POLYSAFE. THE COMPLETE SAFETY FLOORING SOLUTION
4 Steps to Safety

1. 36+ RRL Pendulum Wet Test
2. Surface Roughness Rz ≥20μm
3. Proven Cleanability
4. Sustainable Slip Resistance

HSE Compliant

Safety in Numbers
Polysafe safety flooring has been manufactured by Polyflor for over 25 years and today the collection offers an array of products for all possible applications with a level of performance and quality second to none.

Safety flooring is specified increasingly to provide underfoot safety for employees, customers and public alike. Polyflor is unswerving in its commitment to maintain the level of slip resistance throughout the guaranteed life of the product, in addition to providing the choice of colour, decoration, texture and ease of cleaning you would expect from a Polyflor product.

- Guaranteed levels of slip resistance
- Independently proven to be easier to clean
- Unique Polysafe™ PUR cross-linked reinforcement
- Range of attractive colours and decorations
- Tailored products for all applications
- All ranges widely available
- Peace of mind in specifying a Polyflor safety floor

Choosing Polysafe gives that added reassurance from a manufacturer dedicated to offering products that are fit to serve their purpose as slip resistant safety floors, backed up by a significant commitment to new product development to suit the needs of Polyflor customers. This approach has been recognised with Polysafe being awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise, in the category for continuous product innovation and development; a true reflection of Polysafe's high standing in the safety flooring market.
Polyflor is a true pioneer of safety flooring manufacture. As well as being the first to offer an Agrément assessment of product performance, based on appropriate maintenance of the now universal 2mm gauge product, Polyflor was also the first to launch a more decorative, multi-chip decoration in the 1990s. In 2000, the bar was raised significantly with the launch of Supratec – a patented leap in cleanability of safety floors. And now brings a significant advancement in safety flooring maintenance with the availability of Polysafe™ PUR, a specially developed cross-linked polyurethane reinforcement incorporated into vanguard Polysafe collections.

Our Polysafe products have evolved and developed to meet customer needs over the years, but we have never lost sight of the rationale behind safety floors – that they offer sustainable slip resistance and that all other features such as aesthetics and cleanability are built on top of safety, never compromising it.

This philosophy is enshrined in another Polysafe declaration - that the wet slip resistance (36+) of a Polysafe product is assured for the guaranteed life of the flooring. This Polyflor guarantee is offered to assist client choice in a market being increasingly crowded with ‘pseudo’ safety flooring.

HOW DOES POLYSAFE WORK?
Quite simply, slip resistance is achieved by increasing the friction between the foot and the floor.

This friction increase is obtained through the combination of aggregates within the floor such as quartz, aluminium oxide, recycled natural aggregates and silicon carbide. These aggregates are not simply sprinkled onto the top as a coating that will wear off over a short time in use. Instead, aggregates are incorporated throughout the full thickness of the product’s wear layer to ensure slip performance can be assured for the guaranteed life of the product. The aggregates combine with the surface emboss to provide a rougher, harder friction surface to ‘bite’ into the under surface of footwear when walked upon and create the necessary friction and underfoot safety.

The slip resistant properties are also present where safety flooring is required for continually wet areas. Here, a more prominent emboss is used in conjunction with the aggregates to impart the necessary slip resistance for barefoot users. This also increases the floor’s ability to provide a safe surface for the user when the floor is covered with water. As can be seen from the following diagram, Polysafe products offer a
true indication of a safe floor with aggregates throughout the product’s wear layer thickness to ensure sustainability and durability in performance.

If Polysafe flooring is used in the correct areas and maintained correctly, the slip resistance will tend to improve with age. Over time, the more abrasive aggregates will be left behind and still be carrying out the job of imparting the necessary slip resistance in years to come. Conversely, hybrid products currently being sold as ‘safety floors’ in some instances have very thin coatings of aggregate applied or include a slightly rougher surface emboss. These products pass ex-factory ramp tests but only offer short term slip resistance that reduces after installation and wear. In terms of sustainable performance, these products offer no credible substitute to a safety vinyl containing aggregates all the way through the performance layer.

WHY SAFETY FLOORING?
Safety flooring is typically used in public areas where there is a risk of spillage or wetness that could make the floor slippery and unsafe, such as in bathrooms, kitchens, bar serveries, toilets and changing rooms. With ongoing product development and now cleaning technology such as Polysafe™ PUR allowing the introduction of more attractive colours that are easier to maintain, safety flooring is now becoming more decorative and suited to more high visibility and front of house areas.

Polyflor always adheres closely to Health and Safety Executive Guidelines (HSE) in the UK, both in terms of offering products that match the needs of application areas and also by testing and measuring slip resistance against their preferred test methods (see pages 30 - 33).

Reassurance?
Previous experience in use is a strong selection criterion and one of the HSE’s own recommendations. On this basis, with quite literally millions of square metres of flooring installed, Polysafe is truly a safe choice.
Polysafe Corona PUR

HEAVY-DUTY SAFETY FLOORING WITH A MULTI-CHIP DECORATION, FEATURING THE MAINTENANCE BENEFITS OF SUPRATEC PUR

KEY FEATURES

• Incorporates Polysafe™ Supratec PUR for optimum appearance retention and life cycle maintenance cost savings of up to 60%.

• BRE Global A+ Rated Product (Certificate No: ENP 336) in major areas such as education and healthcare.

• Incorporates quartz, aluminium oxide, silicon carbide particles and recycled natural aggregates, to improve traction and safety underfoot.

• Fully HSE compliant, with slip resistance assured for the guaranteed life of the product - ≥36 result achieved on RRL Pendulum wet test - 45 Rubber (Slider 96), with a surface roughness of Rz ≥20 µm.

• Suitable for areas subject to water and other contaminant spillages in hygiene critical locations.

• 100% recyclable and contains recycled material.

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

Washrooms, Toilet areas, Bar Serving areas, Classrooms, Laboratories, Changing rooms.

SPECIFICATIONS

USE AREA CLASS

GAUGE: 2.0mm

AVAILABILITY: Sheet

Location: Wellington College, Crowthorne

The new Monro pavilion, which complements Wellington College’s reputation for sporting success, has been designed and built to provide the very best modern sporting facilities for pupils and visitors. Polysafe Corona PUR was the ideal choice of floorcovering for the pavilion’s changing areas in terms of visual quality, slip resistance and cleanability.

The highly acclaimed sporting centre is enhanced by the use of a safety vinyl flooring range that features Supratec PUR, a specially cross-linked polyurethane reinforcement which makes it easier to clean, keeping the floor looking like new for longer and facilitating easier soil release. Providing these key benefits means that the high levels of mud and dirt entering the changing room on a daily basis can be dealt with and maintained without difficulty.

“Having specified Polyflor for installation in various projects on the College campus before, we had no hesitation in believing that the high standard required would be met. The team on site took ownership and explored the finer details to produce a master piece for our sporting activities in the future.”

