting how the majority of people access BAL's digital resources.

Enhanced navigation and improved functionality ensure visitors can quickly find the information and products they need, whether on site, in store or on the move.

Among the new features available on the website are:

- **Product Comparison Tool** – Compare technical data and key features of similar products side-by-side so you can choose the right product for your project.
- **Smart Product Search** – Find the products needed for your project using a simple wizard drop down to select the tile type, area and substrate to find suitable products for that installation.
- **Job List** – While browsing users can select the products and quantities required for a job (adding them to a basket) and then email the list to themselves as an easy reference to order. Select by product, size and colour.
- **Personalised Technical Document Creator** – Create a singular bespoke PDF document with the specific technical documents required for your project. Name the project and create a bespoke cover.

The website also incorporates a range of essential resources and support tools, including:

- **Stockist locator** – Find your nearest BAL stockist and contact them for stock information. Includes all online stockists.
- **Key sales and technical contacts** – Find your local BAL Training and Technical Support Manager or Areas Sales Manager for project support, moisture testing and sales advice.
- **GivBax Rewards points information and national GivBax offers** – Get Cashback on BAL products through GivBax Rewards, see the points for all BAL products and log-in to your GivBax account through the site.
- **Product calculators** – Work out how much BAL product you need on your tiling project. Then add the correct quantity to your job list.
- **Sustainability information** – See how BAL are a sustainable manufacturer, with the goal of being Carbon Neutral (scope 1 and 2) by 2030.
- **Specification support** – Find your local Business Development Manager to assist with your major tiling project. Access NBS Source and add BAL BIM Objects to your design project.
- **Technical guidance and product documentation** – View BAL's Blog and technical documents to ensure you are tiling correctly in line with British Standards and Best Practice.

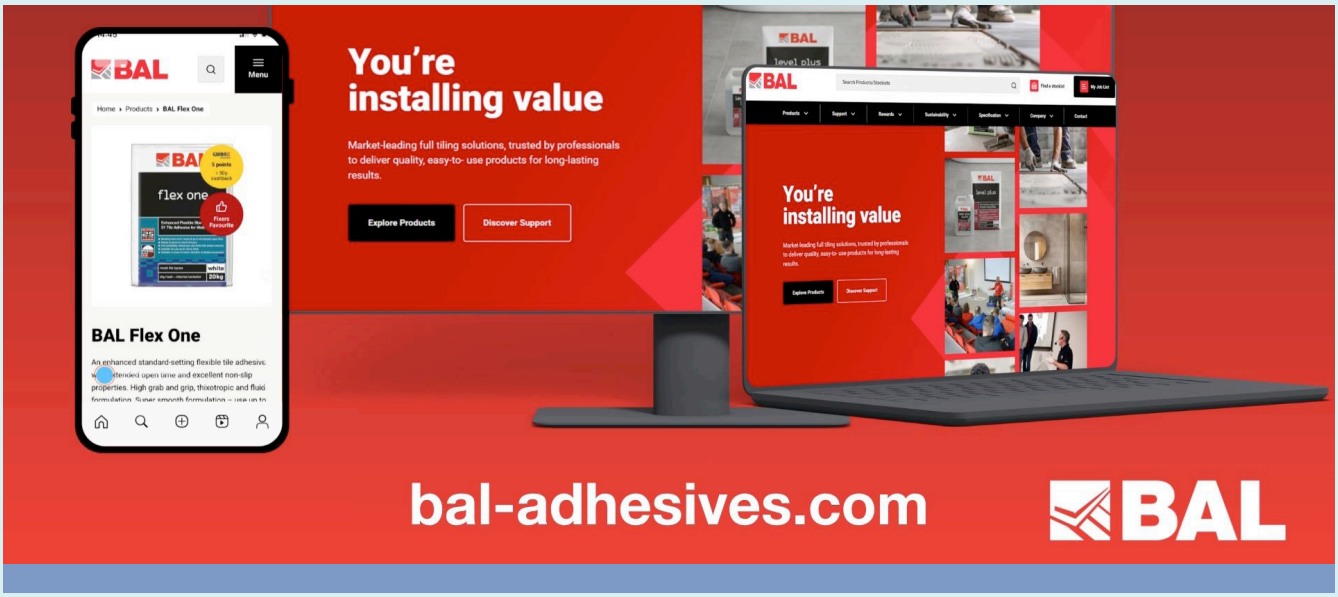
Alex Underwood, head of marketing at BAL said: "The launch of our new website represents a major investment in improving the customer experience and providing easier access to the products, tools and technical support our customers need.

"We've focused on creating a faster, more intuitive platform that helps contractors, retailers, distributors and specifiers find the right solutions quickly and efficiently. The new features have been designed to add real value and make planning and delivering tiling projects simpler than ever."

The new BAL website has been created to support customers at every stage of the project journey, from product selection and specification through to installation and aftercare.

Customers are invited to explore the new digital experience and discover the enhanced features, resources and support available online.

www.bal-adhesives.com



MODULEO UPDATES ROOTS



Moduleo Roots luxury vinyl planks and tiles bring the natural calm of the outdoors into homes. Warm underfoot, pleasantly quiet and beautifully detailed, Roots floors are designed to feel as natural as they look. With the freedom to mix and match woods, stones and colours; Roots lets homeowners create a space that reflects their own rhythm of life and personality.

For 2026, Roots has been transformed into a refined collection that doesn't stifle choice but let's homeowners enjoy a more tangible and straightforward approach to choosing their new floor. Still designed and made in Belgium, the new look Roots brings unparalleled choice, refined aesthetics and long-lasting performance.

With a wide palette of colours and formats, the new Roots gives designers and homeowners the freedom to build coherent, flowing interiors. Mixing planks and tiles, with Roots each room evolves naturally around its function and mood, a key trend in modular and multi functional living.

The new wave of Roots designs are anchored in current and emerging interior trends, with a focus on the UK and Irish customer's preference for cosy, warm tones that complement traditional and contemporary homes. The range is comprised of soft neutral beiges, blends of grey and beige tones, timeless mid-tone honeys and deeper warm rich browns.

Each design expresses its beauty through a relationship with texture, material and light, expressed in four key themes. From rich oak and smooth stone to soft concrete, these themes offer the freedom to mix and match materials and colours to create a space that feels personal and balanced:

RECLAIM THE HERITAGE

Materials and textures inspired by nature that reveal depth and character rather than loud patterns or heavy contrasts.

GENTLE BRUTALISM

Clean lines and pure forms that share architectural simplicity and a calm, contemporary clarity that creates focus and balance.

SUNLIT EASE

Designs that shift subtly with daylight, adding quiet dynamism and a lived-in warmth.

JOYFUL MINIMALISM

A foundation that's serene and understated yet flexible enough for personality, colour and creativity.

These new trends will be coming to Moduleo stockists this autumn as the brand rolls out the new Roots collection to unite the style, strength and comfort that makes every home feel naturally inviting. Designed for everyday life, each Moduleo Roots floor resists water, scratches and stains, and comes with a lifetime warranty.

moduleo.com



KELMORE STRENGTHENS TEAM WITH STRATEGIC SALES MANAGER APPOINTMENTS

Kelmore has strengthened its national sales team with the appointment of two experienced area sales managers.

Alysse Campany will support flooring customers across the South East of England, while Cian O'Leary becomes Kelmore's first dedicated area sales manager for Ireland, supporting customers across the tiling and flooring sectors.

Alysse joins with more than 16 years' experience in the flooring industry, spanning sales and operational roles. During her time at PFC Flooring Supplies, she was responsible for Kelmore sales and supported the company's launch and early development, giving her first-hand experience of its products and customers.

She said: "I'm really excited to be joining Kelmore at such an exciting stage in the company's journey. The business has built a fantastic reputation in a short space of time, and I'm looking forward to working closely with the team and our customers across the South East."

Cian brings 20 years' sales experience spanning manufacturing, ceramics and flooring. His appointment marks an important milestone as Kelmore's first area sales manager in Ireland.

He said: "Kelmore has achieved an incredible amount in a relatively short period, and I'm delighted to be joining the team to help develop the brand further across Ireland."

Steve Kean, head of sales at Kelmore, commented: "We're delighted to welcome both Alysse and Cian to the Kelmore team. They each bring a huge amount of industry knowledge, strong customer relationships, and a genuine passion for supporting customers.

"As Kelmore continues to grow, we know how vital it is to invest in the right people who can provide the level of service and technical support our customers expect.

"These appointments not only strengthen our presence in key regions but also demonstrate our ongoing commitment to being there for our customers in every location. We're excited to see the positive impact Alysse and Cian will have as we continue building on our early success."

https://kelmore.co.uk



KEMTILE BOOSTS TURNKEY PROJECT SERVICES WITH NEW ACCOUNT MANAGER



Industrial hygienic flooring specialist Kemtile has appointed Louis Waugh as account manager following a 12-month secondment as health & safety manager.

