



A wealth of choice for home adaptation projects

Polyflor & HSE Compliance

Key Health & Safety Executive (HSE) Statistics

- Slips and trips are the most common cause of injuries at work
- Cause over a third of major injuries and over 40% of all reported injuries to members of the public
- Most of these accidents are slips, which mainly happen when floor surfaces are contaminated with water, talc, grease etc
- Over 8500 major injuries are suffered each year at a cost to the economy of £750 million each year, plus the suffering to the individual
- A cost of £512 million is felt by employers in lost production and other costs each year

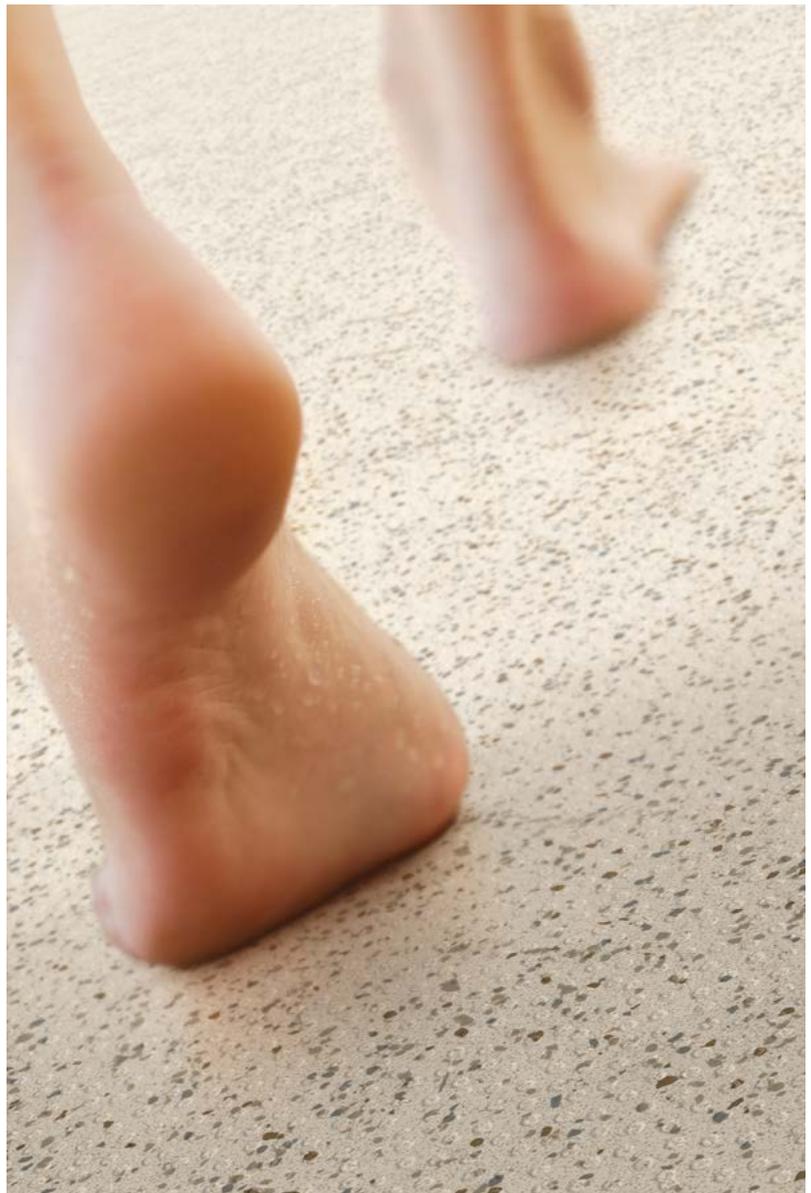


To meet HSE requirements, a flooring classed as slip resistant needs to achieve a result of 36 and above on the Pendulum Test in wet conditions in order to be classified as low slip potential. A dynamic co-efficient of friction of 36 + correlates to a risk factor of 1 person in a million potentially slipping on the floor (*information derived from research by the Building Research Establishment and HSE*).

The Pendulum Machine is recognised by the HSE as the slip resistance test method that closely resembles a foot as it would slip on the floor and the way it would disperse the squeeze film of compressed fluid that is created when there is a contaminant trapped between foot and floor. This swinging nature of the Pendulum is similar to the effect of aquaplaning.

All safety flooring products manufactured by Polyflor meet the 36+ Pendulum Test Value (PTV) in wet conditions and due to the incorporation of aggregate particles through the performance layer this performance is sustainable over the guaranteed life of the floor. The fully portable Pendulum Machine can test the flooring once installed to take live readings of the floor's continued slip resistance.

Over the following pages are Polyflor flooring ranges suitable for home adaptation projects, in particular for wet room environments. Free samples of all products are available to order online at www.polyflor.com or by contacting Polyflor Samples Direct on 0161 767 2551.