Mr Steve Busby
Works Facilities Manager, Wellington College

*For details of BRE Environmental Ratings for these ranges installed in specific sector areas, see pages 16-17
**Polysafe Astral PUR**

**HEAVY-DUTY SAFETY FLOORING FEATURING THE SUPRATEC PUR MAINTENANCE ENHANCEMENT, WITH A MULTI-FLAKE DECORATION**

**KEY FEATURES**

- Incorporates Polysafe™ Supratec PUR for optimum appearance retention and life cycle maintenance cost savings of up to 60%.
- BRE Global A+ Rated Product (Certificate No: ENP 336) in major areas such as education and healthcare.
- Incorporates quartz, aluminium oxide, silicon carbide particles and recycled natural aggregates, to improve traction and safety underfoot.
- Fully HSE compliant, with slip resistance assured for the guaranteed life of the product – ≥36 result achieved on RRL Pendulum wet test - 4S Rubber (Slider 96), with a surface roughness of Rz ≥20 µm.
- Suitable for areas subject to water and other contaminant spillages in hygiene critical locations.
- 100% recyclable and contains recycled material.

**TYPICAL APPLICATIONS**

Washrooms, Toilet areas, Bar Serving areas, Classrooms, Laboratories, Changing rooms.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**USE AREA CLASS**

- GAUGE: 2.0mm
- AVAILABILITY: Sheet

Location: St. John’s C.E. Primary School, London

The highly decorative Nebula Blue colourway in Polysafe Astral PUR was perfect for the sea theme decoration in the toilet and washroom areas at St. John’s Primary School. With sustainable slip resistance assured as a matter of course, Astral PUR provides a safe surface for pupils, offering a low slip risk in these areas of spillage. The incorporation of a specially cross-linked Supratec PUR maintenance enhancement facilitates an easier, less energy intensive maintenance regime for cleaning staff that reduces life cycle maintenance costs whilst reducing water and chemical usage.

“Providing an attractive and safe environment for our pupils is extremely important to us. The toilet and washroom areas present an increased risk of spillages and Polysafe Astral PUR provides an effective solution. On top of that, it is much easier to clean than traditional safety flooring which reduces our maintenance costs and keeps the floor looking pristine.”

Mr Graham Gunn
Headmaster, St John’s C.E. Primary School

Please note: due to limitations of colour printing, actual samples should be seen before colour selection is made.
Polysafe Mosaic PUR

HEAVY-DUTY SAFETY FLOORING FEATURING THE BENEFITS OF POLYSAFE™ PUR AND A HIGH DENSITY FLAKE DECORATION WITH PEARLESCENT

KEY FEATURES

- Incorporates Polysafe™ PUR for optimum appearance retention and life cycle maintenance cost savings of up to 60%.
- BRE Global A+ Rated Product (Certificate No: ENP 336) in major areas such as education and healthcare.
- Incorporates clear aluminium oxide and coloured quartz to improve traction and safety underfoot.
- Ideal for front or back of house areas where aesthetics and slip resistance are important.
- Fully HSE compliant, with slip resistance assured for the guaranteed life of the product - x ≥36 result achieved on RRL Pendulum wet test - 4S Rubber (Slider 96) with a surface roughness of Rz ≥20 µm.
- 100% Recyclable.

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

Corridors, circulation areas, receptions, hospital wards, classrooms, shops, cafes, retail areas, bar areas, washrooms, toilet areas

SPECIFICATIONS

USE AREA CLASS

GAUGE: 2.0mm, wear layer 0.7mm
AVAILABILITY: Sheet

Location: Chaucer Centre, Merton, London

Optimum appearance Polysafe Mosaic PUR has helped transform the cafeteria at the Chaucer Centre, a converted school building now used for meetings and larger seminars. Around 250m² of the decorative Graphite Pearl colourway has been installed throughout the busy dining area to complement the overall refurbishment of the cafeteria.

Mosaic PUR offers vital underfoot safety in an area that is prone to spillages thanks to its high slip resistance, while the incorporation of the super strength Polysafe™ PUR reinforcement makes it easier to clean, providing excellent colour and appearance retention with improved soil release.

"Polysafe Mosaic PUR was an ideal choice for our cafeteria. It looks brilliant, it is easy to clean and it offers great slip resistance - all very important for a busy dining environment."

Mr Ray Curtis
Facilities Manager, Chaucer Centre

*For details of BRE Environmental Ratings for these ranges installed in specific sector areas, see pages 16-17
Polysafe Wood FX PUR

DECORATIVE HEAVY-DUTY SAFETY FLOORING FEATURING CONTEMPORARY WOOD DESIGNS AND BENEFITS OF POLYSAFE™ PUR

KEY FEATURES

• Incorporates Polysafe™ PUR for optimum appearance retention and life cycle maintenance cost savings of up to 60%.

• BRE Global A+ Rated Product (Certificate No: ENP 415) in major areas such as education and healthcare.

• Incorporates aluminium oxide particles to improve traction and safety underfoot.

• Ideal for front or back of house areas where aesthetics and slip resistance are important.

• Fully HSE compliant, with slip resistance assured for the guaranteed life of the product – ≥36 result achieved on RRL Pendulum wet test – AS Rubber (Slider 96) , with a surface roughness of Rz ≥20µm.

• 100% Recyclable.

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

Corridors, circulation areas, receptions, hospital wards, classrooms, shops, cafes, retail areas, bar areas, washrooms, toilet areas

SPECIFICATIONS

USE AREA CLASS

GAUGE: 2.0mm, wear layer 0.7mm

AVAILABILITY: Sheet

Location: Keynsham Health Centre, Bristol

The stylish timber effect and guaranteed slip resistance of Polysafe Wood FX PUR proved the perfect antidote for the reception, corridors and consulting rooms at Keynsham Health Centre in Bristol.

The Health Centre has helped transform local healthcare by combining new and existing services for the local community and offering them from one accessible location. A combined 720m² of American Oak and European Oak helped create an attractive, warm and welcoming environment befitting the excellent services offered at the Centre.

“The correct flooring can make a huge difference to the overall impact of the building. The wood effect flooring suited the rest of the finish and offers great maintenance, slip resistance and hygiene benefits which are key to any healthcare environment.”

David Brain
Head of Estates and Capital Projects,
Keynsham Health Centre

*This product is a highly realistic replication of natural materials. Hence, on many designs, features such as knots will be present, as well as natural colour variation.
KEY FEATURES
• Incorporates Polysafe™ PUR for optimum appearance retention and life cycle maintenance cost savings of up to 60%.
• BRE Global A+ Rated Product (Certificate No: ENP 336) in major areas such as education and healthcare.
• Incorporates quartz crystals, aluminium oxide, silicon carbide particles and natural recycled aggregates, to improve traction and safety underfoot.
• Fully HSE compliant, with slip resistance assured for the guaranteed life of the product - ≥36 result achieved on RRL Pendulum wet test - 4S Rubber (Slider 96), with a surface roughness of Rz ≥20 μm.
• Suitable for areas subject to water and other contaminant spillages in hygiene critical locations.
• 100% recyclable and contains recycled material.

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS
Washrooms, Toilet areas, Storage and Utility areas, Bar Serving areas, Laundry and Sluice rooms, Laboratories, Changing rooms.

