



# Recofloor Newsletter

Vinyl Take-Back Scheme

Issue 3

Founder Members:



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## HELLO!

Welcome to the third issue of the Recofloor newsletter.

We are very excited to announce that already Recofloor has been shortlisted for an award! The scheme has been shortlisted for the category: 'The Award for Waste' as part of the Sustain Magazine Awards, the publication for 'Sustainability, Business and the Built Environment'. Category winners will be announced in March at the forthcoming Ecobuild Exhibition at Earls Court, London – so fingers crossed!

Other items in this issue include a focus on the Recofloor distributors (we now have 7 on board - and are hoping to recruit more) and contact details for them all. We are appealing for photographs of Recofloor bags in use and have included a F.A.Q section, in an attempt to answer some of the most popular questions and queries put to the Recofloor team.

## FLOORING DISTRIBUTORS GET ON BOARD

There are now more than 190 Recofloor collection sites, including individual flooring contractors, large construction projects and trade waste sites. To date, seven flooring distributors, of which six are members of the Independent Flooring Distributors Association and one in Dublin, are actively collecting uplifted vinyl flooring and installation offcuts.

IFDA members, based in Sheffield, Leeds, Hull, Hampshire and Kent offer a drop-off service to their clients where contractors can deposit waste vinyl flooring in special 1,100-litre bins or return full bags when collecting new supplies.

Recofloor Project Manager Jane Gardner says: "Distributors see it as an additional beneficial and convenient service for their customers, who not only save on disposal costs but can also demonstrate their commitment to reducing environmental impact by recycling old and unwanted vinyl flooring. They also benefit from increased contact with their customers, whom they'll see more regularly when they return to recycle their flooring."

James Smith, Director of family-run Nutland Carpet Accessories in Chandlers Ford, Hampshire, says: "With over 300 accounts, there is great potential to recycle more. We're handing out sacks to our customers who know there's a convenient drop-off point for floor waste when they collect new supplies. We are pleased with the scheme and hope it will be successful."

STS Flooring in Orpington, Kent, is trialling collections at its trade counter that will be extended to depots in Croydon, Cambridge, Watford and Thame. "Making contractors aware that recycling is worthwhile and of benefit is vital. We're handing out flyers with collection bags, but it will take time," says Sales Director Jim Flockhart. "Certainly those who have taken up the idea are supportive and see it as a good idea."

As his customer Geoff Turner Flooring says: "What a crying shame if all this stuff goes to waste. We're recycling offcuts; it's a good scheme." Dave Sands, owner of Nothing But Flooring, says the scheme 'makes sense', particularly for contracts with large volumes of uplifted flooring.

As committed recyclers of their plastic and cardboard waste, FM Birch in Sheffield believes vinyl recycling is a logical next step. "It has to happen – there is the willingness and enthusiasm for it at all our three sites," comments Sales Director Gordon Hershaw. "The message is getting through to contractors who realise that recycling offcuts will save on disposal costs and boost their 'green' credentials with councils. We're sorting out collection logistics to make it easier for our customers to recycle."

PFL, Ireland's sole Polyflor distributor, is another enthusiastic supporter of the scheme, which it plans to roll out throughout the island following a successful trial with ten key customers in the Dublin area. "Feedback was very positive, with people recognising the environmental, economic and compliance needs to recycle our waste materials," comments MD Sean Haugh.

He adds: "In our view, recycling vinyl flooring waste not only benefits our customers, but also the whole community by stopping waste being burned or buried. It's a further step towards Ireland becoming a recycling society."

Genevieve Tullberg from Kent Flooring sums it up: "No company is free from environmental responsibility and we are delighted to support this scheme while helping our customers do their bit".



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### Q. Can I collect uplifted flooring?

A. Uplifted flooring can only be collected if it meets strict specification guidelines. The use areas are critical and the percentage of adhesive and screed is also a factor. Please call the Recofloor team to discuss.

### Q. What if I am uplifting large areas of flooring?

A. Before committing to collecting large volumes of uplifted flooring directly from site, we need to assess whether the condition of the floor meets specification guidelines. Please call the Recofloor team to discuss.

### Q. What are the specification guidelines?

A. For uplifted, smooth vinyl:

- Top surface smooth and clean but with light amounts of adhesive or cement (screed) on the rear. It is essential that bags are not contaminated with any other material or waste.

### Q What if I'm uplifting or fitting vinyl tiles?

A. For vinyl tiles, please only half fill the bags. Bags filled with vinyl tiles weigh more and as a result full bags may be more difficult to move around and collect on site. Please call the Recofloor team to discuss.

### Q. How much does a bulk bag hold?

A. Bulk bags filled with vinyl flooring hold approximately 250 kg. This varies if vinyl tiles or larger pieces of vinyl are put into the bag. 1m<sup>2</sup> weighs approximately 3 kg.

### Q. Can we use the Recofloor logo on our marketing materials?

A. The logo can be provided by arrangement. Please call Matt Charlton, Recofloor Team, tel: 0161 355 7618 to discuss.

### Q. What happens to the flooring that we collect?

A. Off-cuts are used by the manufacturers for inclusion in new vinyl flooring. Uplifted flooring is currently sent to other reprocessors for use in traffic calming products, such as traffic cone and road barrier bases.

## RECOFLOOR DISTRIBUTION SITES



Look out for Recofloor bins at the following distributors:

### Dublin

PFL Ltd.  
Unit 19/20  
Westlink Ind. Estate,  
Kylemore Road, Dublin 10  
Tel: 00 35 316 263 913

### Hampshire

Nutland Carpets  
Renown Close Ind. Estate,  
Chandlers Ford,  
Hampshire  
SO53 4HZ  
Tel: 02380 267 322

### Hull

FM Birch Ltd.  
Rotterdam Road,  
Sutton Fields Ind. Estate,  
Hull  
HU7 0XD  
Tel: 01482 826 654

### Kent (Chatham)

Kent Flooring  
Units 7/8 Revenge Road,  
Lordswood Ind. Estate,  
Chatham,  
Kent ME5 8UD  
Tel: 01634 668 668

### Kent (Orpington)

STS Flooring  
Units 5 & 6  
Orpington Trade Centre,  
Murray Road, Orpington,  
Kent BR5 3SS  
Tel: 0854 434 1000

### Leeds

FM Birch Ltd.  
Unit 11,  
South Leeds Business Park,  
Hudswell Road,  
Leeds LS10 1AG  
Tel: 0113 244 4363

### Sheffield

FM Birch Ltd.  
318 Coleford Road,  
Darnall,  
Sheffield  
S9 5PH  
Tel: 0114 243 1230

## PHOTO APPEAL

We would like any photos of Recofloor bags being used to collect vinyl flooring material to help publicise the scheme. If you have any suitable photos that we could use, please email them to Matt: [mcharlton@axionconsulting.co.uk](mailto:mcharlton@axionconsulting.co.uk) Your picture could be a staff member emptying material into a Recofloor bag or could feature the bags being collected. Why not take the opportunity to get a bit of free publicity yourself and make sure the photo includes your company logo, van or sign!

## CONTACTS

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