

# Why shouldn't we have incentives for recycling?

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and Polyflor take virgin off-cuts back, which is great.

But none of these companies, as far as I am aware, presently give you any credit for returning the off-cuts, so where is the incentive? We returned 'pop' bottles because there was a deposit, so why not for recycling?

The best way to get recycling moving, I believe, is through incentive. Making it economically attractive must be a far better carrot than the stick of hitting us

with financial penalties if we don't.

Good quality recycled material is a valuable resource and like any other commercial relationship there should be a benefit throughout the chain, and nothing works better than financial incentive.

Manufacturers of smoothing compounds sell many thousands of bags of powder – 40 plus to a pallet – but what happens to the bags? The bag manufacturer won't take them back because

they have been contaminated so they go to landfill.

Shouldn't we be thinking of refillable containers? Large contractors would probably embrace this idea, but perhaps not smaller without an incentive to encourage take-up.

There's a lot of manufacturers can do to make products easier to recycle, but also much more we can do to make recycling the norm and not a chore that it is for most of us.

The CFA, through the

Construction Products Association, can lobby on issues such as incentive schemes; we as manufacturers can better engineer our products to facilitate recycling and you guys, as installers, can hopefully be a little more green without going into the red.

That said, it's as well to remember that recycling is not new, so maybe we could learn from what we did years ago rather than looking for the new often costly solutions.



## FITA courses

### Basic carpet fitting

(5 days) Sep 14; Nov 2

### Intermediate carpet fitting

(4 days) Sep 21, Nov 9;

### Advanced carpet fitting

(4 days) Nov 30;

### Essential wood fitting

(3 days) Oct 7, Nov 25;

### Intermediate wood fitting

(3 days) Sep 2, Oct 19, Dec 7;

### Solid wood sanding and finishing

(2 days) Sep 28, Nov 17;

### Laminate & floating wood

(2 days) Oct 5, Nov 23;

### Domestic vinyl fitting

(2 days) Jul 23; Sep 16, Nov 4;

### Safety and smooth vinyl (commercial) fitting

(4 days) Sep 28, Nov 16, Dec 14. Also courses in

Manchester on Sep 7, Oct 26,

Dec 14; **Luxury vinyl tile fitting** (4 days) Oct 12;

**Estimating and planning** (2 days) Sep 14, Nov 2;

**Damp testing floors** (1 day) Oct 13, Dec 1;

**Subfloor preparation** (2 days) Sep 21, Nov 9.

Courses are at Loughborough unless otherwise stated. Please enquire about course fees when booking. Check out the FITA website for the latest course information.

**FITA also offers NVQ training via EWPA and OSAT.**

■ T: 0115 950 6836

■ www.fita.co.uk



Floortrain (GB) is a registered City & Guilds assessment centre for NVQs in textile, impervious and wood flooring. Full funding is available in 95% of cases. Training packages are offered to intermediate or advanced levels. Contact Dominic for details: ■ T: 01709 780505

### FERFA

Courses include In-situ resin flooring apprenticeship scheme; prepare and profile substrates apprentice scheme; work-based recorders (half-day training session); assistance with obtaining NVQ level 2 In situ resin flooring. ■ T: 01252 714250

### Flooring Assessments

offers on-site assessment for floorcovering City & Guild NVQ at all levels, including CSCS cards and training to up-skill in carpets, impervious and wood flooring: ■ T: 07515885912

■ dave@flooringassessments.com

■ www.flooringassessments.com

### Bostik Flooring Academy

St Helens College offers training in floorcovering NVQ Levels 1, 2 and 3 and construction diplomas for two years on a day release basis, plus On Site Assessment and Training (OSAT) for experienced workers and the Experienced Workers Practical Assessments (EWPA) for CSCS cards. ■ T: 01744 623640

### Scotland floor training

Construction skills/SQA approved centre for textile, impervious and wood. We come to you! On site assessments & apprenticeships for SVQs & CSCS. Contact Neillie or Rory: ■ T: 01870 602525