The move will see the experienced environmental, health & safety (EHS) and construction manager take responsibility for client services across civils and smaller turnkey projects, including hygienic flooring, drainage and associated works.

The appointment marks a 10-year career with Kemtile for Louis, who commented: "Taking on this position feels like a natural progression."

Louis brings extensive experience managing complex projects across demanding sectors including food and pharmaceuticals. He is passionate about creating safe, efficient and compliant environments and delivering flooring that exceeds expectations.

Kemtile director Jamie Cook said: "Louis has successfully led diverse projects, from site refurbishments and structural improvements to major shutdowns and large-scale equipment installations, so he is ideally qualified to move into account management and the close client liaison required.

"His hands-on approach, combined with a strong understanding of CDM regulations and international safety standards, has delivered high-quality results on time and within budget. We wish him every success in the new role," he added.

Louis said he was looking forward to building collaborative relationships with clients, contractors and stakeholders. "I enjoy the challenge," he said.

Previous experience includes transforming an old manufacturing facility into a food production plant, delivering pharmaceutical facility upgrades, shutdowns and refurbishments, and overseeing projects for brands including Airbus, Unilever, Bakkavor, Lonza, Grupo Bimbo and Nutricia.

In his new role, Louis will develop and manage client relationships across Kemtile's civils, drainage and hygienic flooring projects, while coordinating delivery with operational teams.

He will also be involved in preparing scopes of work, proposals, and quotations to identify opportunities in smaller turnkey projects, providing technical support and service throughout the project lifecycle.

https://kemtile.co.uk

MONEY-SAVING EXPERT

F. Ball technical director Neil Sanders provides ways to save money without compromising on installation quality.

With rising costs squeezing margins as well as customers' ability to afford new flooring, it is more important than ever for flooring contractors to know how to keep costs down. Fortunately, there are numerous ways to save money without cutting corners or using inferior quality products.

The starting point should always be to follow recommended subfloor preparation and floorcovering installation processes. This ensures a long-lasting flooring installation without the possibility of costly recalls and delays to projects. It is also useful to know about products, or combinations of products, that can save time and expense in certain situations. For example, thixotropic primers, applied over chipboard subfloors, prime the surface while filling gaps between panels and avoid the need to overboard with plywood, saving both time and expense.



COVERAGE RATES

Using the correct amount of product is critical for the performance of an installation while avoiding unnecessary expense. In the case of adhesives, for instance, if too little is used, it may not deliver the required bond strength throughout the life of the installation, potentially leading to floor failure. Apply too much and it can extend the drying time or mean that they fail to dry properly, which will also reduce the final bond strength. Furthermore, excess adhesive may seep through floorcoverings and cause bleeding at joints. In sheet floorcoverings, it can cause indentations to appear. For this reason, the use of the correct trowel for the correct adhesive according to instructions, is important.

F. Ball's RAG app, which details the compatibility of all of the company's adhesives with over 6,000 floorcoverings from more than 200 international manufacturers and is free to download from the Apple App store or Google Play, provides a handy product coverage calculator to work out exactly how much adhesive that you will need for a particular project.

The same coverage calculator, which is available on F. Ball's website, can be used to work out how much of an F. Ball smoothing compound will be required for an installation based on subfloor area.

VOLUME VERSUS WEIGHT

It also pays to be aware of packaging decisions when assessing value when purchasing adhesives.

In recent years, there has been a trend towards stating quantities on product packaging by weight (i.e. kilos) rather than the standard UK measurement, which is volume (litres). While there is nothing wrong with this in itself, there is the chance that it could be inadvertently misleading for someone who may equate volume with weight. In fact, a given number of litres of an adhesive will almost always give a significantly greater volume than the same number of kilos of the product because of its relative density.

If two containers of adhesive (one litres and the other kilos) are being sold at virtually the same price, as is often the case, it means that you are getting significantly less product for your money from the product that is sold in kilos. A case in point is F. Ball's Styccobond F58 PLUS fast-drying, fibre-reinforced, pressure sensitive adhesive for LVTs, which is available in 15L and 5L units, but 15 litres of the product weighs 17.25kg, nearly 15% more than products sold by equivalent weight.

RECYCLING SCHEME

F. Ball is also helping to reduce costs associated with waste disposal while making it easier for flooring contractors to do their bit for the environment by providing locations at select distributors where contractors can deposit empty recyclable F. Ball buckets and bottles for recycling, for free.

The scheme has been steadily expanded in response to a positive reception from flooring contractors, with bin-loads of empty containers that would have otherwise been destined for landfill being taken back for reprocessing.

This follows the introduction of recyclable packaging for a number of F. Ball products, with much of the new packaging itself manufactured from recycled materials, including fully recyclable versions of plastic bottles used for gauging liquids, primers and tackifiers.

BALL REWARDS

One method of saving money that is open to members of the Ball Rewards loyalty programme is to claim cashback on all purchases of F. Ball products made through approved distributors. It is completely free to join, and in addition to regular cashback, members gain access to a wide range of benefits, including the opportunity to enter monthly competitions to win exclusive prizes, advanced previews of new products and access to F. Ball's e-newsletter, F-Talk. The cashback value is usually 2.5%, but there are special promotions each quarter, often giving the chance to claim extra cashback on particular products. Over 10 years since it launched, it has returned more than £9.5m to flooring contractors and retailers.

https://f-ball.com

COMPATIBILITY TEST

F. Ball reveals how its Technical Service Department rigorously tests adhesive and floorcovering compatibility to ensure contractors can rely on the recommendations in its industry-leading Recommended Adhesives Guide.

Every year for over half a century, F. Ball and Co. Ltd. has produced an update of its industry-leading guide to floorcovering-adhesive compatibility, the Recommended Adhesives Guide (RAG®). The guide enables contractors to quickly check the compatibility of F. Ball adhesives with over 6,000 branded floorcoverings from more than 200 leading international floorcovering manufacturers, offering the most comprehensive guide to floorcovering-adhesive compatibility available.

The publication is updated each year to include the latest adhesives recommendations for floorcoverings launched by manufacturers over the past 12 months.

But how does it make sure that flooring professionals can rely on its advice that adhesives are compatible with the floorcovering in question and will perform throughout the lifetime of any flooring installation?

EXPERTS IN FLOORING

This is the task of the company's Technical Service Department, which spends thousands of hours each year rigorously testing the performance of F. Ball adhesives with a vast range of different floorcoverings in controlled conditions at the company's purpose-built laboratory at its Staffordshire headquarters.

> "Tests are designed to replicate the stresses adhesives face in real life."

Criteria for measuring the bond performance of adhesives with floorcoverings is based on BS EN ISO, and the tests measure initial grab, as well as bond performance over time, using state-of-the-art equipment designed to simulate the effects of ageing.

TESTING, TESTING…

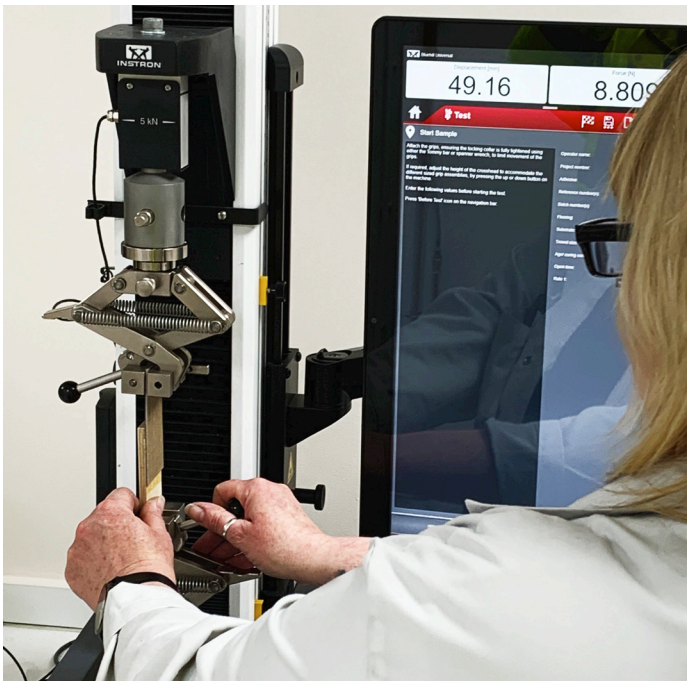
'Shear' tests measure the ability of an adhesive to resist lateral movement when used to bond a particular floorcovering. This involves using a tensometer, to measure the force required to the floorcovering from the substrate.

The 'peel' test also uses a tensometer, but measures the force required to peel the floorcovering away from the substrate at a 90-degree angle.