SPECIFICATIONS
USE AREA CLASS
GAUGE: 2.0mm
AVAILABILITY: Sheet

Location: Loxford Polyclinic, Redbridge

Safety comes first at Loxford Polyclinic where Polysafe Vogue Ultra PUR was installed in many of the communal areas to offer first-class slip resistance and easy cleanability. Loxford Polyclinic was opened by NHS Redbridge as the first healthcare facility of its kind in London delivering accessible health services outside of hospital to the local community.

Vogue Ultra PUR conforms to the required European Norm for safety flooring and achieves slip resistance test results in-line with HSE Guidelines. Offering a sustainable slip resistant surface that gives underfoot safety in areas where slip hazards may occur, Vogue Ultra’s cleanability is enhanced thanks to the incorporation of a specially cross-linked Polysafe™ PUR reinforcement.

“We have managed to create a bright and attractive environment where people can easily access healthcare within their community. Polyflor was able to offer the right balance of safe, slip resistant flooring and quality aesthetics that meets the needs and expectations of our staff and our patients.”

Sean O’ Sullivan
Capital Projects Manager, NHS Redbridge
Polysafe Strata

HEAVY-DUTY SAFETY FLOORING WITH A MULTI-COLOURED FLAKE DECORATION

KEY FEATURES

• BRE Global A+ Rated Product (Certificate No: ENP 336) in major areas such as education and healthcare.

• Incorporates quartz, aluminium oxide, silicon carbide particles and natural recycled aggregates, to improve traction and safety underfoot.

• Fully HSE compliant, with slip resistance assured for the guaranteed life of the product – ≥36 result achieved on RRL Pendulum wet test – 4S Rubber (Slider 96), with a surface roughness of Rz ≥20 µm.

• A popular multi-coloured flake decoration allows vibrant colours to be specified without detriment to sustainable slip resistance and maintenance.

• Suitable for areas subject to water and other contaminant spillages in hygiene critical locations.

• 100% recyclable and contains recycled material.

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

Washrooms, Toilet areas, Kitchens, Bar Serving areas, Laundry and Sluice rooms, Changing rooms, Cloakrooms.

SPECIFICATIONS

USE AREA CLASS

GAUGE: 2.0mm
AVAILABILITY: Sheet

LOCATION: Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, South Wales

At the prestigious Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Polysafe Strata has been specified within tunnel entrance and stairway areas to give continued safety performance to stars of the sporting world. Regularly subjected to high footfall across the floor including users with studded footwear, as well as contamination brought in from the outside, Strata’s concentration of aggregates throughout the vinyl means slip resistance is sustained and product durability is ensured for years to come.

Please note: due to limitations of colour printing, actual samples should be seen before colour selection is made.
**KEY FEATURES**

- BRE Global A+ Rated Product (Certificate No: ENP 336) in major areas such as education and healthcare.
- Incorporates quartz, aluminium oxide, silicon carbide particles and natural recycled aggregates, to improve traction and safety underfoot.
- Proven to be an easier to clean standard safety flooring.
- Best selling range offering extremely good value.
- Fully HSE compliant, with slip resistance assured for the guaranteed life of the product – ≥36 result achieved on RRL Pendulum wet test - 4S Rubber (Slider 96), with a surface roughness of Rz ≥20 µm.
- Suitable for areas subject to water and other contaminant spillages in hygiene critical locations.
- 100% recyclable and contains recycled material.

**TYPICAL APPLICATIONS**

Washrooms, Toilet areas, Kitchens, Bar Serving areas, Laundry and Sluice rooms, Changing rooms, Cloakrooms.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**USE AREA CLASS**

GAUGE: 2.0mm, 2.5mm, 3.5mm*  
AVAILABILITY: Sheet

LOCATION: Chelsea Football Club, London

The multitude of colourways available in the Polysafe Standard palette enabled striking reproductions to be made of Chelsea’s evolution of club emblems at the Centenary Hall exhibition. The walkway creates an aesthetic focal point to the exhibition’s many visitors whilst offering the key requisites of underfoot safety and slip resistance.

“We are very pleased with the flooring CWC recommended and installed. Not only is it safer underfoot for the many people visiting the Centenary Hall but also the colour choice available was ideal for reproducing the inset club logos. The overall effect is excellent”

Simon Arthur  
Group Operations Director,  
Chelsea Football Club

*4 colours are available in 3.5mm gauge for extra heavy-duty areas.

*For details of BRE Environmental Ratings for these ranges installed in specific sector areas, see pages 16-17
Polysafe Hydro

HEAVY-DUTY SAFETY FLOORING WITH A RAISED EMBOSSED, FOR USE IN BAREFOOT AND CONTINUALLY WET AREAS

KEY FEATURES

- BRE Global A+ Rated Product (Certificate No: ENP 336) in major areas such as education and healthcare.
- Designed for use with barefoot or soft soled footwear in continually wet areas.
- Features a raised pimple emboss and a choice of multi-chip or traditional decorations.
- Incorporates quartz crystals, aluminium oxide, silicon carbide particles and natural recycled aggregates, to improve traction and safety underfoot.
- Fully HSE compliant, with slip resistance assured for the guaranteed life of the product - ≥36 result achieved on RRL Pendulum wet test – TRL Rubber (Slider 55), with a surface roughness of Rz ≥20 µm.
- 100% recyclable and contains recycled material.

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

Swimming pool surrounds, walk-in showers, hydrotherapy areas, barefoot recreational areas such as changing room facilities, barefoot walkways.

SPECIFICATIONS

GAUGE: 2.0mm
AVAILABILITY: Sheet

LOCATION: Aston Villa FC Training Complex, Staffordshire

The installation of Polysafe Hydro within walk-in shower areas at a new, ultra-modern training complex is helping Aston Villa’s squad keep on their feet. A combination of safety aggregates and a pimpled emboss ensures sustainable slip resistant performance is achieved for the guaranteed life of the product. Regularly subjected to barefoot use, the product’s HSE Compliance and low slip risk classification gives user confidence in this continually wet area.

“Safety underfoot for our players is obviously a prime consideration and we are pleased with the performance of Polysafe in these key areas. That the flooring is also attractive and easy to clean is a bonus.”

Tony Diffley
Stadium Manager, Aston Villa Training Complex

Please note: due to limitations of colour printing, actual samples should be seen before colour selection is made.
Polysafe Ultima

SAFETY FLOORING WITH A MULTI-CHIP DECORATION. DESIGNED FOR HEAVY USE AREAS WHICH REQUIRE ENHANCED SLIP RESISTANCE

KEY FEATURES
- BRE Global A+ Rated Product (Certificate No: ENP 336) in major areas such as education and healthcare.
- Enhanced levels of traction and safety underfoot due to high aggregate concentration and a specially engineered emboss.
- Surface roughness Rz ≥70µm to deal with high viscosity contaminants.
- Ideal for high footfall areas that require increased levels of slip resistance.
- Fully HSE compliant, with slip resistance assured for the guaranteed life of the product - ≥40 result achieved on RRL Pendulum wet test - 4S Rubber (Slider 96), with a surface roughness of Rz ≥70µm.
- An R11 rated product.
- 100% recyclable and contains recycled material.

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS
Commercial kitchens and food preparation areas.