■ www.floortraining.co.uk

■ E: rory@floortraining.co.uk

### COLLEGE NVQ COURSES

NVQ floorcoverings (levels 1, 2 & 3) offered at Thomsit Centres & OSAT

for experienced workers.  
**Northumberland:** Graham Cunningham ■ T: 07976 539154  
**Leicester:** Martin Coles ■ T: 07836 622811  
**Accrington & Rossendale :** Brian Enderwitz ■ T: 07976 353920  
**Yale, Wrexham:** Steve Davies ■ T: 07984 002632  
**Acton & West London :** Jim Gallagher ■ T: 07768 745787  
**National Construction College, Erith.** Malcolm Harrison T: 01322 349638

### Fitting courses



**THE ACADEMY OF FLOORING SKILLS (TAOFS)** established by John Roberts has a training centre in Pentlow near Sudbury, Suffolk. Upcoming courses: Essential carpet skills **Nov 2-6**; Essential Wood skills **Aug 17-19; Nov 16-18**; Laminate & floating wood skills **Sep 28-29**; Intermediate carpet skills **Sep 14-18**; Sanding & finishing skills **Sep 30-Oct 1; Nov 19-20**; Luxury vinyl tile skills **Oct 5-8**; Safety vinyl skills **Oct 12-15**; Moisture survey skills **Aug 20; Oct 9**. Check web site for other dates in locations around the country; sales & other related staff overview courses: Carpet: **Dec 7**; Safety vinyl: **Dec 8**; Lot tiles: **Dec 9**; Wood: **Dec 10**. Courses on moisture surveying skills are being planned. The scheduled dates can be altered to suit five or more people and one-to-one tuition is offered on request.

■ www.taofs.co.uk

■ M: 078331584334

■ E: john@jrroberts.co.uk

### O2H2 Flooring Consultants

Seminars include: Understanding carpets **Oct 5-6**; Estimating & planning **Oct 7-8**. Course fees (per seminar) are £275 (plus VAT). Both courses booked together are £500 (plus VAT). ■ T: 01386 422256 ■ www.o2h2flooringconsultants.com

### HCTS MERSEY ACADEMY

Apprentice training for NVQ for local CITB and a few non-CITB employers, plus day release courses for local flooring firms. Shirley Ashcroft ■ T: 0151 289 9090

### CERAMIC ADHESIVES

**ARDEX** Luke Kingston ■ T: 01440 714939

**BAL** Amy Rushton ■ T: 01782 591123

**BOSTIK** Gary Hardy ■ T: 07735 271664

**MAPEI** Graham Baldwin ■ T: 0121 508 6970

**PALACE CHEMICALS** Stewart Hagger or Jim Percival ■ T: 0151 486 6101

**ULTRA TILE** Paul Luff ■ T: 01827 872244

### CLEANING

**IIRCR UK** ■ T: 01763 208222

Carpet Cleaning Technician **Oct 27-28**. Commercial Carpet Maintenance Technician **Nov 17-18**. Courses at

Royston, Cambridgeshire (Alltec Network) T: 01763 208222

Instructor is Paul Pearce (Country House Carpet Care)

E: paulpea@btopenworld.com

**CLEANING SYSTEMS UK** Sandy Pearson ■ T: 0800 163555

■ sandy@cleaning-systems-uk.com

**DR SCHUTZ** Richard Nelson ■ T: 01296 437827

■ richard@dr-schutz.com

**NATIONAL CARPET CLEANERS ASSOCIATION** Carpet cleaning **Aug 21-22, Nov 6-7**. The course is led by

NCCA directors Paul Pearce and Pawlo Woloszyn, experienced carpet cleaners. ■ T: 0116 271 9550

■ www.ncca.co.uk

**PREMIER PRODUCTS** Cleaning, floor preparation and maintenance courses. Contact

Maureen Scott. ■ T: 01242 537174

maureens@premiereproducts.co.uk

**PROCHEM** Carpet cleaning courses: (2-day) **Sep 29-30; Nov 24-25**. (1-day) **Sep 8, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 8**. Hard floor cleaning: **Sep 16, Nov 11**.

