

Vinyl flooring survey

# Versatile

Vinyl flooring is both decorative and highly functional:

**Altro** supplied a variety of products for the refurbishment of the hydrotherapy pool of the Cambridgeshire-based charity Chatting Independently, which offers services to people with physical and learning disabilities such as cerebral palsy.

The hydrotherapy room has to be not only be safe and hygienic, but also to provide a relaxing and healing environment for its users. Altro Marine, the safety flooring for wet areas, was used around the pool area. Altro Whiterock Pastels was fitted to the walls and ceiling in a range of colours, reported to give an

attractive design but also allow for easy and safe maintenance. This product is a grout free alternative to tiles, complimented by coloured silicone sealants.

Chatting Independently director, Derek Robertson, comments: 'We needed something modern and durable as this was a big investment for us, one which we could only afford once. We needed something we knew would be safe as well as long lasting. We have all been really pleased with the results.'

Lee Sherwood, from Elite Interiors, who installed the floors, walls and ceilings, says: 'The project went very well. We always find Altro products easy to use and install.'

Altro's safety flooring is claimed to be easy to clean, non-slip and durable, especially suitable wet and greasy areas. It is designed to be resilient yet comfortable to walk on and also combine bacteriostat for enhanced hygiene.

The floorings come in a variety of colours and styles and can be seamlessly fitted to any room.

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

**Amtico** worked alongside showroom designer and installer, Intertech, to fit out 40 Triumph showrooms across Europe with the new Amtico Auto flooring range.

The Amtico Auto collection has been developed to meet the needs of the car showroom sector and is said to have an in-built resistance to tyre marks and stains.

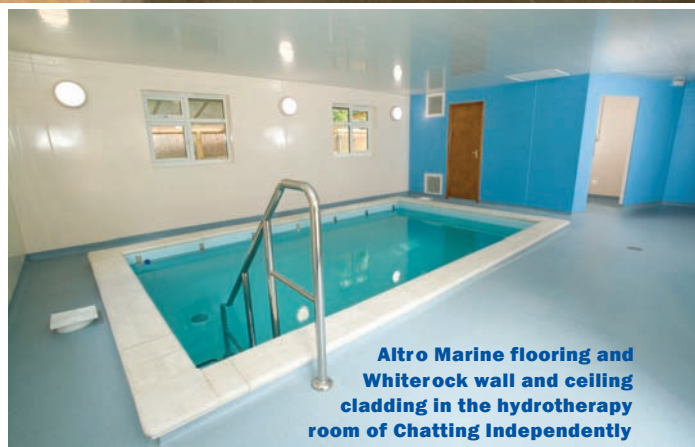
'Vinyl flooring has been used for the past 20 years in showrooms,' says Andrew Fenton, director of Intertech. 'However, due to the compound changes in tyres and the increasing environmental pressures to make them more biodegradable, marks have become a regular occurrence and a costly hindrance for many showrooms.'

'In response to the Triumph brief, Amtico Auto was an obvious choice for us. The range helps with typical tyre migration problems. It's also cost effective and keeps disruptions to a business at a minimum as it can be laid over existing flooring.'

The Auto range carries a 15-year guarantee against wear-out, cracks and chips and a five-year guarantee against tyre staining.

vinyl

**Amtico Auto flooring in the showroom of a Triumph dealer**



**Altro Marine flooring and Whiterock wall and ceiling cladding in the hydrotherapy room of Chatting Independently**



**One of the many patterns available in the Gerflor Creation Design collection**

Intertech has been working with Triumph since 2004 to design, develop and implement a system designed to meet the needs of its dealers throughout the world.

Andrew Fenton continues: 'Areas can be personalised with unique flooring designs without competing with the motorcycles on display. This is why we use high-end products such as Amtico.'

Amtico International boasts 40 years' experience in designing, engineering and manufacturing innovative and resilient flooring.

**Gerflor** has expanded its Creation range of vinyl flooring, which was pre-launched at Euroshop. It now includes Creation Design, a collection of modular designed products in addition to an enhanced Creation Mineral and

Creation Wood.

Over 120 references are available, offering designs for high-traffic areas in retail, hotels, healthcare, offices, nursing homes and education reception areas, etc.

The highly 'realistic and decorative' floorcoverings consist of a transparent wearlayer, a design film and a compact underlayer in an overall thickness of 2.5mm available in both tile and strip form.

A polyurethane surface treatment (PUR) is said to make it low maintenance. The product includes 65% of recycled material and is said to be fully recyclable at the end of life. [www.gerflor.co.uk](http://www.gerflor.co.uk)

**Karndean** has added six new designs to the Van Gogh collection, which comprises 48in by 7in planks, said to make it quicker to



**New designs in the Karndean Van Gogh collection**





One of the flooring images created by Tarkett in the refurbished children's ward at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley

install. The total offering is now 22 woodplank designs, with the latest patterns created as a response to the growing trend for bolder more striking flooring.

Among the new products are Lamington Cedar and Ghost Wood. Supporting the retailers who promote the new designs, Karndean offers new display packages. And for contractors, there are new swatch folders to showcase the product.

Martin Bell, md of Karndean, comments: 'The reputation of the Van Gogh collection continues to grow. I am confident that these stunning new designs will further improve the popularity of the range.'

**Polyflor** reports that its Polysafe Wood FX decorative sheet vinyl safety flooring has impressed the congregation at Llanyrafon Methodist Church, Cwmbran, South Wales, where it was installed in the church and church hall.

The flooring contractor was local company Puma Floors.

Polysafe Wood FX is available in eight 'realistic' timber styles and is supplied to a variety of commercial markets, being especially suitable for busy public areas.

Wood FX can be also used in bathrooms and toilets where there

are risks of contaminant spillages, according to the company.

