

A large, diagonal collage of images on the left side of the page. It includes various natural scenes: a rocky mountain peak, a forest with tall trees, a close-up of a stone wall, a rocky streambed, a waterfall cascading over stone steps, and a mountain range with a lake in the foreground.

# Environmental Statement

Designflooring  
and the Environment







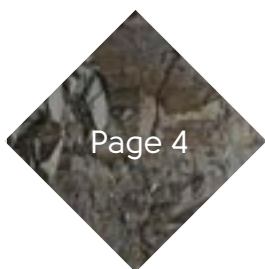
# Introduction

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Founded in 2004, Designflooring has grown to be one of the leading vinyl flooring companies in Europe. We are aware that the activities of our company have an impact on the environment and are committed to the continual improvement of our manufacturing and logistical processes to ensure sustainability and best value for our customers and stakeholders alike.

This commitment is driven from the top down, with training given to all employees on how they can contribute to the achievement of our environmental objectives. We pride ourselves on environmental awareness in the supply and maintenance of all our products worldwide and regularly monitor our performance against key criteria, to ensure continual improvement of both our products and processes in this area.

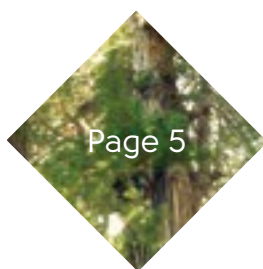
Within our own premises, we reduce our environmental impact by adopting reasonable controls to prevent air, water, ground and noise pollution and keeping sites clean and tidy. We also work with our suppliers and sub-contractors to improve their awareness of environmental issues.



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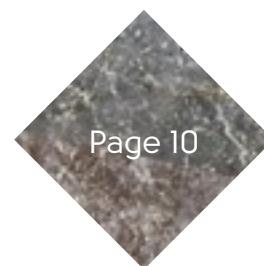
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## Manufacture and supply

Our factories are all certified to the **ISO 14001** environmental standard which means we are committed to continuous improvement of environmental performance, including systems to control water usage, and product packaging made of 100% recycled material. All of our factories are also certified to **ISO 9001** quality standard.

The wear layers in our products use high quality **100% virgin PVC** and all of our flooring products use recycled PVC as part of the remaining layers. In fact, our products can contain as much as **50% recycled content in the backing layers**, derived from post-production waste such as off-cuts, trimmings and process dust. Almost 100% of this production and post-production waste is granulated and recycled back into new product, in a closed loop recycling process.

Our European operation is certified to **ISO 14001:2015**.



## Sustainable raw materials

The key raw material in our product, PVC, is derived from a truly sustainable resource: salt. In addition to some renewable bio-based raw material, the minerals used to reinforce our products are also naturally plentiful in the earth's crust and can be considered sustainable.

Raw materials are purchased in bulk and sourced as locally to our factories as possible. They are also sourced from **ISO 14001/ISO 9001 certified raw material suppliers** where possible.



# Safe products

Our products are based on vinyl (PVC); the same tried and tested material used in vital medical equipment, from blood bags to dialysis tubing, heart and lung bypass tubing, surgical gloves to pill packets. The same material we put our trust in for pipes, wire and cable protection and window frames. Indeed, it is the most widely used polymer in building and construction.

All our products are free from heavy metals and are fully compliant with 'REACH' (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals). This is a European Union regulation addressing the production and use of chemicals and their potential impacts on human health and the environment. They are also free from both 'BPA' (bisphenol A) and formaldehyde.

None of our products contain raw materials which are reprotoxic, endocrine disrupting or carcinogenic.

Our European products are CE marked which confirms that they comply with EU Construction Products Regulation 305/2011 and meet the requirements of the harmonised European standard EN 14041.



CE





# Designflooring products in use

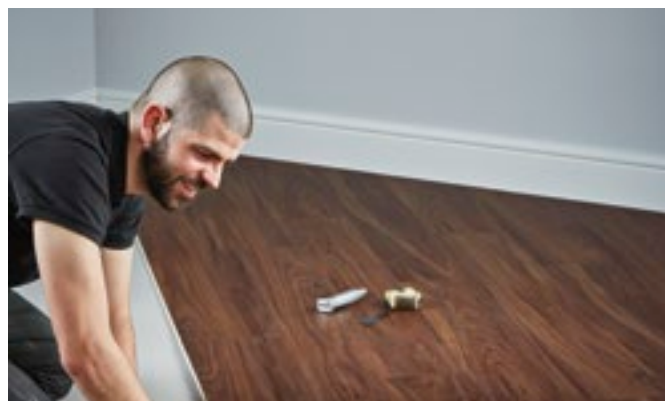
## Installation

We include the whole life of a floor when thinking about its sustainability performance and that means we make sure **our floors start performing from the moment they are fitted**. So, we design our products for easy installation to minimise the amount of different materials required to install.