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■ T: 020 8974 1515  
 ■ [www.prochem.co.uk/training.htm](http://www.prochem.co.uk/training.htm)  
**PROCLEAN** David Jenkins  
 ■ T: 02380 660977

**WOOD FLOORING**

**BONA:** Introduction to basic sanding: **Aug 13, Sep 17, Oct 15, Nov 12, Dec 17**; Finishes for timber floors: **Sep 24, Nov 19**; Success with timber floors: **Oct 9, Dec 4**; Floors in educational establishments: **Aug 18, Oct 30**; Servicing your Bona sanding machine: **Oct 23, Dec 8**. ■ [www.bona.com](http://www.bona.com)  
 ■ T: 01908 399740

**JUNCKERS** Steve Maltby  
 ■ T: 01376 534700

**GRUNDORF TERHURNE**

■ T: 01562 861351  
**KÄHRS** ■ T: 023 9245 3045

**OSMO** Training is offered on floor preparation, methods of application of Osmo products and maintenance.  
 ■ T: 01296 481220

**TIMBER FLOOR TECHNOLOGY**

■ T: 01255 224776  
 ■ E: [info@timber-floor-technology.co.uk](mailto:info@timber-floor-technology.co.uk)

**RESILIENT FLOORS**

**ALTRO** Two-day resilient flooring courses. ■ T: 01462 707600  
 Two-day courses on resin flooring: Debbie Kavanagh ■ T: 01300 320620

**AMTICO** Resilient fitting courses. Marie Lane. ■ T: 0121 745 0821

**FORBO** has one-day installation courses. ■ T: 01592 647396

**NORA RUBBER FLOORING**

Shaun Howarth ■ T: 01455 200500

**KARNDEAN** Basic course (3 days)

**July 20-22**. ■ T: 01386 820170  
**MAPEI** ■ T: 0121 508 6970

**POLYFLOR** ■ T: 0161 767 1111

**TARKETT TRAINING ACADEMY**

■ T: 01622 854040

**SURFACE PREP**

**ARDEX** Luke Kingston  
 ■ T: 01440 714939

**F BALL** ■ T: 01538 361633

**LAYBOND** Martin Cummins  
 ■ T: 07740 278631

**MAPEI** ■ T: 0121 508 6970

**SPE** ■ T: 01673 860709

**THE PREPARATION GROUP**

Introduction to surface preparation **Sep 2**; floor removal processes **Aug 20**; know your surfaces **Aug 18**; advanced operators **Aug 26, Sep 16**; polishing & grinding techniques **Aug 12, Sep 10**; machine operation & maintenance **Sep 22-23**; general maintenance (½ day) **Sep 8**.

**£10 offer:** The Preparation Group, FeRFA Trainer of the Year 2008/9, is offering its surface preparation techniques course at a special price of £10 per delegate on **Sep 9**. This is to celebrate that one of its training team is the first certified NVQ assessor in the industry, and two of its contracting team were among the first NVQ candidates. The **Sep 9** course will cover the latest surface preparation, removal and finishing

## Online training offered in accounting software

EVOLUTION, the construction industry accounting from **INTEGRITY SOFTWARE**, is now available with online training. An Integrity trainer can coach the customer one-on-one on any part of the system over the phone using specialised online meeting software.

This approach is designed to help customers to reduce time out of the office. Condensed one-on-one training on specific aspects of the system online also reduces the mileage, costs and CO2 emissions of travelling to and from a training session.

Once this form of training is requested, a trainer calls the customer to discuss requirements and arrange to meet online at a convenient time.

Costing £99 this process does not replace Integrity's standard training options, either at their own offices or at a training centre, but it does aim to provide flexibility for



busy contractors facing industry pressures.

'The online training option is especially suited to smaller contractors and sub-contractors where perhaps one person or a small team of people work together, and time in the office is limited,' explains Justin Moule, Integrity Software's construction division director.

■ [www.integrity-construction.co.uk](http://www.integrity-construction.co.uk)

## Apprentices 'give you an advantage in the upturn'

TAKING on apprentices will help flooring contractors to remain competitive and be in the strongest possible position when the upturn begins, says Max Hamps, director of ConstructionSkills Apprenticeships.



Max Hamps

He says that even though apprentice applications are down this year on recent years, thousands more employers in England are still needed to match the demand for apprenticeship places, with 6,845 applications received so far and only 1,880 employer vacancies offered. But 740 employers and apprentices have been matched to date, which is the same number as this time in 2008. A total of 5,800 young people in England started an apprenticeship last year with ConstructionSkills.

'With more and more flooring contractors bidding for public sector work – which is forecast to remain stable over the next few years relative to other sectors – those who employ apprentices could have a major advantage.'