Heavy-duty safety flooring for use in barefoot and continually wet areas

Polysafe safety flooring has been manufactured by Polyflor in the UK for over 25 years, offering an array of product solutions for many commercial and residential applications. Offering sustainable wet slip resistance for the guaranteed life of the floor, all Polysafe ranges are fully HSE Compliant, adhering to the European Safety Flooring Standard EN 13845 and meeting the 50,000 cycles abrasion test contained within the standard to ensure long term performance.

Polysafe Hydro & Hydro Evolve form a key part of the Polysafe portfolio of flooring products. Specially designed for continually wet and barefoot areas, Hydro ranges provide the required underfoot safety in critical areas within specialist care facilities and disabled adaptations.



KEY FEATURES - Hydro & Hydro Evolve

- Feature a subtle and comfortable emboss with choice of traditional and decorative options
- Designed for use with barefoot users and carers with soft soled footwear in continually wet areas
- Incorporate a blend of safety aggregates through the performance layer to improve traction and safety underfoot
- Fully HSE Compliant with slip resistance assured for guaranteed life of the product - 36+ result achieved on RRL Pendulum Wet Test
- Meet 50,000 cycles abrasion test to EN 13845, ensuring sustainable slip resistance
- Flexible backing to aid easy installation around drainage points
- Adheres to water tightness standard EN 13553 to ensure suitability in special wet areas where a strong weld seals the floor and makes it impervious
- Full LRV values available by colour to ensure contrast achievable between floor, wall & junction to aid the visually impaired
- Contain recycled material and are 100% recyclable through Recofloor, a Vinyl Take Back Scheme of which Polyflor is a founding & funding member. BRE Global A+ Rated Product (Generic & ENP 472) in major use areas such as education & healthcare
- Independently assessed by the British Board of Agrément and product performance assured for at least 10 years in recommended use areas - generally an important requirement for Council specifications



"With parents well into their nineties, we needed their two 40 year old conventional bathrooms renovating to provide easier access: one as a wet room with ability-aids and underfloor heating and the other as an easy-access shower room. The flooring needed to be bright, attractive, waterproof, slip resistant and with an understated pattern - we could not countenance slips or falls. Polysafe Hydro Evolve's 'Indus' colour met our requirements fully and gained compliments both from our parents and from the local occupational health visitor"

Andy from Dorset

Slip resistance - HSE compliance

Polysafe Hydro & Hydro Evolve have been rigorously tested to ensure their status as top performers in many commercial and residential areas, in full compliance with HSE & UK Slip Group Guidelines.

RRL Pendulum Wet Test



Pendulum test value (Wet test)	Slip risk potential
0-24	High
25-35	Medium
36+	Low

The Pendulum test undertaken in wet conditions is the main indicator of long term, in-situ slip resistant performance on safety flooring and is recommended as the main slip test method by the HSE. This assesses the dynamic coefficient of friction on a floorcovering, achieved by swinging a dummy heel over the floor surface to simulate a foot slipping on a wet floor.

Both Polysafe Hydro ranges achieve a wet Pendulum result of 36+ within continually wet pedestrian areas which is classified within the low slip potential category as defined in HSE Guidelines.

Surface Roughness Test



Rz surface roughness	Slip risk potential
Below 10 microns	High
10-20 microns	Medium
20 microns +	Low

The surface roughness test is also favoured by the HSE to be used on-site in conjunction with the Pendulum test and involves measuring the total surface micro roughness of the flooring with a surface roughness meter. A mean value of several peak to valley measurements are calculated on the surface by tracing a needle over the floor at various points.

Both Polysafe Hydro ranges achieve a surface roughness result in excess of 20 microns (Rz) to again ensure a low slip classification to the HSE Guidelines when the floor is subjected to continual water.

DIN 51097

When tested to the ex-factory barefoot Ramp Test DIN 51097, both Hydro ranges achieve a Class B, meaning suitability in shower rooms, pool surrounds, wet changing areas and disinfectant spray areas. Both are also appropriate for areas categorised as Class A to DIN 51097 such as barefoot isles and walkways.

EN 13845

Hydro ranges fully adhere to the European Safety Flooring Standard, being classified as ESb and ESf products. This means both provide enhanced slip properties in barefoot areas and for use with footwear. Both are individually certified and fully CE Marked, showing mandatory conformance to slip resistance and fire performance requirements. Both ranges also pass the 50,000 cycles abrasion test to EN 13845 demonstrating sustainability and longevity of safety particles used in the product.