REAL-LIFE PRESSURES

Tests are also designed to see how bonds stand up to stresses that they are typically exposed to in real life.

For example, the castor chair test assesses the bond performance of particular adhesives with different floorcoverings



when subjected to the movements of chairs with castor wheels typically encountered in an office environment. The 'point load' test is used to see how release bonds perform under loading.

TEMPERATURE CHECK

Specific to vinyl adhesives, a dimensional stability test is carried out to assess an adhesive's ability to resist the natural shrinkage of vinyl.

For this, samples of a vinyl floorcovering are bonded to a dimensionally stable, rigid substrate and left for several intervals at different temperatures before being measured.

Other dimensional stability tests examine whether an adhesive and floorcovering will stand up to the impact of regular wet cleaning techniques.

STAYING ON THE BALL

With so many adhesive recommendations for floorcoverings made by many different manufacturers from around the world, keeping on top of developments to make sure all of the recommendations are up to date has become a full-time job for F. Ball Liaison Manager, Paul Starkey.

"I maintain close relationships between F. Ball and floorcovering manufacturers, who inform me if they are about to bring a new floorcovering to market so we can test adhesive compatibility and update the RAG® allowing contractors to get the information they need," said Paul.

https://f-ball.com


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SMART FOUNDATIONS

When the University of South Wales was looking to expand its on-site chiropractic clinic, architecture and design practice Stride Treglown was appointed to carry out the works. To achieve the sustainability principles included in the brief, a number of Forbo Flooring Systems' floorcoverings were specified, including its Allura Flex vinyl using the innovative IOBAC MagTab system.

Ranked among the top 50 UK universities in the Guardian University Guide 2026, the University of South Wales (USW) prioritises hands-on learning, with state-of-the-art facilities. Most recently, this has seen the construction of a new £6m chiropractic clinic, home to the Welsh Institute of Chiropractic (WIOC). The two-storey building includes 26 treatment rooms, seminar spaces, DXA (bone density) and diagnostic ultrasound facilities, openly accessible for both students and the public.

Marié Nevin, project architect at Stride Treglown, commented: "Our brief involved the design and delivery of the new clinic space, with sustainability at the brief's core. The university has pledged to achieve Net Zero by 2040 and so the incorporation of environmentally conscious finishes was very important. As well as using a blue green roof and solar panels, the interior finishes also contributed to the creation of an environmentally conscious space."

Supporting Stride Treglown was interior designer Kenton Simons who was tasked with delivering the initial concept design, as he explained: "When approaching any project, I first work to find a narrative and a solid basis to then build the design around. Given the building's function as a chiropractic clinic, my focus was on flow and movement. Biophilia was another design pillar, reflecting chiropractic care being a holistic medicine that seeks to treat the whole body and not just the origin of pain. I chose to select a combination of natural, muted tones and colours, helping to create a sense of calm. It was important to me that walls and floor surfaces sat back in the overarching scheme, to be present but not overpowering.

"Sustainability was a key part of the brief, with the university wanting the internal space to be fully reconfigurable in the future. In many ways, this flexibility is as just important from a sustainability standpoint as the sourcing of materials, ensuring that the interior can be adapted as the building's needs change, rather than being thrown away. It was here that the conversation started around raised access flooring."





After already engaging with Forbo earlier on in the specification process, Stride Treglown reached out to their local Forbo representative, Angharad Pocock, for further support, at which point they were directed towards its Allura Flex heterogeneous luxury vinyl tiles and planks and IOBAC MagTabs.



"Flexibility is just as important to sustainability as the sourcing of materials."

MagTabs are an innovative solution on the market, being magnetic on one side and dry tack on the other, locking the flooring together. This means that each tile can be easily lifted up without damaging the floorcovering itself or contaminating the metal raised access flooring, in the event of it needing replacing or repairing. Allura Flex was the ideal solution to go alongside this system, being one of the best loose lay solutions on the market for demanding applications.



Marié continued: "Allura Flex was also perfect from a design perspective, with its wood aesthetic meeting Kenton's biophilic design pillar. As well as offering a more natural look and feel, it complemented Kenton's recommendation for neutral, earthy colours. We installed this product across the treatment and circulation areas in the Dark Serene Oak, Sage Ash, Terra Ash, Light Timber, Forest Ash and Light Twine colourways, supporting effective wayfinding and the easy identification of entrances to the treatment rooms. As well as ticking the boxes for design, the whole Allura collection is very durable and long-lasting, able to withstand the busy nature of the clinic."

Allura is Forbo's popular range of luxury vinyl tile (LVT), a dimensionally stable, heterogeneous solution suitable for a variety of demanding applications. Allura Flex is of particular note due to its ability to be installed adhesive free in spaces up to 150m², contributing to material circularity with any old or damaged flooring able to be easily recycled, without adhesive residue on the back of the tiles or planks.

In addition to Allura Flex, Forbo's Coral entrance matting was installed in the Taupe design within the lobby area, adding a soft yet durable barrier matting to help prevent dirt and moisture build-up in the entranceway. This also extends the product guarantee on the other interior floorcoverings by 50%. Finally, Forbo's Surestep was installed in both stairwells to prioritise slip resistance between each floor, protecting staff, students and patients. This was specified in the Warm Mortar and Grey Terra colourways, again fitting in with the wider biophilic design principles.

A representative from the University of South Wales commented: "The University of South Wales are really pleased that the IOBAC MagTab system was brought to our attention. This is addition to the Allura Flex vinyl tile, which looks fantastic, was a very easy installation and is essential for us to maintain a clean environment when carrying out future maintenance – whether it be to the floor itself or to the services that sit beneath."

www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/education



FULL THROTTLE

F. Ball accelerates the National Motor Museum refurbishment with its subfloor preparation and adhesive systems, helping Infinite Tiling complete a fast-track vinyl flooring installation while avoiding the need to remove existing ceramic tiles.

Products from F. Ball and Co. Ltd. have been used to prepare subfloors and instal vinyl floorcoverings as part of the refurbishment of an exhibition space at the National Motor Museum in Beaulieu, Hampshire.

Appointed to upgrade the area, specialist flooring contractor Infinite Tiling Ltd required a fast-track solution capable of bonding to existing ceramic tiles covering the majority of the area to avoid the need for their removal.

The surrounding areas required building up by 35mm to meet the level of the quarry tiles. This was achieved by priming with F. Ball's Stopgap P131 general-purpose primer before applying the company's Stopgap 600 deep section base compound. While most smoothing compounds can be applied up to a maximum thickness of 20mm, Stopgap 600 can be applied at thicknesses between 5–75mm and cures to chemically bind the water in the product to allow it to be capped with a suitable Stopgap smoothing compound from three hours.

Ceramic tiles were primed with F. Ball's Stopgap P141, which is designed especially to promote the adhesion of smoothing compounds to non-absorbent surfaces, such as ceramic tiles, and coloured yellow to help gauge coverage.

Stopgap 1200 smoothing compound was then applied throughout the entire 900m² area. It is low-odour, self-smoothing and fast-drying. Applied at a thickness of 2-5mm, it is walk-on hard from 60 minutes and dry enough to receive floorcoverings in as little as four hours. It is formulated so that it can be applied over minimal old adhesive residues, eliminating the need for mechanical removal and saving time in these situations.

Finally, contractors used F. Ball's Styccobond F44 vinyl adhesive to install Altro vinyl safety flooring throughout the exhibition space.

Styccobond F44 is a solvent-free, acrylic emulsion adhesive, which provides high bond strength, strong initial tack and a long open time. It is protected against bio-degradation and suitable for securing a wide range of vinyl sheet and tile floorcoverings, rubber floorcoverings and some PVC or polyurethane-backed textile floorcoverings.

Mike Knapman, contracts manager at Infinite Tiling Ltd, said: "I love all F. Ball products. You can't beat Stopgap 1200. It's my go-to smoothing compound. We had a set timeframe in which we needed to complete the work, and the products meant that we could achieve this easily and the client was delighted with the results."

www.f-ball.com

Mercado

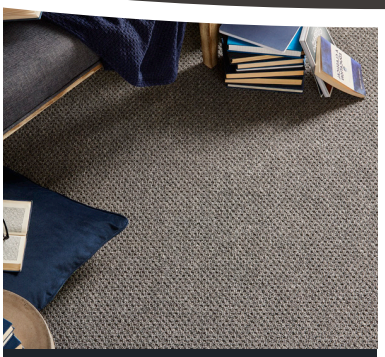
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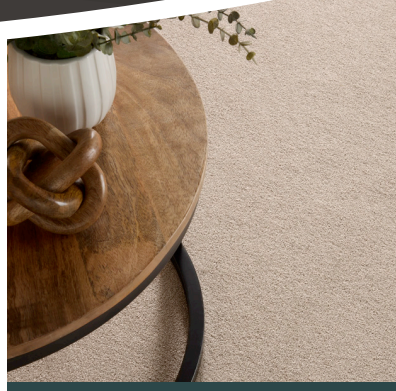
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DURABILITY WITHOUT COMPROMISE

Beauflor explores why durable cushion vinyl flooring is helping social housing providers reduce maintenance, extend product life and create comfortable living environments for tenants.