He points to the Office of Government Commerce's (OGC) new guidelines for public sector procurement, published in April 2009, state that contractors who can demonstrate a commitment to skills and training may be the preferred choice to take on work as part of the Government's £7bn annual spend. Major contractors in turn will be looking to their supply chain partners to help meet these requirements.

Max Hamps adds: 'Taking on an apprentice may feel like the last thing on your mind at the moment. However, when times are tough, competition for contracts is even tougher. That's when a well-trained, extra pair of hands could make a real difference to your chances.'

'An apprentice could be the best investment your business ever makes. It is vital that during these tough economic times valuable skills are not lost.'

ConstructionSkills financially supports employers that take on apprentices with up to £9,820 in CITB-ConstructionSkills Grant. A network of trained advisors provides ongoing mentoring and support.

■ [www.cskills.org/apprenticeships](http://www.cskills.org/apprenticeships)

methods along with equipment innovations. A mixture of theory and practical, it includes lectures, course notes, and an opportunity to try various preparation machines on custom built flooring pads. Places are limited. ■ T: 0870 224 3606

**ULTRA FLOOR** Karl Brannigan  
 ■ T: 01827 872244

**Aston University, Birmingham** has

one-day training courses: Screeds & toppings, their selection, properties, application, testing and maintenance **Oct 14**; Concrete technology module 1: properties and materials **Sep 17**; and Concrete technology module 2: specification **Oct 22**.

■ T: 0121 204 3593  
 ■ [www.seas.aston.ac.uk/cpd](http://www.seas.aston.ac.uk/cpd)  
**UZIN** Kenton Penny  
 ■ T: 01235 534106  
**FLOORING GUILD**  
 ■ T: 0800 072 3223  
 ■ [www.flooringguild.co.uk](http://www.flooringguild.co.uk)

DIARY DATES

**NATIONAL FLOOR SHOW**

**September 8-10** Harrogate  
[www.nationalfloorshow.co.uk](http://www.nationalfloorshow.co.uk)

**GLEE**

**September 20-22** NEC  
[www.gleebirmingham.com](http://www.gleebirmingham.com)

**LEISURE INDUSTRY WEEK**

**September 22-24** NEC  
[www.liw.co.uk](http://www.liw.co.uk)

**100% DESIGN**

**September 24-27** Earls Court  
[www.100percentdesign.co.uk](http://www.100percentdesign.co.uk)

**DECOREX**

**September 27-30** London  
[www.decorex.com](http://www.decorex.com)

CPD courses CPD courses

Flooring firms offering CPD courses:

- Altro ■ T: 01462 489568
- Amtico ■ T: 0121 745 0821
- Antron ■ T: 07876 577317
- Ardex ■ T: 01440 714939
- ASCER ■ T: 0207 467 2385
- BAL ■ T: 01782 591100
- Ball & Young ■ T: 01536 200502
- Bona ■ T: 01908 399740
- Bonar Floors ■ T: 01773 744121
- Brintons ■ T: 01562 635110
- Burmatex ■ T: 01924 276333
- Desso ■ T: 01235 554848
- Dulux Trade ■ E: [dtc@ici.com](mailto:dtc@ici.com)
- FeRFA ■ T: 01252 739149
- Flowcrete ■ T: 01270 753000
- Forbo ■ T: 01592 643777
- F Ball ■ T: 01538 361633
- Floprotec ■ T: 01325 269800
- Gradus ■ T: 01625 428922
- Heckmondwike ■ T: 01924 410544

- Interface ■ T: 01274 690690
- Instarmac ■ T: 01827 872244
- Isocrete ■ T: 01270 753000
- Junckers ■ T: 01376 534700
- Gerflor ■ T: 01926 401500
- Isocrete ■ T: 01270 753000
- Kingspan ■ T: 0870 7894000
- Laybond ■ T: 07740 278631
- Mapei ■ T: 0121 508 6970
- Matworks ■ T: 01924 413634
- Milliken ■ T: 01942 826073
- Maxit UK ■ T: 01928 515656
- Nora Flooring ■ T: 01455 200500
- Paragon ■ T: 0845 601 0431
- Polyflor ■ T: 0161 767 1111
- Rehau ■ T: 01989 762600
- Remmers ■ T: 0845 373 0103
- Sika ■ T: 01707 394444
- Tarkett ■ T: 01622 854040
- Thortex ■ T: 01609 780170
- Westex Carpets ■ T: 01274 861334