SPECIFICATIONS
USE AREA CLASS
GAUGE: 2.5mm
AVAILABILITY: Sheet

LOCATION: The Cooking School, at Dean Clough
In a brand new state-of-the-art Cooking School designed to teach culinary expertise to adults of all skill levels, Polysafe Ultima is used to give increased slip resistance into the high specification kitchen area.
With regular cooking courses held throughout the year and taught by specialists in their field, Ultima’s increased slip resistance gives students added reassurance in this demanding area. With a number of workstations housed within an oval teaching area, the floor is continually subjected to continuous footfall and movement across the floor. Spillages such as olive oil, cooking stock and margarine are a constant risk and Polysafe Ultima is correctly specified to ensure low slip potential in these testing conditions.

“During the initial design concept, Polysafe Ultima was the clear flooring choice because of its enhanced slip resistance and proven use within busy kitchen areas. We have found that not only is the floor easy to clean and durable, but it complements the décor in our flagship, high specification kitchen. The school’s clean design is further highlighted by the use of Polyclad Plus PU, an ultra-hygienic sheet vinyl for walls and ceilings.”

Anita Cormac
Executive Director,
The Cooking School at Dean Clough, Halifax

For details of BRE Environmental Ratings for this range installed in specific sector areas, see pages 16-17

Image: www.moranphoto.co.uk

Iron Ore 4340
Mortar 4360
Bluestone 4390
Pearl Granite 4330
Aurora Grey 4290
Baltic Green 4350
Polysafe Wood FX Acoustic PUR

DECORATIVE HEAVY-DUTY SAFETY FLOORING WITH ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES AND FEATURING THE BENEFITS OF POLYSAFE™ PUR

KEY FEATURES

• Incorporates Polysafe™ PUR for optimum appearance retention and life cycle maintenance cost savings of up to 60%.

• BRE Global A+ Rated Product (Certificate No: ENP 415) in major areas such as education and healthcare.

• ≥19dB impact sound reduction level to exceed Building Regulations Part E requirements.

• Ergonomically designed for anti-fatigue benefits.

• Incorporates aluminium oxide particles to improve traction and safety underfoot.

• Fully HSE compliant, with slip resistance assured for the guaranteed life of the product ~ ≥36 result achieved on RRL Pendulum wet test - 4S Rubber (Slider 96), with a surface roughness of Rz ≥20 µm.

• 100% Recyclable.

TYPICAL APPLICATIONS

Corridors, circulation areas, hospital wards, classrooms, bar areas, general living quarters, retail workstations, washrooms, toilet areas.

SPECIFICATIONS

GAUGE: 3.7mm, wear layer 0.65mm

AVAILABILITY: Sheet

LOCATION: Lambeth Academy, London

A blend of contemporary design, sustainable slip resistance, high acoustic performance and ease of maintenance is featured in the Polysafe Wood FX Acoustic installation within corridors at Lambeth Academy in London.

With a high footfall of students moving across the floor at regular periods throughout the day, the choice of Wood FX Acoustic is ideal to dampen impact sound transfer between rooms and promote a quiet working environment that can foster learning. For students and teachers standing on the floor for prolonged periods, the range offers underfoot comfort and anti-fatigue benefits, whilst giving the slip resistance demanded in areas where spillages can occur.

“Our state-of-the-art premises, designed by award winning architects demand the specification of the best possible products. As well as being extremely attractive, Polysafe Wood FX Acoustic minimises noise transfer in our busy corridors and also ensures enhanced underfoot safety for students, staff and visitors. Cleanability and the facility to maintain regularly were other deciding factors. All in all, the ideal choice.”

Geoff Gilbert
Academy Site Manager, Lambeth Academy

*This product is a highly realistic replication of natural materials. Hence, on many designs, features such as knots will be present, as well as natural colour variation.
Environmentally preferable flooring

BRE GLOBAL RATINGS

There are a number of international schemes used for assessing the environmental impact of a building product over its whole life. The BRE (Building Research Establishment) Global environmental assessment is used as the main specification tool to convey the environmental profiles of safety flooring.

It is widely recognised that the BRE Global environmental assessment methods are exceptionally thorough and very well respected, both in the UK and increasingly, in countries around the world.

BRE Global Limited, a subsidiary of the BRE Trust, is a world leading independent third party approvals body.

The environmental rating system used by the BRE provides guidance for architects, specifiers and clients on the whole life environmental impact of flooring and other building materials. BRE ratings are ranked, based on a Life Cycle Assessment approach, over a building life of 60 years.

The cradle to grave approach in creating the environmental profiles gives a simple to understand rating to an extraordinarily complex set of data. This ensures that reliable and comparable environmental information is available between competing products, thus eliminating the confusion of claims and counterclaims about the performance of building materials.

Within the rating system, safety flooring is assessed and measured against its environmental impact on Climate Change, Water Extraction, Mineral Resource Extraction, Stratospheric Ozone Depletion, Human Toxicity, Ecotoxicity to Freshwater, Nuclear Waste, Ecotoxicity to Land, Waste Disposal, Fossil Fuel Depletion, Eutrophication, Photochemical Ozone Creation and Acidification.

Floor finishes are rated for their environmental impact, receiving a rating from A+ to E, with A+ being the highest achievable environmental rating. This scheme has been updated from the previous ranking system of A to C.

2009 BRE GREEN GUIDE TO SPECIFICATION

A number of Polysafe ranges have been individually assessed in accordance with BRE Global’s new environmental rating scheme of A+ to E, with an A+ rating being the most desirable, having achieved the best Ecopoints based on a Life Cycle Assessment approach (see table opposite).

A higher rating helps to maximise a building’s BREEAM score, which is of particular importance to Government funded buildings.
The new BRE Global rating scheme categorises environmental ratings into sectors, as the environmental impact of a flooring can vary somewhat when used in different areas, for example in domestic buildings as against healthcare and education facilities. The main reason for this is that there are different flooring choices available in the different sectors, with an allocated number of A+s, As, Bs, Cs awarded per category. Therefore for domestic applications, more product options may be available, but many will have negligible differences between the Ecopoints of the products rated A or B. Furthermore in the social housing sector, it is not likely that carpet, for example, would be specified in a kitchen or bathroom unlike safety flooring such as Polysafe. At the time of publication, Polyflor is the only vinyl flooring manufacturer to have a number of safety, homogeneous and heterogeneous ranges (20 in all) certified by BRE Global as achieving an environmental profile of A+ in major use areas such as education and healthcare. Overall, Polyflor’s certified ratings are appealing, particularly in the key usage areas being predominantly public sector buildings, which require BREEAM scores for Government funding. For more information on the Polysafe certified ranges under certificate number ENP336 and ENP415, visit www.greenbooklive.com and enter ‘Polyflor’ into the search box.

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Where Polysafe products have not been individually certified by BRE Global, generic environmental ratings are also available. As can be seen below, vinyl safety flooring achieves generic BRE Global ratings of A+/A when used within contract applications. For more detail about how these ratings are arrived at by BRE Global visit: www.thegreenguide.org.uk.