Article by John Mellor

Market Manager, Polyflor Safety Flooring



A wealth of choice for home adaptation projects



Today's home adaptation market continues to be a growth area and at the heart of many refurbishment projects is the need to ensure that interiors meet inclusive design requirements. In an era where Government policy promotes closer integration between health and social care, the aim of care providers is to support people with the right care, in the right place at the right time. For disabled homeowners, this support is focused around encouraging independent living at home and to make this experience as comfortable as possible, allowing people to lead active, fulfilled lives in their own homes, thereby reducing hospital stays and care home admissions. As well as the use of suitable equipment to aid navigation and usability by disabled homeowners, the choice of flooring specified within a home is an integral part that can uplift and encourage health and wellbeing. The right flooring in the home can take the user away from the more clinical and institutional feel offered up by some healthcare and specialist care facilities.

At Polyflor, we have a variety of vinyl products suited to the home adaptations sector, whether subtle designs to help encourage positive perceptions of relaxation and comfort or more vibrant hues that can liven up an interior space. Vinyl is well recognised as a flooring type used regularly within the home due to its easy clean properties and realistic reproductions of natural materials such as wood, stone, textile and more abstract features, bringing a touch of the outdoors into the home. Traditionally this is achieved by installing one of Polyflor's market leading luxury vinyl tile ranges such as Colonia or Camaro, which are tried and trusted for their high clarity appearance and warming, homely feel. However, Polyflor has now introduced new products to the market which are eminently suited to the home environment and suit inclusive design requirements. Secura is an innovation to the flooring market and instead of individual planks and tiles; this is a luxury vinyl sheet available in 2, 3 and 4 metre widths that can be loose laid.

Creating inspired interiors for modern living and developed to encourage a soothing and relaxed environment which is of high importance to the disabled user, Secura combines influences from natural textures like wood and stone through to modern, abstract living materials. Particularly suited for multi storey dwellings within social housing or student accommodation, Secura achieves an impact sound reduction level of 19dB, exceeding Building Regulations Part E.



And there's more...

Decorative safety flooring is the main growth area that is increasingly being specified for domestic environments due to dual aesthetic and slip resistant features which protects and reassures users and carers in their own homes.

Decorative safety flooring continued...

Polyflor's current class leading safety floors under the renowned Polysafe brand have certainly evolved over the years. Many years ago, a purchaser of safety flooring was faced with a simple choice. Available in any colour (as long as it was grey!), with function not form being all important, safety flooring tended to be laid in traditional commercial areas where spillages would occur. This tended to be in locations with relatively low footfall and limited public access, rendering the perceived difficulties in cleaning to be seen as unimportant.

Fast forward twenty years or so and the vinyl safety flooring world we now see today is much more sophisticated and a significantly different animal. Having developed substantially to meet market demands and trends, safety vinyl is now moving from its perennial home at the back of house to the front of a facility, including in home adaptation areas where the flooring needs to be highly aesthetic to encourage wellbeing and comfort. Thanks to the technological advances from flooring manufacturers such as Polyflor, safety flooring is now a major consideration for home owners who want to create a wow factor in their home but underpin this with underfoot safety that is sustainable. It is important that this slip resistance does not impinge on the flooring's overall look and subsequent ease of cleaning. Built-in safety is quickly becoming more of a customer expectation rather than just being simply a wish list item.

Today's safety flooring from Polyflor comes in various guises, ranging from subtle, nuanced decorations to bright inventive colours with virtually invisible particles within the vinyl to aid clarity and maintain the overall design. New safety flooring products available in the market include decorative Polysafe Verona PUR with unique colours and carborundum-free particles to give safety reassurance but presented in a highly attractive aesthetic, as well as Polysafe Arena PUR, a collection replicating natural or outdoor materials such as stone, concrete, textile and abstract. This is complemented by Polysafe Modena PUR, a mix of earthy and vibrant tones with a distinctive micro-granite decoration and Polysafe Wood fx PUR, a range of light to dark wood effects with realistic grains represented to recreates the beauty of nature, fitting perfectly into the home environment. All these products meet feature slip resistant particles in the product that are almost invisible to the naked eye yet still offer sustained underfoot safety in compliance with the HSE & UK Slip Resistance Group Guidelines, whilst also adhering to the appropriate

European Safety Flooring Standard EN 13845. These particles are sustainable through the guaranteed life of the floor and pass the 50,000 cycles abrasion test to EN 13845.

Safety flooring is also now much easier to clean than it ever has been and Polyflor's development of the exclusive Polysafe PUR reinforcement across a number of its safety ranges, helps ensure they lead their field in maintenance and appearance restoration levels, again signposting product suitability to the areas of the home which need to be inviting yet ensure underfoot safety for users in the event of spillages.

Polyflor also has specific products available that are designed specifically for wet rooms and en-suites within a home adaptation such as Polysafe Hydro, Hydro Evolve and Ultima. In particular, Polysafe Hydro Evolve is a decorative safety floor that provides underfoot safety in continually wet areas where it is critical to minimise slip risk for all users. Suited for use with barefoot and footwear, Hydro Evolve features fresh and homely colours, co-ordinated with non-intrusive safety aggregates in the vinyl to generate the required slip resistance.



For further information visit:



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