Durability is a key factor in the specification of kitchen and bathroom flooring in social housing, and Beauflor cushion vinyl flooring is the first line of defence against premature wear and early replacement.

Every day, flooring comes under attack and without the right durable solution, the risk of early deterioration, tenant complaints and repairs rises sharply. So, the specification of a floor that's up to the task is essential to ensuring a durable and lasting solution that reduces the risk of early replacement.

With varied household needs and unpredictable maintenance, durability is an essential requirement for any floorcovering, but the comfort and wellbeing of tenants also need to be considered. Failure to deliver on these will mean a compromised floor that fails to live up to standard. Beauflor sheet vinyl floors are made to fulfil all of these requirements: affordable, durable, easy to look after, comfortable and in a wide range of calming natural designs, they are the ideal choice.

For the best in durability, Xtreme and Phoni-Xtreme feature a 0.70mm wear layer for exceptional durability, meaning these floors deliver impressive wear performance and can withstand constant use. In fact, with a 10-year commercial use warranty, you're unlikely to find a more durable option that's also as affordable and comfortable.

With a wear layer over twice as thick as domestic sheet vinyl floors and Beauflor's low-maintenance Protech coating, these floors resist scuffs, scratches and daily abrasion, reducing telltale signs of visible wear – particularly important when maintenance schedules in private areas can't be guaranteed. The installation of Xtreme and Phoni-Xtreme is also fast and with multiple widths to choose from to reduce seams, less prone to damage and failure.

This durability is balanced by a floorcovering that enhances comfort and supports the wellbeing of tenants. Across a range of wood, chevron, concrete, terrazzo, stone and colour looks; Phoni-Xtreme and Xtreme offer a contemporary and welcoming floor design that tenants will find appealing and which they'll want to look after.

Phoni-Xtreme's 19dB of impact sound reduction is advantageous in multi-occupancy buildings where it can help to reduce noise between floors. Both floors also benefit from Antibacterial Shield to inhibit mould and mildew and are low VOC so will not adversely impact indoor air quality. Offering heightened slip-resistance, they are also safe underfoot, for a floor surface that ticks all the boxes of supporting tenants in their home.

With exceptional durability, underfoot comfort and features that support the wellbeing of tenants, Beauflor Phoni-Xtreme and Xtreme are durable and stylish flooring solutions for social housing projects.

www.beauflor.com

A SMOOTH FINISH

Kerakoll explains how its smoothing compound range helps installers create the perfect substrate for LVT, with five solutions designed to deliver flawless finishes across a range of applications.

Design LVT floors can be complicated to lay especially if the substrate surface is not perfectly smooth and level. This is where Kerakoll's smoothing compound range can help.

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

All five products have been very well received, but Proflow MVS has received a particularly good reception with contractors describing it as 'a game changer' due to the innovative nature of its formula. Its built-in moisture vapour suppressant barrier is effective up to 95% RH, eliminating the need for a separate moisture barrier and combining three potential product applications in one. It is also rapid-setting, allowing foot traffic after just 90 minutes, while still offering a 30-minute wet edge time.

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

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

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

"Proflow MVS combines three potential product applications in one."

Before smoothing, substrates should be treated with a primer. Kerakoll offers two: Primeplus which is perfect for controlling porosity on absorbent substrates, and Prime+ Grip which is ideal for consolidating the substrate or enhancing the adhesion of non-porous substrates, such as existing ceramic tiles and epoxy DPMs.

More information on the range is available on the Kerakoll website. You can also contact your local Sales Representative or the customer service team to arrange a trial or answer any questions you may have by calling 01772 456831 or emailing info@kerakoll.co.uk

www.kerakoll.co.uk



MANAGE MOISTURE



Jason Spangler, Wagner Meters' Vice President of Sales, explains why it's imperative not to leave moisture testing out of your commercial floorcovering installation.

Moisture testing isn't just a one-off check to tell you when it's safe to install flooring – it's a powerful asset throughout the installation process. It helps you get your project started on the right foot and then protect it long after it's completed.

Knowing how to incorporate moisture testing into your workflow will help you save time, money, and effort while protecting your professional reputation. By monitoring the moisture content in the materials you're working with, you'll be able to prevent expensive moisture damage and ensure high-quality installations.

THE DAMAGE MOISTURE TESTING PREVENTS

If you skip moisture testing, you run the risk of missing hidden excess moisture that could lead to adhesive failure or damage to the floorcovering.

For wooden materials, which are more susceptible to moisture, the first thing you may notice is a problem with the wood itself. If the concrete is too wet, the wood will swell and could cause cupping and, in extreme cases, buckling.

With non-wood floorcoverings such as laminate, carpet, or tile, adhesive failure is often the greatest concern. If the relative humidity (RH) is too high, moisture can condense below the adhesive and produce a caustic solution that can eventually break down your flooring adhesive.

Adhesive failure may not become apparent until further down the line, but just because it happens gradually certainly doesn't mean it's not a threat. Adhesive failure still causes flooring failure, hinders the longevity of your installation, and casts doubt on the quality of your work.

Fortunately, you can prevent moisture damage by understanding how to best manage moisture in every stage of your workflow – with ambient testing, RH testing, floor material testing, and post-installation monitoring.

PREPARING AMBIENT CONDITIONS

Before installing flooring, ensure the room is dry enough. Adjust the HVAC to get it to the right temperature and relative humidity (RH).

Appropriate service conditions may vary, depending on where you live and what kind of climate your region normally experiences. However, a temperature of 15.6C to 26.7C and RH between 30-50% is standard. Flooring manufacturers may also have guidelines on ideal service conditions.

An ambient data logger such as Smart Logger can monitor temperature and relative humidity over time rather than providing only a single reading. It can capture up to 16,384 readings at programmed intervals and transfer the results by Bluetooth to the Wagner Sentry app. This provides an accessible record of site conditions that can be stored and shared with clients.

Once the room has reached stable service conditions, the concrete subfloor should be assessed.

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR TESTING

Even if the surface looks dry, the concrete slab could still have high levels of moisture.The condensation from this moisture as it reaches the surface can endanger your flooring materials – especially if you're working with wood.

One way to protect against moisture condensing on the surface during installation is by keeping the surface temperature of the concrete 5-10C higher than the dewpoint temperature.

To determine the dewpoint temperature, measure the ambient temperature and RH% and put them into a dewpoint calculator. You can use an infrared temperature gun to make sure the concrete surface is at the proper temperature to be outside the window of danger.

You can also use a handheld meter, like the C555 Concrete Moisture Meter, to examine surface moisture trends. The C555 is fast, non-damaging, and twice more accurate than competing meters. However, like any surface meter, it can only identify the moisture condition of the surface of the concrete slab. Many UK flooring installers are satisfied with that, but some prefer to dig a little deeper, since moisture deeper in the slab can take longer to move upward to the surface. Even if that's the case, the C555 is often used to take relative readings, which helps identify higher moisture areas across the slab that may require further investigation with Rapid RH testing.



The Orion 950 can send moisture readings to the FloorSmart app where it can be safely stored or turned into a data report.

TESTING FOR MOISTURE THAT COULD LEAD TO CAUSTIC SOLUTIONS

Caustic solutions that form above the concrete slab and underneath the flooring material are harmful because they can break down adhesives, causing them to liquify so they can no longer hold down floorcoverings.

There are two ways caustic solutions can develop: when salts at the surface of the concrete get wet or when salts move with the moisture that rises from deeper in the slab, and then condense below the adhesive.

The best way to prevent adhesive failure is to use RH testing with in-situ probes. Just drill a hole 40% deep into the moisture hotspots you located with the concrete moisture meter and place a smart sensor inside. This smart sensor will capture relative humidity readings from deep within the concrete to get a more comprehensive picture of how much moisture is still in the slab, which will eventually move up to the surface.