For further details of Polyflor’s range of environmental credentials, please request a copy of our 2009 Environmentally Preferable Flooring Report or view the report online via www.polyflor.com/environment. Within the report, information is available regarding Polyflor’s carbon footprint, waste management and recycling, including vinyl recovery. For example, Polyflor is one of two founder members of Recofloor, the industry funded vinyl ‘take-back’ scheme. The aim is to encourage more post consumer waste to be returned to a local vinyl flooring manufacturer for recycling via on-site waste transfer stations or drop off waste centres set up around the United Kingdom. This is cheaper and more environmentally friendly than going to landfill. Vinyl flooring that qualifies for recycling includes on-site waste, uplifted end-of-life flooring and old stock roll-ends. For further details of the scheme, contact +44(0)161 335 7618 and ask for Recofloor or e-mail: recofloor@axionconsulting.co.uk
A STEPS TO SAFETY

1. 36+ RRL Pendulum Wet Test
2. Surface Roughness Rz ≥20μm
3. Proven Cleanability
4. Sustainable Slip Resistance

HSE COMPLIANT
All Polysafe ranges are suitable for areas where there are risks of water spillages and other contaminants, achieving a surface roughness of Rz ≥20µm and ≥36 in the RRL Pendulum wet test (4S Rubber/Slider 96). Polysafe Ultima is specifically designed to deal with high viscosity contaminants such as grease and cooking oil, achieving a typical surface roughness result of Rz ≥70µm and ≥40 in the Pendulum wet test (4S Rubber/Slider 96). Market leading Polysafe ranges Corona PUR, Astral PUR, Mosaic PUR, Wood FX PUR and Vogue Ultra PUR are particularly suitable in areas which are more visible to the public, where the low maintenance attributes of Supratec PUR and Polysafe™ PUR combine with attractive colours and decorative options. Polysafe Corona PUR is also ideal where colour co-ordination in close proximity to Polyflor smooth vinyl is required across use areas.

Polysafe Wood FX Acoustic PUR is a safety floor that adds a benefit of impact sound reduction to exceed the requirements set down in the Building Regulations Part E and the resistance to the passage of sound between rooms. This acoustic performance means the product is suited to multi-storey dwellings, rooms for residential purposes which are used by one or more persons to live and sleep as well as in school buildings. In these areas, reasonable protection against noise transfer is an important requirement during the construction and design of a facility.

Polysafe ranges are also certified by the British Board of Agrément (BBA) as G5ws, indicating the products are fit for their intended use for at least 10 years (2mm gauge) provided they are installed to Polyflor instructions, and are suitable for heavily trafficked public areas or commercial buildings where the floorcovering can be welded to tolerate standing water.

With an independent assessment by the BBA, Polysafe's product performance is assured for at least 10 years in recommended use areas. With correct maintenance, the appearance, colour and slip resistance will be retained during this period.

The recommendations overleaf give only an indicative guide as to product suitability in specific areas based on Polyflor’s knowledge and experience. Other Polysafe ranges will also be suitable for the areas indicated.

For further information on product suitability or advice on use areas not listed, consult Polyflor Customer Technical Services on +44 (0)161 767 1912 or email tech@polyflor.com.

### Risk Assessment

Before a floorcovering is specified, an initial risk assessment of the floor area is recommended, to ensure that all the potential risks for slip are taken into account, to determine the type of flooring required.

The following questions need to be considered:

**Likely contaminants in the area**
- will the flooring receive regular oil, grease or other forms of contamination to necessitate the need for a more specialist safety floor?

**Maintenance**
- how is the floor going to be cleaned and how often?

**Footwear**
- is this controlled or is the area open to the public?

**Nature of traffic and behaviour of users**
- what will be the likely level of footfall and user movement on the floor? Will users be continually pushing and pulling trolleys, will children be running etc?

**Life Expectancy**
- does the level of footfall and punishment the floor will take over the years require a product with a 10 year guarantee?

**Aesthetics**
- is it important for the safety floor to be very visible to the public with a requirement to be decorative?
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<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen staff and stores</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Showers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Product recommendation is dependent on the likely viscosity of contaminants in the use area.

* Specification of profiled or non-profiled safety flooring is dependent on an end user’s risk assessment.

Contact Polyflor Customer Technical Services for further guidance.
Low maintenance
Polyflor sets the true benchmark with a groundbreaking development in the cleanability of safety flooring. With the same tried and trusted cleaning technology as used across Polyflor PUR homogeneous ranges, this super-durable reinforcement is now incorporated into selected Polysafe ranges, creating an advancement in cleaning that is unrivalled.

To achieve a whole host of sustainable maintenance benefits, choose from our family of ranges enhanced with either 3rd generation Polysafe™ Supratec PUR or Polysafe™ PUR.

- Maintenance enhancement available on leading Polysafe ranges – Corona PUR & Astral PUR
- Engineered to provide the best in colour, aesthetics and flexibility
- Polysafe™ Supratec PUR is an exclusive polyurethane reinforcement applied to the product to facilitate easier soil release
- PUR reinforcement is specially cross-linked and UV cured for superior cleaning benefits and optimum appearance retention
- 60% life cycle maintenance cost savings achieved when compared with untreated safety flooring
- Easier maintenance regime means reduced need for energy intensive cleaning, chemical usage and water consumption, keeping environmental impact to a minimum

- Maintenance enhancement available on decorative Polysafe ranges Mosaic PUR, Wood FX PUR, Wood FX Acoustic PUR and Vogue Ultra PUR
- Polysafe™ PUR is an exclusive polyurethane reinforcement applied to the product to facilitate easier soil release
- PUR reinforcement is specially cross-linked and UV cured for superior cleaning benefits and optimum appearance retention
- 60% life cycle maintenance cost savings achieved when compared with untreated safety flooring
- Easier maintenance regime means reduced need for energy intensive cleaning, chemical usage and water consumption, keeping environmental impact to a minimum
LIFE CYCLE MAINTENANCE COST SAVINGS

When specifying safety flooring for a building, it is important to adopt a life-cycle approach. With Polysafe™ PUR products, the initial investment in the flooring can be more than offset by the maintenance cost savings achievable over the life of the floor. Through using a micro mop maintenance regime, Polysafe™ PUR treated products offer a significant maintenance saving of up to 60% when compared to traditional, untreated safety flooring over a period of 15 years. Fewer cleaning chemicals used and reduced power requirements mean less environmental impact. This gives end user confidence not only in outright cleaning performance but in value for money.