In common with all Polysafe ranges, Wood FX is reported to comply fully with HSE Guidelines, providing sustained slip resistance throughout its guaranteed life. The range also achieves 36+ on the RRL Pendulum wet test (Slider 96/Four S rubber) with a surface roughness of 20 microns and above to ensure a low slip risk classification is achieved.

The sustained slip resistance of Polysafe Wood FX is achieved by the incorporation of clear aluminium oxide throughout the wearlayer, with aggregates said to have been formulated to ensure excellent clarity of design.

As well as compliance with HSE Guidelines, Polysafe Wood FX meets the performance requirements of EN13845, the European Norm for safety flooring, and, fully tested to fire safety standard EN13501-1, is certified as Class Bfl-S1, achieving the criteria EN ISO 9239-1.

**www.polyflor.com**

**Tarkett** supplied 2,500sq m of flooring for the refurbished children's ward at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley. iQ Granit was fitted in bedrooms, x-ray



Polysafe Wood FX decorative sheet vinyl safety flooring from Polyflor in the Llanyrafon Methodist Church, Cwmbran

department corridors and suites, while Eminent Safe.T was used in prep areas and shower rooms.

A wide range of images were created for the children's ward by Tarkett's Floorcraft service, including carousels, rockets and trains. These are designed to help to brighten the area and give a fun, colourful environment for the young patients.

Hugh McDougall, estates projects manager at the hospital, comments: 'Having used Tarkett flooring in the hospital for many years we had no hesitation in choosing them again for this refurbishment. They offer valuable maintenance cost savings and the end result is aesthetically pleasing, particularly in the children's ward.'

As a homogeneous vinyl, iQ Granit is reportedly made from high quality raw materials and features Tarkett's third generation PUR reinforcement. This is said to guarantee no wax or polish – for life, as well as the absolute minimum of heavy, wet cleaning.

Claimed to offer significant maintenance cost-savings, the flooring reputedly helps to preserve the environment by reducing the amount of energy, water and

chemicals consumed in cleaning.

With an extensive colour range, Granit offers a selection of 'subdued shades'. For the prep areas and shower rooms Eminent Safe.T was specified. This features an R10 slip resistance rating and is said to offer a flexibility that allows for easier coving and vertical installation.

Eminent Safe.T comes in 10 colours are designed to complement Tarkett's other homogeneous vinyls, including iQ Granit. The Safe.T clean surface treatment is described as providing a durable and easy to clean finish, offering long-term savings in maintenance costs. **CFJ** [www.tarkett-commercial.com](http://www.tarkett-commercial.com)

### BUYERS' GUIDE

For further information on any of the products mentioned, contact the suppliers directly. And please remember to tell them that you read about their companies in **CFJ**:

<b>Altro</b>	<b>0800 018 2960</b>
<b>Antico</b>	<b>0121 745 0800</b>
<b>Gerflor</b>	<b>0870 2647 581</b>
<b>Karndean</b>	<b>01386 820200</b>
<b>Polyflor</b>	<b>0161 7671 1111</b>
<b>Tarkett</b>	<b>01622 854040</b>

## Why luxury vinyl tiles are becoming more popular

**Hazel Cook, contract marketing manager at Gerflor, explains where luxury vinyl tiles should be specified:**



IT is estimated that 3.9m sq m of luxury vinyl tiles (LVTs) are installed annually into the commercial sector; mostly in retail outlets with a growing quantity in education and health as well as offices and leisure outlets.

Their appeal lies in the versatility of the stylish, natural finishes combined with their robust practicality.

In addition, LVTs offer excellent value for money when compared with natural equivalents and environmental benefits make them a hugely popular choice.

Typically, LVTs divide into two finishes - wood and mineral effects. Wood effects look virtually identical to their natural counterparts, partly as a

result of the photographic films used and also due to embossing.

Indeed, it is the skill used in the embossing that will make the difference between an ordinary LVT and one that will stand up to scrutiny.

The variety of wood effects includes many favourites such as Oak, Elm and Rowan and also includes exotic species such as Merbau and Mahogany which are prohibited from use in their natural state due to the threat of rainforest depletion.

The products include high levels of recycled material and can be readily recycled too, making them an excellent environmental choice.

Current design trends for wooden flooring include the use of wider planks; 6in wide planks are popular today. Whilst this is a simple request to an LVT supplier, real wood producers are forced to source more mature trees from which to cut the planks. Inevitably, costs increase on

more mature trees but it is the ecological impact of harvesting trees later and hauling them long distances which is causing the greater concern.

Another reason for the popularity of LVT products is that specifiers are recognising their durability. Stilettoes can seriously compromise a wooden floor! Many species are particularly prone to this sort of damage. Being extremely robust, as well as easy to clean, the LVT product is much less likely to suffer damage.

Mineral effects are popular and manufacturers have been increasing the portfolio of stone effects. Popular marbles and travertine effects have been joined by attractive slate and limestone effects. Again, it is the quality of embossing which will play an important role in determining the visual appeal of the products and there are some really exciting new slate effects on the market.

Another very important reason for

the popularity of LVT's is their high level of sound absorption; impact noise sustained through heavy foot traffic can be substantially reduced through the use of LVT products. People who stand for long periods in noisy environments will soon notice the difference with an LVT solution.

LVTs are also great for creating the wow factor. Why not opt for one of this year's biggest design trends? Black and white is a bold, dramatic look and there are some brand new LVT products ideally suited to this very graphic look.

The LVT market is set to develop even further as demand increases and technology allows even more designs and configurations. The formulation of the product makes it long-lasting and ideal for heavy foot traffic, and the designs that are currently available enable the most innovative and imaginative floors to be created. **CFJ**