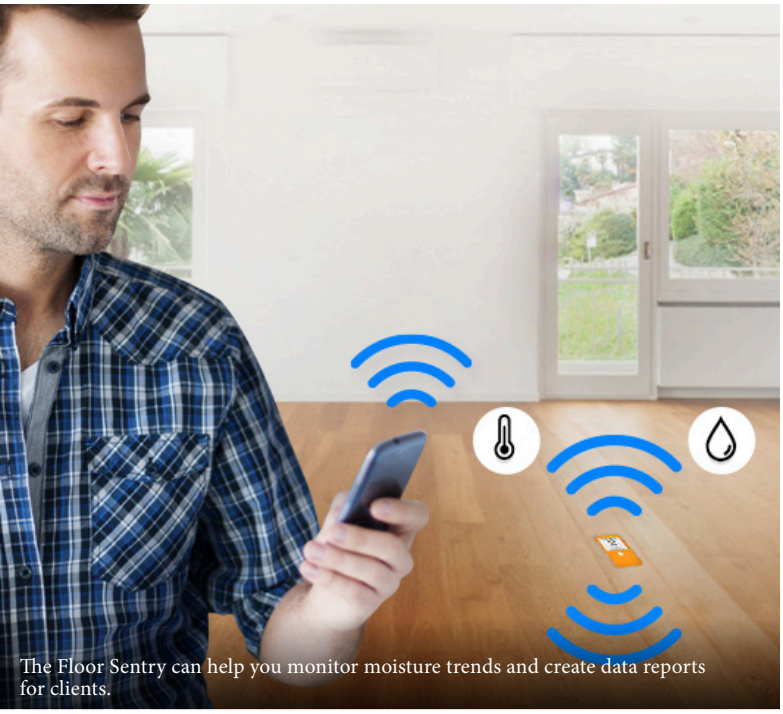
RH testing doesn't just measure moisture on the surface of a slab. It uncovers how much moisture is inside the slab. Then you can predict and prevent moisture problems that would have otherwise caused flooring issues later on.

Wagner's Rapid RH L6 Sensors are designed to provide fast and accurate in-situ readings at a low cost per test. Their Bluetooth capability allows readings to be transferred to the DataMaster L6 app, where results can be recorded and organised into reports. These records can demonstrate that appropriate testing was completed before installation.

TESTING AND ACCLIMATISING FLOORCOVERINGS

Before installing your floors, you should check your floor's manufacturer requirements.

Hardwood flooring is especially moisture sensitive. Before installation, boards need to acclimatise to the interior conditions of the room they'll be installed in. The room should be kept at a comfortable living temperature and humidity so the flooring materials can adjust to consistent, real-life conditions. A good rule of thumb for the target moisture content of the flooring is the indoor EMC, as this will reflect the indoor conditions the floor experiences year-round. Most manufacturers will recommend a moisture content of around 6-8% MC, but should verify this by consulting your manufacturer's requirements.



The Floor Sentry can help you monitor moisture trends and create data reports for clients.

Engineered wood is more stable than hardwood and will need less acclimatsation time, but again, you'll need to go by the instructions the flooring manufacturer provides. Carpet, vinyl, and laminate still need to acclimatise, although temperature stability is the main consideration. Ceramic and stone tiles are less susceptible to moisture, but their adhesives and supporting systems may still be affected by a damp substrate.

Wood moisture can be checked using pin-type or pinless meters. Pin meters use electrodes inserted into the wood, which may leave small holes. Pinless meters use a sensor plate to obtain readings without damaging the surface, making them particularly suitable for finished flooring.

The Orion 950 pinless moisture meter offers fast, non-destructive measurement and includes temperature and humidity sensors together with an equilibrium moisture content calculator. It can also transfer readings to the FloorSmart app, enabling installers to document results and create records for clients.

POST-INSTALLATION MONITORING

Moisture management should continue after installation. Seasonal humidity changes, plumbing leaks, spills, water entering through doors or windows and changes in building operation can all reintroduce moisture.

The difficulty is that excess moisture may remain hidden until visible damage appears. Continuous or periodic monitoring provides an opportunity to identify unusual changes before they become serious.

An ambient data logger such as Smart Logger can continue recording temperature and relative humidity after the project is complete. If conditions move outside the chosen limits, the Wagner Sentry app can issue an alert so corrective action can be taken.

For wood flooring, an embedded monitor such as Floor Sentry can be installed beneath the floor. It monitors moisture and temperature conditions and sends readings to the Wagner Sentry app. Trends can then be reviewed and reports shared with the client.

This information can help identify environmental changes, support maintenance decisions and provide evidence of conditions following installation. It also demonstrates a commitment to quality beyond the day the project is completed.

PROTECT YOUR FLOORS AND YOUR BUSINESS

Moisture testing is an integral part of protecting and maintaining floor quality. Skipping over one step in the moisture testing process could lead to ruined floors, unhappy customers, a damaged reputation, and costly remedial work.

Protect your floors and business by making moisture testing a part of your workflow. Visit the website below to view trusted moisture testing products to help you get started.

https://shop.wagnermeters.com/

BUSTING MYTHS

From aesthetics to durability, Quick-Step separates fact from fiction when it comes to laminate flooring.

In an online survey of 1,200 people in the UK by Quick-Step, which asked for their opinions about different flooring types, some surprising misconceptions about laminate flooring were revealed. The leading brand is encouraging retailers to challenge consumer perceptions and become part of a band of flooring myth busters.

According to respondents, who all took part in an online questionnaire, laminate flooring has upsides and downsides. Worries about water, noise, resistance to heat and not being very appealing or beautiful, where all reasons for not thinking about laminate as a floor for their home. On the upside, many people believe it to be easy to clean and good quality, with some also believing it gave their house a classy look.

With Quick-Step laminate flooring many of the worries of homeowners highlighted in the survey are nothing more than a myth, so let's bust them one at a time:

LAMINATE FLOORING ISN'T WATERPROOF

This may have been true a decades ago, but since Quick-Step introduced its first waterproof collection (without joint seals) in 2014, it's been letting homeowners enjoy laminate in their bathroom and still enjoy a warranty. Twelve years later and almost all Quick-Step laminate floors are waterproof and safe for bathroom and kitchen use.

LAMINATE IS NOISY AND SOUNDS HOLLOW TO WALK ON

It all depends on what underlay you choose. Any laminate floor should be installed with an underlay, but not all underlays are the same when it comes to sound. With Quick-Step Silent Walk underneath any noise is drastically reduced, making walking quieter.

LAMINATE IS DIFFICULT AND MESSY TO INSTALL

Quick-Step introduced the world's first glueless installation system in 1997 and since then Uniclic has been making it easy to install laminate flooring. Quick-Step has even banished complex herringbone installations for its Impressive Designs collection, which features the Unizip system.

LAMINATE IS UGLY AND DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WOOD

While some laminate floors look glossy and unrealistic, Quick-Step excels in laminate floors that look and feel exactly like real wood. Thanks to deeper and more varied textures, a matt finish and true-to-nature designs, Quick-Step really is impressive to look at. In fact, some might say it's impossible to spot the difference.

Now these common myths have been busted, it's clear that today's laminate flooring is an ideal choice for homes wanting a floor that's easy to install and easy to live with, all while looking just like real wood. So, next time a customer is a little unsure about whether laminate flooring is right for them don't forget that Quick-Step helps you bust myths, one floor at a time.

www.quick-step.co.uk



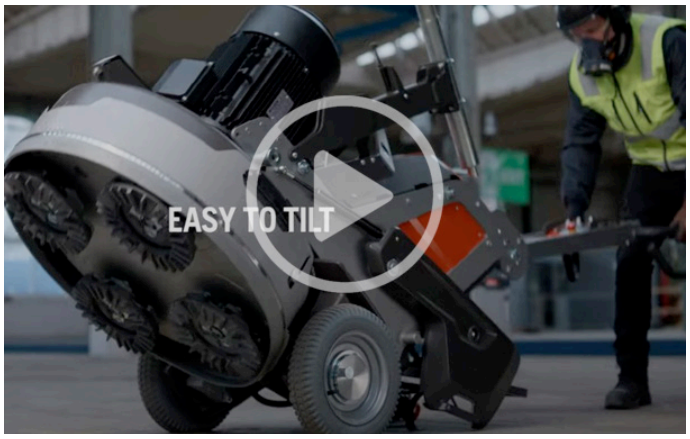
VIDEO SHOWCASE



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

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

Full video here



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

Contact:
husqvarna.construction@husqvarna.co.uk
0344 844 4569
www.husqvarnaconstruction.co.uk

Full video here



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IT'S SHOW TIME

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

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

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

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

Competition will take centre stage as five finalists, Darren Ash, Hayden Barr, Stephen Johnson, Danny Latimer and James Wilkinson, battle it out live in the 2026 Fitter of the Year final. The winner will be crowned at 4:30pm on Monday 21 September.

Elsewhere, the Wool Trends Centre will showcase a new Wool Trend Hub, while the returning Sustainability Trail will help visitors identify exhibitors taking meaningful steps towards a more environmentally responsible future.