POLYSAFE PUR AND SUPRATEC PUR COST COMPARISON [100m² over 15 years]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>TIME [MINS]</th>
<th>LABOUR &amp; MATERIALS</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>COST PER ANNUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWEEP</td>
<td>17.24</td>
<td>£2.07</td>
<td>EVERY DAY</td>
<td>£75.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRAY</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>EVERY DAY</td>
<td>£60.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICRO MOP</td>
<td>14.05</td>
<td>£1.69</td>
<td>EVERY DAY</td>
<td>£616.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAMP MOP</td>
<td>54.05</td>
<td>£6.49</td>
<td>TWICE A WEEK</td>
<td>£674.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACHINE SCRUB</td>
<td>20.48</td>
<td>£2.46</td>
<td>TWICE A WEEK</td>
<td>£255.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>TIME [MINS]</th>
<th>LABOUR &amp; MATERIALS</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>COST PER ANNUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWEEP</td>
<td>12.93</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>EVERY DAY</td>
<td>£616.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRAY</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>EVERY DAY</td>
<td>£160.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICRO MOP</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>EVERY DAY</td>
<td>£240.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAMP MOP</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>TWICE A WEEK</td>
<td>£674.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACHINE SCRUB</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>TWICE A WEEK</td>
<td>£255.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TOTAL COST PER ANNUM | £2,303.20 | £918.99 |
| TOTAL COST OVER 15 YEARS | £34,548 | £13,785 |


For more information on issues regarding Polysafe maintenance, refer to the detailed information in the technical section of www.polyflor.com or contact Polyflor Customer Technical Services on +44 (0)161 767 1912, e-mail tech@polyflor.com

In today’s safety flooring market, Polysafe™ PUR cleaning technology is a significant offering where the low maintenance properties allows colour choice to become an important specification criterion for a safety floor, without detriment to the key requisite of sustainable slip resistance. The incorporation of Supratec PUR in the Polysafe Corona PUR and Astral PUR ranges allows fresh and vibrant colourways to be selected, allied to colour co-ordination with Polyflor smooth vinyls across use areas. This is a complete world away from the archetypal safety floors of years gone by, where colour choice was more limited. This co-ordination facilitates the implementation of colour coded design schemes and wayfinding zones in specific areas of a building.

For detailed maintenance instructions for all Polysafe ranges, please refer to individual Floorcare sheets, either from www.polyflor.com or contact Polyflor directly.
That’s why safety flooring is being used in the first place – specify a floor with the right maintenance regime for you and stick to it.

The use of polish is not a short cut to keeping safety flooring clean. Polish **should not be applied** to any Polysafe product as it impairs the slip resistance of the floor.
The foundation on which Polyflor’s values are built is driven by our customer focus and our ability to work closely with all contractors, specifiers and end users to understand their requirements and provide the ideal flooring solution for any installation.

Not only is Polysafe a superb performer when it comes to slip resistance and cleanability, it also has many other performance attributes that make it the perfect safety floor for all concerned in the specification chain. This ranges from a wide scope of colour and decoration options to meet the visual stimulus of a designer, product flexibility and ease of welding to suit installation by contractors to the importance of low maintenance to the end user and specifier. Of course the requirement for a safety floor to offer slip resistant performance over a number of years is of utmost importance to all parties. All Polysafe ranges offer a sustainable slip resistant assurance that the floor does the job it has been designed for in areas with risks of water and contaminant spillages. All our product ranges are regularly subjected to the rigours of internal testing on our production line and in our laboratories to ensure they are fit to serve their purpose as sustainable safety floors. This is fully backed up by external testing carried out by independent bodies to relevant industry standards.

**DURABILITY**

Polysafe products retain their performance characteristics and decoration, demonstrating outstanding durability and abrasion resistance, thereby adhering to the guidelines detailed in EN 13845 (the European Norm for Safety Flooring) that safety floors should suffer no ill effects when tested for abrasion over 50,000 cycles (EN 660-2). A stringent testing procedure is applied which involves constant cycles of abrasion under pressure with the continuous application of grit.

Below, in-house laboratory tests show Polysafe Corona PUR, shade 5550 Pacific being tested for abrasion.

The images show the Polysafe Corona PUR shade before and after abrasion testing. The decoration and aggregates remain as new, demonstrating the durability of the product. There is no apparent wear to the surface of the product. The visible mark is due to a reduction in gloss level.

**WELDING**

Polysafe products can be easily heat welded using colour co-ordinated Polyflor welding rods. They can also be joined to adjacent Polyflor smooth vinyl floor coverings or Ejecta set-in skirting. The image opposite shows Polysafe Mosaic PUR, welded with a standard Polyflor welding rod being tested on a Tensometer machine for strength of weld in our laboratories. We are confident that our Polysafe ranges are as forgiving to weld as standard Polyflor smooth floorcoverings, providing the superb non-porous finish and weld strength to prevent dirt ingress and achieve strict
control in hygiene critical locations. For flooring used in continually wet areas, it is imperative that the strength of the weld is impervious to water and conforms to the EN 13553 standard for water tightness so that the product can achieve CE marking. Thus, Polysafe Hydro has external certification that the product meets this standard. Polysafe Hydro and all other Polysafe ranges also fully conform with the requirements of EN 13845 - the European standard relating to particle based slip resistant vinyl floorcoverings, whereby the strength of weld is a requirement of conformity.

FLEXIBILITY
The formulation of Polysafe products has been designed to allow greater flexibility, enabling trouble-free site-formed coving and installation around fixtures and fittings. The increased flexibility offered with today’s Polysafe flooring means it is now easier to install in particularly tight spaces or difficult to lay areas such as drainage points.

Below, Polysafe Corona PUR is shown, site-formed coved and welded to Polyclad Plus wall cladding.

This picture shows Polysafe Astral PUR; shade 4220 Aquarius, tested around a 4mm mandrel. No whitening or cracking is observed. This test by far exceeds the requirements set in EN 13845 - the European Norm for Safety Flooring.

STAIN RESISTANCE
Given the hard-working nature in some of the areas where Polysafe is used, resistance to chemicals and staining can be an important consideration, be it paints, oils or more industrial chemicals. Complete chemical resistance charts for all Polysafe ranges are freely available from Polyflor showing the resistance to a range of specific chemicals by shade on each range and will prove helpful in selecting colours that are least affected by specific chemicals.

Polysafe vinyl floorcoverings are found to show an excellent resistance to mild and dilute acids, alkalis, soaps and detergents. Polysafe Corona PUR is shown here during and after being stained with a number of agents. Once the agents were removed after 24 hours only with water, in this case the benefit of the Polysafe™ PUR maintenance enhancement is clearly visible.
**LIGHT REFLECTANCE VALUES**

All shades in the Polysafe portfolio have appropriate light reflectance values, available directly from Polyflor. In line with Part M of the Building Regulations for new buildings and allied to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, there should be a visual contrast between the floor and wall, in terms of a measurable difference in light reflectance values recorded for floor and wall surfaces. Contact the Customer Technical Support Team for more information.

**ANTIMICROBIAL PERFORMANCE**

All Polysafe ranges contain antimicrobial agents. This is especially important given that safety flooring is often installed in wet areas that are both warm and trafficked by bare feet.

In the healthcare environment, where the issue of hygiene continues to make headlines in an age of MRSA and Hospital acquired infections, all Polysafe products have been independently tested and results demonstrate that all ranges inhibit the growth of MRSA on the flooring. A key issue following on from this is that an effective cleaning regime is the most important defence against infection and the floor inhibiting infection alone should not take the place of regular maintenance.

It is always prudent to obtain maintenance instructions for the specified floorcovering from your chosen flooring manufacturer. Complete cleaning and maintenance instructions can be found for each Polysafe range on specific floorcare sheets, available to download online or directly from Polyflor.

