

Elegant finish for care home



Danfloor has supplied 3,000 m² of its Equinox Tones carpet range for use in locations ranging from corridors to bedrooms, to Hallmark Care Homes' Alexandra Grange 55-bed care home in Wokingham.

The carpeting was supplied in colours ranging from the neutral tones of Marsh Honey, Chanterelle, and Moss Bell, to the 'more vivid colours' of Scarlet Cup, Midnight Disco, and Birch Rust.

"We want our bedrooms and circulation areas to be elegantly finished, and to provide our residents with the utmost comfort," explained Jacqueline Farguson, interior designer, Hallmark Care Homes. "Some are also living with dementia, so the products must be suitable for their needs."

Key to the Equinox Tones selection was Hallmark's previous experience with the product in its other homes. Jacqueline Farguson said: "We have been impressed with how well it performs in such a demanding environment. In a typical day the carpet will come into contact with wheelchairs, liquid spills, and abrasive cleaning chemicals, but still maintains its colour and appearance".

'Holistic approach' to interior design

Altro has launched a new 'package' of flooring and wall cladding products, 'designed to offer a holistic approach to interior design'.

Altro Wood Safety is a 'true wood-look, sparkle-free' safety flooring that replaces Altro Timbersafe II, with a palette of 12 'classic, contemporary, and on-trend' designs, Altro said: "The new palette enables mood to vary from cool and classy for spas and hospital receptions, to warm and nurturing for the care and hospitality sectors. The sparkle-free finish is ideal for dementia settings." This flooring features Altro Easyclean Maxis PUR technology, 'for optimum long-term cleaning and maintenance performance'.

Altro Wood Smooth shares the same palette, and is 'easy to clean and maintain, and to install and weld', while Altro Wood Smooth Acoustic is a new 'smooth' range



for use where noise reduction is required. Available in four colours, it offers 18 dB sound absorption.

With 'a solid and reassuring look', and 24 'neutral and vibrant' colours, Altro Zodiac Smooth is reportedly ideal for large areas

The floorings are complemented by Altro Whiterock Satins wall cladding, available in 16 new colours with a solid matt finish, and the Altro Whiterock Chameleon high gloss range, with four new colours.

Guarding against dirt and moisture

Described as 'one of the UK's most flexible single-sided entrance mats', Nuway Connect is part of Forbo Flooring Systems' comprehensive entrance systems flooring portfolio, and 'gives peace of mind in stopping a high proportion of dirt and moisture from entering a building'.

"The beauty of Nuway Connect lies in the single-sided format, which is available in an open construction,



making it considerably easier to clean the mat well," the company explained. "This makes for a 'rollable' rigid system, so mats can easily be rolled up for cleaning, while the patented design ensures that the mat can only be rolled inwardly, ensuring it maintains its shape."

Nuway Connect can also be shaped on site, for instance for irregularly-shaped entrances.

A wide choice of inserts is available. For internal matting zones, Connect is available with a choice of six Coral classic inserts, allowing it to be colour co-ordinated to matching Coral classic sheet, which can be used in the secondary matting zone.

Forbo says the Coral collection is 'now effective at stopping up to 94% of all tracked in dirt'.

Reducing falls among older patients

Following trials of a 'shock-absorbent' Tarkett flooring system commonly used in sports halls, Portsmouth's Queen Alexandra Hospital is hoping to reduce trips and falls in its dementia wards by installing the material.

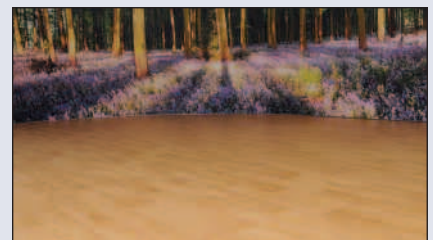
The 'Hip-Hop' Flooring Study, by the University of Portsmouth, found installing Tarkett's Omnisports flooring was likely to reduce fall injuries among older people due to its shock-absorbent foam backing. Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust has now installed 1,600 m² of Omnisports Training 5 mm flooring in the treatment bedrooms

of the hospital's four acute wards, which care for frail, older patients.

Julie Windsor, patient safety lead, Older People and Falls, for NHS England, said:

"The Portsmouth University research showed the Tarkett flooring performed favourably compared with other flooring types in potentially reducing serious injury risk following falls. The Omnisports Training flooring also has an R9 slip resistance rating, while the backing reduces noise."

The Trust selected a 'classic oak' finish. Julie Windsor said: "Colour, design, and pattern, are incredibly important when



choosing for dementia ward flooring. Too bright and high glare a finish can confuse older eyes, and excessively 'busy' designs can be daunting. The reassuring and homely classic oak design creates a calming environment that ensures patients feel safe, and stay in their rooms."

Pearlazzo used at 'state-of-the-art' Cyberknife facility

Polyflor's leading smooth vinyl range, Pearlazzo PUR, has been installed in the new Cyberknife Radiosurgery facility at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, one of only six such facilities in the UK.

The CyberKnife is reportedly 'the world's first and only robotic radiosurgery system designed to treat tumours throughout the body non-invasively'. The £3 million device at the QEH was purchased via charitable fundraising activities alone, with a donation of some £1m from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity generated from the



sale of a painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

Installed by Sheldon Flooring, Purple Crush and Lilac Bloom flooring colours

were selected from Pearlazzo's 24 colour options, to mark out the path of the machine, creating a safety zone.

Pearlazzo PUR uses 'distinctive tonal chips, and pearlescent flakes blended and fused into a solid base colour, for a distinctive decorative finish', and features Polyflor's 'unique' polyurethane reinforcement (PUR), cross-linked and UV cured for optimum strength. This PUR reinforcement, and 'a superior closed surface finish', reportedly facilitate 'a low-cost, lifetime polish-free maintenance regime, achieving savings of up to 48% compared with standard vinyl flooring'.

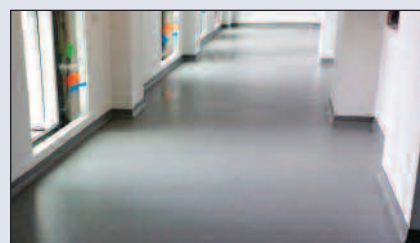
Award-winning floor for Bristol facility

High performance flooring from Flowcrete UK – installed at a new Bristol hospital facility by Polydeck Resins – has secured a top industry award.

The project, at the new Brunel Building, part of a major redevelopment at Southmead Hospital, took the Large Project of the Year Award at the FeRFA (Resin Flooring Association) Best Practice Awards 2013.

Built by Carillion, the building will house an Accident and Emergency department, and specialist neurosurgery, renal, and orthopaedics centres.

Peran STB, a hard-wearing flooring 'combining style and safety with cutting edge sustainability credentials', was selected. It also boasts 'high scratch, impact, and abrasion resistance', is 'durable and easy to clean', provides 'a



seamless finish', and allows rapid installation. Polydeck Resins had just eight weeks to complete the installation 'to particularly strict tolerances'.