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

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

www.theflooringshow.com

VENUE
Harrogate Convention Centre, King's Rd, Harrogate, HG1 5LA

OPENING TIMES
Sunday 20 and Monday 21 September: 09.30-17:30
Tuesday 22 September: 09.30-15.00







BJELIN TO SHOWCASE WOODURA

STAND: Q86

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

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

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

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

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

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

https://uk.bjelin.com/en



DISCOVER CAUSEWAY CARPETS

STAND: M24

At The Flooring Show, Causeway Carpets will show retailers how its elegant carpet collections and stylish point of sale are a winning combination.

Since its appearance at last year's show, Causeway Carpets has significantly improved its service through additional UK stockholding and can now fulfil cut-length orders on its most popular collections in under five days. Delivery is through the Alliance Flooring Distribution, giving the reliability of one of the industry's most trusted logistics providers.

Retailers will be able to see developments made over the last 12 months, including the refreshed, pure British wool Nature Earth and Nature Core ranges. With new colours alongside best-selling shades, Nature Core and Nature Earth bring classic wool carpet right up to date. The durable four-ply yarn makes sure that these wool carpets are an enduring investment for busy homes.

The Flooring Show will be the first chance to look at the new-look Camberley Classic & Textures. These wool-rich, recycled polyester blend carpets come in a multi-level loop – Camberley Textures – and level loop – Camberley Classic – to add a highly tactile, relaxed look to rooms. Now in 12 entirely new colours Inspired by the vivid tones of Marrakesh, this updated range shows colour is not to be feared.

To make it easy for homeowners to choose their new carpet, Causeway Carpets groups its ranges into three collections in Endura, Natura and Luxura. Endura presents wool carpets that are exceptionally resilient and durable, Natura offers the quality of British and New Zealand wool, while Luxura introduces premium 100% wool and polyester ranges.

Retailers can choose from across all three collections to curate their own Causeway Carpets display in either the space-saving Compact Display Unit or larger Multi Display Unit. Both can be combined to create larger branded display walls and use Causeway's smart blue and gold branding.

www.causewaycarpets.com



EGGER TO SHOWCASE FLOORING COLLECTION 25+ STAND: C30

Discover EGGER's Flooring Collection 25+, featuring new 2027 decors, at The Harrogate Flooring Show. The team will be at Stand C30 from 20-22 September, showcasing both NatureSense and AquaDura.

Exhibiting an extensive collection of wood-based flooring, the EGGER flooring team will be on hand to show decor highlights, answer any questions and discuss your individual requirements. Inspired by the latest design trends, 21 new decors for 2027. The new additions reflect the most recent trends and include warm wood and natural stones reproductions.

Gareth Gray, head of sales UK at EGGER Flooring, said: "We had a great time at The Flooring Show last year and we're looking forward to showcasing the new decors that are being introduced to the collection for 2027. Our sales team will be available throughout The Flooring Show at stand C30 to provide insights and answer any queries you may have."

The EGGER Flooring Collection 25+ has been created to withstand the demands of modern interiors. With a comprehensive range of designs and finishes, the collection offers an extensive selection of flooring options. Engineered to be durable, EGGER flooring is scratch resistant, stain resistant, dirt repellent and easy to clean as well as resistant to fading caused by natural light. Beyond aesthetics and durability, EGGER flooring offers impact- and sound-insulating properties and a reliable non-slip surface. The flooring can also be used in combination with underfloor heating.

The current EGGER Flooring Collection 25+ is designed in a wide variety of decors comprises two ranges, NatureSense laminate flooring and AquaDura hybrid flooring. Together these ranges include six products, each designed to deliver specific advantages. NatureSense is the go-to flooring solution that provides style, durability, and easy maintenance. NatureSense Herringbone combines timeless and elegant herringbone decors with the advantages of laminate. NatureSense Aqua is an all-rounder suitable for bathrooms and kitchens thanks to the waterproof profile seal and provides water-resistance for 24 hours. NatureSense Aqua+ flooring loves a challenge, with robust surface properties and double water protection, it offers water-resistance for 72 hours.

Many EGGER flooring decors have a surface texture that mimics the look and feel of natural wood or stone, giving interiors an authentic character. Synchronised pore technology allows the physical texture to match the visual grain creating a realistic laminate floor. Six different board sizes offer plenty of choice for any space. Bigger board formats including kingsize, long and large accentuate spacious rooms, whereas classic or medium formats help to create a sense of space in smaller rooms. The herringbone board format is ideal for creating classic and traditional charm.

EGGER's flooring is made with wood from certified forests and uses by-products from timber processing, such as wood chips and sawdust, as ingredients for its products. All floors are 100% free from PVC and plasticisers and have been awarded certified seals of approval from recognised institutes which confirm its safety and compatibility for a healthy living environment.

Find EGGER at stand C30 at The Flooring Show, Harrogate, from 20 to 22 September 2026. Join the team to explore new flooring decors for 2027 or simply pop in to catch up over an EGGER beer. The EGGER Flooring Collection 25+ is available via a network of nationwide distributors.

www.egger.com







All our shown and mentioned decors are reproductions.

Flooring Collection 25+

NEW

Introducing new decors for 2027

Discover our newly introduced decors that complement our existing collection. Inspired by the latest design trends, EGGER flooring combines design and performance and provide the foundation for beautiful living.

Find us at stand C30 at The Flooring Show, Harrogate.

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Discover the collection now.
» **to.egger.link/flooring**

EGGER

MORE FROM WOOD.

F. BALL TO CELEBRATE 140 YEARS OF INNOVATION

STAND: ???

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

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

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

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

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

F. Ball managing director Darren Kenyon said: "We have plans to celebrate this at The Flooring Show, and we look forward to being back and seeing familiar faces as well as meeting new visitors for the first time."

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

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

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

Delegates are invited to attend F. Ball's popular drinks reception at the F. Ball stand on the Monday afternoon of the show to celebrate 140 years of F. Ball.

www.f-ball.co.uk



CORK IS CALLING

STAND: B14A

Granorte is one of Portugal's leading cork specialist producers, creating everything from floors to furniture, lighting, interior accessories and even sanitary ware. With award-winning products and a heritage of innovation, the family-run company is returning to The Flooring Show to show just what can be achieved with nature's wonder material.

It will be showcasing new point-of-sale concepts designed to make cork floors a premium choice for homeowners wanting materials that respect nature and which bring a unique aesthetic to their home. The focus will be on Granorte's retail-focused TRENDCollection, with selected products from three of the engineered cork collection's most exciting ranges.

Retaining the beautiful texture of natural cork, NATURTrend floors are unapologetically authentic and demonstrate the unrestrained beauty of the material. SOLIDTrend translates universally appealing wood and stone decors in an engineered cork floor that delivers exceptional performance, while DESIGNTrend adds distinct wood and concrete looks printed directly onto cork for a floor that stand-out from the ordinary.

Sophie Brady, Granorte, said: "With a growing number of homeowners thinking more carefully about the products they buy, we believe now is the time for retailers to explore how our natural and renewable material can be enjoyed.

"Our TRENDCollecton is the perfect entry point into cork, combining the material's natural properties with an SPC or HDF core, depending on the range chosen. All floors are easy to install and with a range of aesthetic options, including cork in its beautiful natural state, they make a well-thought-out proposition for today's homes. We're looking forward to exploring the true potential with retailers at the show."

www.granorte.co.uk



PALACE CHEMICALS PROMOTES ITS COMPREHENSIVE LEVELLERS RANGE — STAND: B8

Palace Chemicals is a leading UK manufacturer of tile adhesives, grouts, flooring products and specialist building chemicals, supplying the tiling, flooring and construction sectors. The company will be showing its extensive flooring range at the Show, including its Levellers, which comprise more than 10 different water mix and 2-part latex products. The range includes fast track levellers, thick bed levellers, smoothing compounds and surface preparation aids.

A stand-out product which will be of interest to anyone working with anhydrite screeds will be the company's PRO GYP-BASE FAST TRACK SEALER. Anhydrite screeds are a popular solution for contract flooring installations. Their use has grown because they offer a number of benefits over sand-cement screeds, the main advantage being that they can be laid more quickly and easily than traditional sand-cement screeds and are more cost-effective especially for larger areas, making them particularly suitable for use on large commercial contracts.

The main disadvantage is their extended drying time, which can now be greatly reduced with Pro Gyp-Base Fast Track Sealer, which is sold as a kit, containing all the elements necessary to achieve a successful bond, including a primer, moisture suppressant and gritted primer. In an ambient temperature of 20C, drying times are down to two hours for the first primer coat and 24 hours for the second primer coat.

At the Show the company will also be presenting its latest cementitious flooring adhesives and grouts, including: GEL-FLEX, a thixotropic fibre-reinforced tile adhesive, containing 33% recycled raw materials; and EXTRA-LITE, manufactured with 40% recycled content and also offering a 50% weight saving in handling and in use.