**LOW VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS (VOCs)**

In order to contribute to a healthier environment with the reduction of emissions into the atmosphere, Polysafe ranges have independent certification classifying them as Low VOC products. Tested to the AgBB test (Chamber test), the various VOC emissions are weighted according to the level of toxicity. The total VOCs emitted from Polysafe flooring falls within stringent VOC limits, and all ranges have been tested by independent laboratories.

Specific Polysafe ranges have also achieved Floorscore® certification in accordance with SCSEC-10.2-2007 ‘Indoor Air Quality Performance’ through Scientific Certification Systems Indoor Air Quality Programme, conforming to Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) criteria and California 01350 Specification.

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**TABLE: CHEMICAL EFFECTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TYPE OF CHEMICAL</strong></th>
<th><strong>EFFECT</strong></th>
<th><strong>ACTION</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aqueous Solutions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild acids and alkalis</td>
<td>No effect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong alkalis</td>
<td>May cause discolouration in some shades</td>
<td>Dilute and remove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong acids</td>
<td>Prolonged contact can cause discolouration</td>
<td>Dilute and remove immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dyes (Indicators)</td>
<td>Contact can cause discolouration</td>
<td>Dilute and remove immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Liquids</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldehydes</td>
<td>Flooring attack occurs after several minutes</td>
<td>Wipe up immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halogenated hydrocarbons</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ketones</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>After several days, plasticiser extraction occurs, with associated problems of shrinkage and embrittlement</td>
<td>Wipe up immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glycols</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocarbons (aromatic and aliphatic)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum spirit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable oil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the more serious potential spillages on safety flooring such as petrol and strong acids, these are not harmful, provided any spillage is cleaned off immediately. The table above gives a very general guide, but best practice in this area is to ask Polyflor Customer Technical Services for advice on your specific project and the likely contaminants in the area.
4 STEPS TO SAFETY

1. 36+ RRL Pendulum Wet Test
2. Surface Roughness Rz ≥ 20 μm
3. Proven Cleanability
4. Sustainable Slip Resistance

HSE COMPLIANT
Slip resistance can be a confusing area for specifier and client alike. On one hand there is a requirement to specify flooring that is safe and fit for use, against a background of increasing awareness and litigation in the case of slips and trips. On the other hand, there is a plethora of test methods to assess the slipperiness of floors, various manufacturer claims and competing product to complicate choice. Add in colour choice, decoration and maintenance and the confusion can multiply.

Polyflor would always give the same two key points of advice before slip resistant flooring is specified.

1. Use a reputable manufacturer that can demonstrate previous experience in areas you are working on.
2. Ask for advice – the team at Polyflor have more experience in this area than any one individual could acquire. The Customer Technical Support Team is on hand to dispense free advice – please use them.

REMEMBER – over specifying on slip resistance does not necessarily give the safest floor.

When carrying out initial risk assessments to determine the factors that could cause slip risks and implementing pre-emptive measures to minimise these risks, the specification of appropriate flooring should not be seen as the sole, one dimensional solution. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) points to other factors having an impact on the risk of slipping - these include: the type of footwear used, drainage and expected floor contaminants, likely cleaning regimes as well as the different types of use the floor is subjected to by pedestrians, including individual gaits and human behaviour when walking.

More information on HSE’s ongoing campaign to reduce the number of slips and trips can be viewed on www.hse.gov.uk/slips.

SLIP RESISTANCE TEST METHODS
Polyflor tests Polysafe products against a variety of international test methods for slip resistance and the results are published for all to see.

The test methods explained here are the most relevant and commonly used to make precision assessment of floor slipperiness.

RRL PENDULUM CO-EFFICIENT OF FRICTION TEST
This test method is recommended and preferred by the HSE to assess the dynamic coefficient of friction of a floorcovering, achieved by swinging a dummy heel over the floor surface (see opposite page, top left) to simulate a foot slipping on a wet floor. A standardised rubber soiling sample is used to represent a standard shoe sole of average slip resistance. Widely used, the greatest strength of this test is that it can easily be used in-situ, so the slip resistance of the floor can be assessed over its whole life.

Results are quoted using a Four S (Slider 96) rubber slider. Whilst floor surfaces can be tested in the wet or dry, the results indicated on Polysafe always quote the wet result as this is the condition in which slipping is likely to occur. Be wary of very high dry results quoted in isolation.

HSE Guidelines call for a floor to give a Pendulum test value of 36 and above in the wet to be classified as a low slip risk.

SLIPS AND TRIPS
According to HSE research:
- Slips and trips are the single most common cause of major injuries in the United Kingdom workplace, accounting for 1 in 3 major injuries per annum (37% of all occupational injury accidents)
- Over 8500 major injuries are suffered each year at a cost to the economy of £750 million each year
- A cost of £512 million is felt by employers in lost production and other costs each year.

The HSE Slip potential model
All Polysafe products achieve a Pendulum reading in the wet of 36+ which lies within the low slip risk category and this slip resistance is assured for the guaranteed life of the product.

For floorcoverings in continually wet areas such as walk-in showers, a softer TRL (Slider 55) rubber slider is used on the Pendulum foot (UK Slip Resistance Group Guidelines 2005) in order to simulate the act of a bare foot or a user with soft soled footwear slipping on a floor. The same requirement of meeting 36 or above is needed to give a low slip risk classification. Our wet room product adheres to these guidelines - Polysafe Hydro obtains results of 36+ using TRL Rubber (Slider 55).

**SURFACE MICROROUGHNESS**

This test is also favoured by the HSE to be used on-site in conjunction with the Pendulum test and involves measuring the total surface microroughness of the flooring with a surface roughness meter. A mean value of several peak to valley measurements is electronically calculated on the surface by tracing a needle over the floor at various points. This measure is felt to be a good predictor of slip performance.

All Polysafe products exceed Rz 20µm, and in accordance with HSE Guidelines are classed as products with low slip potential in water-wet pedestrian areas – see table below. Polysafe Ultima has a typical result of Rz ≥70µm and also has a Pendulum wet test result of 40+(4S Rubber/Slider 96).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rz SURFACE ROUGHNESS</th>
<th>SLIP POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below 10µm</td>
<td>High Slip Potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-20µm</td>
<td>Moderate Slip Potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20+µm</td>
<td>Low Slip Potential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In order to cope with different contaminant spillages of various process materials, the surface roughness of the flooring must be sufficient in order to penetrate the squeeze films created when there is a presence of wet contaminants between shoe sole and the floor that prevents solid-to-solid contact. The surface roughness the floor requires is governed by the viscosity level of liquid contaminants in the application area.

Note that in the materials listed below, margarine for example, the minimum floor roughness relates more to areas where this material is an intrinsic part of the environment, such as a margarine processing unit, as opposed to minor use of spreading margarine in sandwiches in a café for instance.