## Low impact cleaning and maintenance

The in-use or service life of the product which we expect, can exceed 30 years and can account for typically 80% of the environmental impact of the product. So, we endeavour to design the most efficient maintenance procedures and maintenance chemicals. Virtually all of our products have PU coatings ("K-Guard+") to offer ease of maintenance and to reduce the quantity of maintenance chemicals required to keep them looking their best throughout the service life. Products in our floor care range contain biodegradable materials.



## Air Quality

All Designflooring products have been tested for contribution to indoor air quality and independent testing proves that our products are **very low emitting in terms of VOCs** (volatile organic compounds), meeting the strictest standards for air quality.

All have been successfully certified to Indoor 'Air Comfort Gold standard' which means that they fully comply with the national emission requirements of European countries including:

- Germany AgBB/AGB/DGNB
- Sweden BVB
- Italian Regulation on Green Public Procurement
- Blue Angel RAL UZ 120
- Austrian Ecolabel Criteria UZ56
- In France, our products achieve A+ (the lowest level of emissions)
- BREEM International

All our products carry FloorScore® Indoor Air Quality certification, which is a VOC test certification issued by an independent laboratory.

## Low impact accessories and adhesives

Our adhesives are all either water-based, or solvent-free and have extremely low VOC emissions.

## End of life

Our products offer exceptional durability, with an expected lifespan in excess of 30 years for domestic use.

We are at the forefront of loose lay and floating floors which require reduced or no adhesives and can be uplifted and re-used if so desired, or simply recycled, thereby reducing environmental installation impact.



Information sur le niveau d'émission de substances volatiles dans l'air intérieur, présentant un risque de toxicité par inhalation, sur une échelle de classe allant de A+ (très faibles émissions) à C (fortes émissions)





# Proven low environmental impact

Many of our products, including each of our gluedown and Designflooring LooseLay ranges have an **Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)**. An EPD is an independently verified and registered objective report based on a **life cycle assessment (LCA)** that communicates transparent and comparable information about the life cycle environmental impact of products including: global warming potential; ozone depletion potential, and fossil fuel depletion potential.

The **Building Research Establishment (BRE)** has undertaken its own LCA and our products also have generic ratings in the BRE Green Guide of A/A+ for use in health, education, commercial, retail and domestic sectors.

**Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED)** is the most widely used building environmental certification programme in the world. It rewards best in class building strategies and practices, through a system of points and sets stringent criteria which building projects must meet in order to achieve LEED certification. In so doing, this allows specifiers to select the most sustainable options for their project. Our products achieve points by virtue of specific EPDs,

contribution to indoor air quality, recycled/reusable content and sustainable materials content.

All Designflooring products qualify for **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED version v4.1)** points.



LEED System	Applicable Category and LEED Credit Name
NC (New Construction)	EQ4.3 Low Emitting Products-Flooring Systems
EB (Existing Buildings)	MR3. Sustainable Purchasing-Facility Alterations
H (Home)	MR2. Environmentally Preferable Products





# Designflooring's recent achievements

- We have achieved zero waste to landfill at our Head Office in the UK.
- Designflooring is now fully compliant with the latest ISO14001:2015 standard.
- All products made in our factories are now phthalate free.
- We have introduced regular auditing of our waste processors to ensure strict adherence to latest best practice and recycling legislation.
- We have introduced new storage and load carrying features in our sales teams' cars to reduce load carrying by 62kg per vehicle, leading to improved fuel economy of 2.7% (a saving of 285 litres of fuel per month.)



Argento SP217



Limed Washed Oak SM-KP99



Bleached Grey Walnut WP329



# The future

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Our continued policy of product innovation includes focus on reducing environmental impact and introducing products which are easier to recycle.

We aim to develop robust products in order to extend product life cycles and thus further reduce environmental impact

We will continually review our environmental commitment and comply with environmental legislation, seeking opportunities to highlight the environmental credentials of our products.

We intend to maintain ISO 14001 accreditation.

Our aim is to remain a leading supplier of LVT in Europe and to have a market leading environmental record of achievement through the continual development of sustainable products and processes.

## Environmental organisations/accreditations

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We are members of:

- Flooring Manufacturers Sustainability Alliance



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