Performance, ease-of-use and sustainability go hand-in-hand with the Palace Chemicals flooring range.

www.palacechemicals.co.uk



QEP MIXES IT UP — STAND: B9

For professional installers and retailers visiting The Flooring Show to find ways to make their working life easier, a visit to QEP in Hall B should be high on the list. Home to legendary Roberts tools and UK-made XPS Foam underlays, the stand will showcase the latest innovations designed to make installations easier. QEP will also showcase FENTO ergonomic knee protection, trusted by flooring professionals to reduce fatigue and improve comfort throughout the working day.

Roberts will showcase its range of quality tools, including the brand-new 18V Cordless Power Mixer, designed around the QEP CONNECT battery system. Built with a die-cast metal gear case and powerful brushless motor, the mixer can handle even the heaviest compounds. A two-speed gearbox, six-speed variable dial and soft-start function provide precise control while reducing splashes. Weighing just 3.4kg, its ergonomic dual-handle design also maximises comfort.

The 18V Cordless Power Mixer is compatible with QEP 18V 4.0Ah Lithium-ion batteries. With a dual set-up, these high-performance packs deliver an impressive 40-minute run time off a single charge. With further power tools already in development, it marks the beginning of the QEP CONNECT battery system, designed specifically for specialist flooring installation tools.

Also making its first outing at The Flooring Show will be the XPS Foam 2026 underlay range, developed for professional installers looking for reliable, high-performance wood and laminate underlays that are easy to specify and install. The redeveloped range addresses common on-site challenges including floor movement, creaking, moisture protection and comfort.

Available in fanfold and rigid boards, the range includes solutions for general domestic, commercial and specialist applications, including herringbone laminate and electric underfloor heating. A clear application structure makes it easy to select the right underlay for every installation.

www.qepuk.com



INSTALLATION MASTERY

Tim Green, head of training at F. Ball and Co. Ltd., explains the importance of training to gain a competetive edge and how to access the industry's best provisions for free.

Training has always been integral to ensuring the highest standards of professionalism in the flooring industry. Basic training should cover subfloor preparation, including the identification of different subfloor types and how they should be prepared, the use of repair and floor smoothing compounds to create a smooth base ready for the receipt of new floorcoverings, and selecting adhesives based on compatibility with different floorcoverings. It also needs to include instruction on how to avoid common causes of floor failure, chief of which is still unmanaged subfloor moisture.

ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY

Flooring professionals should strive to continuously improve and develop their knowledge throughout their careers. This has become particularly necessary as advances in technology have accelerated the development of subfloor preparation products and adhesives with advanced properties and applications. Armed with knowledge of new fast track products, contractors are better equipped to deal with increasingly demanding time constraints

CHOOSING THE OPTIMUM PRODUCT

Having a good knowledge of the range of new products available will also help contractors to choose the optimum product for a particular job and avoid compromising the finished appearance of an installation.

For example, particular vinyl adhesives are recommended to avoid visible trowel serrations showing through thin vinyl floorcoverings. There are also smoothing compounds that are designed especially to withstand heavy loads and high foot traffic and others designed to accommodate movements in subfloors of metal and wood.

CHANGES AFFECTING THE INDUSTRY

Contractors need to keep abreast of wider changes affecting the flooring industry too. For instance, calcium sulphate screeds are increasingly common in new builds and require specific treatment to ensure against floor failure. In such cases, traditional cement-based smoothing compounds will not be suitable and the use of a compatible calcium sulphate-based smoothing compound is recommended. Regular training helps contractors understand different materials and the benefits of using compatible products.

In another change, the move to standards-based apprenticeships has also brought new training requirements. One hour of 'off the job' training must be completed for every four hours spent working by flooring apprentices, which more companies are giving opportunities to as a way to tackle their skills shortages.

ACCESSING TRAINING

Fortunately, there is no shortage of excellent training available to flooring contractors at little or no cost. Flooring industry training centres, such as Flooring Industry Training Association (FITA) training centre in Loughborough, offer a wide range of training courses, covering everything from subfloor preparation



to estimating costs and quoting. Thanks to the apprenticeships levy, which came into effect in 2017, many flooring companies enrolling apprentices on training courses such as these can claim back up to 95% of the cost.

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

As a market leader in subfloor preparation products and adhesives, F. Ball believes that it has a responsibility to promote industry standards and best practice and, by extension, the positive reputation of the flooring industry. This is why flooring professionals of any skill level can attend free training courses at the F. Ball Centre of Excellence, the purpose-built, state-of-the-art training centre at F. Ball's Staffordshire headquarters.

Training programmes, which run year-round, are led by experts from within the company, cover subfloor preparation, moisture management and control and adhesive selection. These include specialist courses for both apprentices and seasoned professionals and a three-day course on achieving optimum results when installing LVTs.

FUTURE OF FLOORING

F. Ball has launched its own apprenticeship programme, Floorsight, to directly tackle the industry's persistent skills gap. Created in partnership with the Flooring Industry Training Association (FITA) and WEBS Training, and supported by the Contract Flooring Association (CFA), the scheme creates career pathways in contract flooring.

Apprentices gain hands-on experience with partnering flooring contractors, with training delivered at the F. Ball Centre of Excellence. F. Ball provides each participant resources, such as toolkits, branded workwear and laptops, to lower barriers for trainees and employers.

Following the success of the initial launch a year ago, a second cohort has recently enrolled on the programme.

www.f-ball.com/training

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FITTER'S MATE

Six months after its launch, the FITA Digital App is helping floorlayers put their training into practice, explains Mark Graham, FITA & CFA training manager.

In the six months since its initial launch, the FITA Digital App has gone from strength to strength, becoming a valuable part of the FITA training experience providing delegates with ongoing support long after they leave the training centre. Imagine having a trainer alongside you on the first installation after completing a course, FITA Digital goes some way to providing that reassurance.

Originally developed as a digital 'fitter's mate', the app was created to reinforce the practical skills and knowledge gained during in-person practical training at FITA. Everyone needs a reminder from time to time, and the FITA Digital app does just that. It helps FITA-trained floorlayers refresh their techniques, build confidence and access bite-sized videos whenever they need them, long after leaving FITA. Whether preparing for a job, solving a challenging installation or revisiting best practice, the app provides practical guidance when it matters most.

Since its introduction, the app has continued to evolve with additional resources being included as more training courses are incorporated into the FITA prospectus, adding a wealth of knowledge to an already extensive library of information. Delegates who complete further FITA courses automatically unlock new content, creating a personalised learning source that grows alongside their skills and experience.

At FITA, we believe that learning doesn't stop when a course is completed. While practical, hands-on training remains at the heart of everything we do, ongoing access to high-quality learning resources helps delegates retain knowledge, maintain confidence and continue developing their skills in the workplace. Gone are the days of shuffling through bits of paper trying to find relevant information, FITA Digital supports delegates at the touch of a button, providing intuitive navigation and instant access to guidance whenever they need it most.

Whilst the free-to-access FITA YouTube videos are fantastic, the FITA Digital App provides a more tailored learning experience to complement each delegate's training journey. This ensures floorlayers have quick access to relevant, trusted information that directly supports the techniques taught during their course at FITA.

How FITA Digital supports delegates after they leave training:

- Bite-sized training videos that recap key techniques covered during FITA courses.
- Course-specific content, ensuring delegates only access resources relevant to the training they have completed.
- Progressive learning, with additional content unlocked as more FITA courses are completed.
- 24/7 access to trusted guidance whenever it's needed.
- Exclusive content available only to FITA-trained delegates.
- Sponsored resources, including product guides, technical information and installation advice from FITA sponsors.

Over the past six months, FITA Digital has supported our commitment to combining traditional practical training with modern digital learning. It has provided delegates with an additional level of support that simply wasn't available through traditional course notes, helping installers continue learning well beyond the classroom.

The app also plays an important role in supporting FITA apprentices throughout their training journey. Apprentices can use the FITA Digital app alongside their practical training, providing them with a valuable resource to revisit techniques, reinforce learning and build confidence as they develop their skills, both at the training centre and in the workplace. By having access to trusted guidance throughout their apprenticeship, they are supported beyond the classroom and encouraged to continue developing their knowledge as they progress towards becoming fully qualified floorlayers.

As the flooring sector's only not-for-profit training organisation, backed by two leading trade associations, the CFA and the



NICF, FITA remains committed to investing in new ways to support flooring professionals throughout their careers. The continued development of the FITA Digital App is just one example of that commitment.

Looking ahead, further enhancements and additional content are already planned, ensuring the app continues to grow alongside FITA's expanding range of training courses. Our aim remains the same as always to give every FITA-trained installer the confidence, knowledge and ongoing support needed to deliver high-quality flooring installations throughout their career.

The FITA Digital App has shown that training doesn't have to end when delegates leave the training centre. By combining expert practical instruction with accessible digital support, we're helping installers stay connected to their learning, continue developing their skills and uphold the high standards that the flooring industry expects.

https://fita.co.uk



BESPOKE TRAINING

ECOPROTEC offers tailored training programmes designed to support both new and existing customers across the tile and stone sector. Delivered at customer premises, these practical sessions provide contractors and retailers with flexible, accessible learning tailored to industry needs and cover all aspects of surface protection and maintenance. Sessions are also available at trade events and through bespoke CPD presentations on request.

The training provides a comprehensive overview of different material types and guidance on how to correctly identify them, alongside an introduction to the ECOPROTEC product range. This includes cleaning, protection and maintenance solutions for every stage of installation – from pre-installation sealers, through to restoration treatments.

In addition, the sessions also address more specialist applications, including methods to extend surface protection, enhance appearance and resolve common substrate and surface issues. This includes guidance on stain removal challenges and restoration techniques, with specific issues covered on request. For example, removing surface and naturally occurring rust stains from acid-sensitive stone, renovating terracotta using traditional methods and the use of ergonomic application tools for contractor wellbeing.

Sessions also explore different types of adhesive and grout, highlighting associated residues and best practice for their safe and effective removal for all tile types. There's also an introduction to ECOPROTEC's Product Selector – the online technical support tool and a retail sales aid that helps users identify the most appropriate solutions for specific applications and problem-solving scenarios.

To find out more, contact the ECOPROTEC team on 01823 662722 or email technical@ecoprotec.co.uk.

www.ecoprotec.co.uk







PATTERN PLAY

Patterns are the new neutrals when it comes to carpets for classic and contemporary interiors, explains Kirsty Barton, brand manager at Alternative Flooring.

From dopamine decor to taking interior inspiration from your wardrobe, many homeowners are moving away from pared-back palettes and introducing a new and perhaps surprising neutral to their schemes: pattern.

Available in a plethora of shapes, colours and sizes, it can be overwhelming to understand how to incorporate pattern into a living space, but we have noted a quiet movement taking place as homeowners opt for some understated, geometric fun on their 'fifth wall' – the floor.

Patterns such as diamonds and herringbones add a sense of play to a space, while remaining sophisticated and timeless. Both styles create texture and depth without dominating the room, making them a failsafe choice for those wanting to add a sense of movement and interest without committing to bold prints.

There's a longstanding belief that patterned carpets, rugs and runners are always bold, bright in colour and intricate in design, but understated patterns such as diamond and herringbone prove just why pattern can be seen as a neutral.

Both styles complement traditional and contemporary interiors, working just as well as a rug in a bedroom or hallway as it does across flooring in the conservatory. Its subtle architectural detailing adds texture without relying on colour, which creates a beautiful, understated luxurious finish.

Alternative Flooring's Anywhere Ca-rPET Diamond features a woven jacquard diamond design available in six versatile colourways of deep browns and golden tones. Crafted using recycled PET yarn, also known as rPET, the carpet fibres are made from recycled plastic bottles, making it a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to other synthetic pile yarns. The repetitive diamond design adds a touch of luxury, while the material remains easy to clean and is moth-resistant, meaning it's suitable for all areas of the home.

Standing alongside the diamond as a neutral pattern on the block is the classic herringbone. A design that has stood the test of time, its distinctive zig-zag pattern adds quiet luxury while creating visual interest that feels effortlessly versatile. The Anywhere Ca-rPET Herringbone is available in varying earthy tones, making it a beautiful neutral backdrop whether used as a carpet, rug or runner.

Repeating patterns are the new neutral when it comes to floorcoverings. Just as a plain carpet provides a foundation for a room, a subtle, repetitive design offers the same versatility while adding depth, movement and personality that elevate the entire space without being overbearing. Patterns, such as diamond or herringbone, create a sense of flow, guiding the eye through a space and tying the entire look together.

The Anywhere Ca-rPET Diamond and Herringbone collections are available as wall-to-wall carpets, rugs or runners. Use Alternative Flooring's Make Me a Rug design service to personalise your own patterned rug.

www.alternativeflooring.com









LEISURELY REFURBS

Dual-bond systems, utilising adhesives with different characteristics, allow carpets to be easily lifted along with underlay when they need to be replaced, without damaging the subfloor, while holding floorcoverings firmly in place over the lifetime of an installation. This makes them ideal for use in areas that require regular refurbishment, explains F. Ball.

When installing carpets over large areas, including function rooms, corridors and entertainment areas, flooring contractors should select an adhesive that will develop a strong enough bond to hold floorcoverings securely in place for the lifetime of the floorcovering.

However, floorcoverings installed with such adhesives will require mechanical removal when it comes to refurbishing these areas.

For this reason, products have been developed that allow the creation of a peelable bond which stops carpet or underlay moving laterally when subject to normal foot traffic, holding floorcoverings firmly in place for the installation's lifetime, while allowing them to be removed and replaced without significant damage to the subfloor.

HOW TO INSTALL

The type of bond achieved when using F. Ball and Co. Ltd.'s Styccobond F40, for example, depends on when the floorcovering is laid into the adhesive. Laying the floorcovering into the wet adhesive gives a permanent bond. However, the water-based adhesive dries to form a transparent, permanently tacky coating, creating a release bond for underlays.

This can form part of a dual-bond system, where flooring contractors install underlay onto the tacky coating before adhering carpet to the underlay using a specialist adhesive for textile floorcoverings, such as F. Ball's Styccobond F3, which will develop the high bond strength required to withstand expected levels of wear.

PERMANENT BOND

Styccobond F3 is a water-based rubber/resin flooring adhesive that offers excellent wet grab and rapidly builds up a high bond strength. This delivers a flooring installation that won't ruck, move or lift throughout its working life, making it suitable for areas that are expected to be subject to high foot traffic in hotel and leisure settings.

The adhesive is suitable for installing a wide range of textile floorcoverings, including hessian, felt, secondary latex and rubber foam backed carpets, as well as cork tiles up to 3.2mm thick. It can be applied over Stopgap smoothing compounds, structurally sound, smooth, dry subfloors of concrete and sand/cement screed, plywood, flooring grade chipboard and hardboard. It is also protected against bio-degradation and can withstand wet cleaning, which is essential for maintaining the appearance of carpeted venues.

Both Styccobond F40 and Styccobond F3 are suitable for use over normal underfloor heating systems and are also approved for use in marine flooring installations, making them suitable for use in combination to install carpet on board cruise ships.

A PHOTO FINISH

F. Ball's Styccobond F40 and Styccobond F3 adhesives were used by flooring contractors from Harris & Hiscock Ltd. to install luxury Wilton carpet as part of the refurbishment of the On 5 restaurant at Ascot racecourse.

Situated on the fifth floor of the grandstand, the flagship fine dining restaurant offers private hospitality and spectacular views of the track, a private balcony, roof terrace and bar.

Contractors began by applying F. Ball's Stopgap 1200 smoothing compound throughout the entire area to create a perfectly smooth surface for floorcoverings. The product is formulated so that it can be applied over old adhesive residues, eliminating the need for mechanical removal and saving time in these situations. It is low-odour, self-smoothing and fast-drying. Applied at a thickness of 2-5mm, it is walk-on hard from 60 minutes after application and dry enough to receive floorcoverings in as little as four hours.

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Commenting on the project, Steve Hiscock, managing director at Harris & Hiscock Ltd., who supervised the work, said: "Everything went as expected and was completed ahead of Royal Ascot, and the client is made up with the result, so we're very happy. We do a lot of work at the racetrack, and we have go-to products for these that we know we can rely on to meet high expectations."

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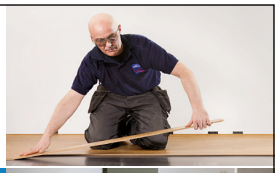
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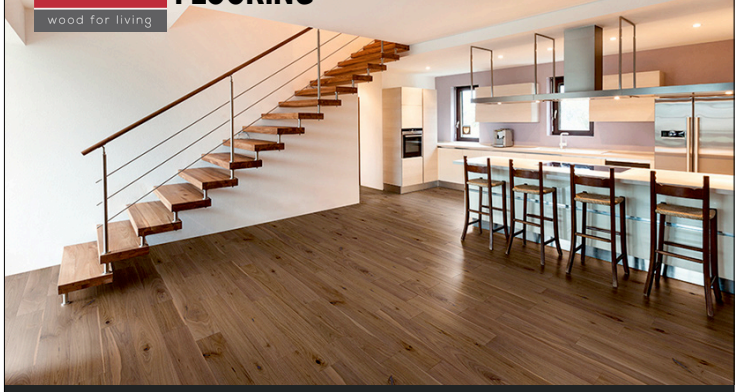
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