**MINIMUM Rz ROUGHNESS LEVELS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant Viscosity</th>
<th>Contaminant</th>
<th>Minimum Rz Floor Roughness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>Clean water, Coffee, Soft Drinks</td>
<td>20µm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>Milk, Soap Solution</td>
<td>45µm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-30</td>
<td>Cooking Stock</td>
<td>60µm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-50</td>
<td>Motor Oil, Olive Oil</td>
<td>70µm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50</td>
<td>Gear Oil, Margarine</td>
<td>Above 70µm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE RAMP TEST (DIN 51130 & AS/NZ 4586)

This test involves testing a shod foot person on an inclined ramp, in the presence of an oil contaminant. The resulting level of degrees the ramp can be inclined before the operator slips is categorised into appropriate ‘R’ values – running from R9 up to R13 as shown below. This test has been commonly used in Europe, especially in the hard flooring sector. Whilst Polyflor quotes results of this test to AS/NZS 4586 on all products (see page 38), it is believed that the Ramp test can be used to mislead. Firstly, a common misconception is that the R scale runs from R1 to R13 with R1 being the most slippery. In fact, an R9 rated product is classified as the floor with the most slipperiness. This allows a hole for manufacturers to crawl through where R9 products are sold as specialist, slip resistant surfaces.

Furthermore, this test is carried out ex-factory and is not practical to replicate on-site, so gives no reliable measure of performance and wear over the life of the floor, as is possible with the Pendulum and surface roughness tests. For instance, a factory applied thin coating could be applied to pass the Ramp test but the slipperiness will normally change significantly on installation and would soon wear off in use after maintenance regimes have been applied.

**DIN 51130 ‘R VALUE’ SLIPPERINESS CLASSIFICATION REGIME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>R9</th>
<th>R10</th>
<th>R11</th>
<th>R12</th>
<th>R13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slip angle</td>
<td>6 - 10°</td>
<td>10 - 19°</td>
<td>19 - 27°</td>
<td>27 - 35°</td>
<td>35° +</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BAREFOOT RAMP TEST (DIN 51097)**

This test relates specifically to the performance of flooring in barefoot and continually wet conditions using a barefoot operator with soap solution as contaminant. Showers, swimming pools and hydrotherapy areas are typical areas for which this test may be requested. Given the nature of traffic in these areas and the use of bare feet, the issue of wear over the life of the floor does not cause the same issues as with the shod Ramp test. However, the HSE also has reservations about both Ramp tests as neither use contaminants that are representative of those commonly found in workplaces.

**DIN 51097 ‘R-VALUE’ SLIPPERINESS CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Class A (barefoot walkways, mainly dry)</th>
<th>Class B (showers, pool surrounds)</th>
<th>Class C (steps into water, walk through pools etc)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slip angle</td>
<td>12 - 17°</td>
<td>18 - 23°</td>
<td>24° +</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Polysafe Hydro achieves a B rating, suitable for showers and pool surrounds etc.

The UK Slip Resistance Group (UKSRG) also finds that the Ramp test does not correlate at all with the Pendulum test because of the difference in type of contaminants used and the more industrial type footwear used by the operator in the Ramp test. Therefore, the UKSRG has developed an alternative Ramp test using water as the contaminant. The operator is either barefoot or wears footwear with 4S/Slider 96 rubber soles to test both profiled and non-profiled safety surfaces. However, this test is still not able to be replicated on-site and thus suffers from the same durability issues, so should not be used solely as a basis for specification.

**COMPLEMENTARY TEST METHODS**

Other methods of measuring the slip resistance of floors are available, however these are only seen as being complementary tools and should not be used as a basis for floor surface specification, modification and legal proceedings, over and above the HSE recommended Pendulum test and surface roughness measurements.

**THE HSE SLIPS ASSESSMENT TOOL (SAT)**

This is a computer software programme developed by the HSE which, in conjunction with a hand-held surface
microroughness meter, can be used in-situ to risk assess the slip potential presented by pedestrian walkway surfaces. The software operator feeds in information on-site such as: the surface roughness readings, amount and causes of floor surface contamination, footwear used and the cleaning regime implemented in order to gain a slip risk classification for the floor. These factors are taken into account along with others detailed in the slip potential model. This simple software programme can be downloaded free of charge, from [www.hse.gov.uk/slips](http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips).

**ROLLER-COASTER TEST - SLIP ALERT**

This is a relatively new measurement tool that has been developed specifically to reproduce the characteristics of the hydrodynamic squeeze film that occurs under a pedestrian’s heel when they slip, measuring the average slip resistance over the area tested. This involves a trolley rolling down a ramp and skidding across the floor surface. However, this test is in its infancy and with its limited experience, sole reliance to this test on manufacturers’ product specifications should not be sought to qualify specification of floor surfaces.

**RIBA APPROVED CPD**

A RIBA Approved CPD Seminar is available to be presented by a Polyflor representative covering the afore-mentioned slip resistance test methods and to assist in the specification of safety floorcoverings. Contact Polyflor for further information. This presentation is also available as an online CPD. Further details can be found by visiting [www.ribaonlinecpd.com](http://www.ribaonlinecpd.com).

**EN 13845:2005**

This European Norm specifically relates to particle based safety flooring. Whilst this standard covers all aspects of product quality, it also brings in another measure of slip resistance:

- **ESf** – all Polysafe products achieve a rating of Enhanced Slip for use with footwear, as opposed to **DS** (meaning Dry Slip) as stated in the EN 13893 standard.

**ESb** – Polysafe Hydro achieves a rating of Enhanced Slip Barefoot.

**CE MARKING**

From 2007, all flooring sold in Europe must have carried the CE mark and show results on two mandatory performance aspects – fire and slip.

The vast majority of smooth vinyl floors will carry a Dry Slip rating – this essentially means that the flooring is safe for use. For safety flooring or slip resistant flooring specifically, you should look for an ES rating.

In addition, continually wet area safety floorings like Polysafe Hydro must conform to EN 13553 for watertightness, in order to achieve CE marking status.

**Points to consider:**

- HSE recommends the Pendulum test in conjunction with surface microroughness meter for real life in-situ results
- All Polysafe products adhere to HSE Guidelines, achieving 36+ in the Pendulum wet test (Four S Rubber /Slider 96) with a surface roughness of Rz ≥20 µm.
- The slip resistance on all Polysafe ranges is assured for the guaranteed life of the product
- Other methods of measuring slip resistance are only complementary and should not be used as sole indicators for specification. For example, the Ramp test is an ex-factory test and cannot be replicated on-site
- RIBA Approved CPD seminar for the specification of safety vinyl floorcoverings is available directly from Polyflor representatives or online

**USEFUL REFERENCES FOR FURTHER READING**

- ‘Taking Slips and Trips Seriously’ Paul Beaumont, HSC
- ‘Slips and trips: The importance of floor cleaning’ HSE Information Sheet – Slips and Trips 2
- ‘Slips and trips: Summary guidance for the catering industry’ HSE Information Sheet – Catering Sheet No 6
- ‘Preventing slips in the food and drink industries – technical update on floor specifications’ HSE Information Sheet – Food Sheet No 22
- ‘Preventing slips and trips in kitchens and food service’ HSE Information Sheet – Catering Sheet No 6 (revised)
- ‘Preventing slip and trip incidents in the education sector’ HSE Information Sheet – Education Sheet No 2 (revised)
- ‘Slips and trips in the health services’ HSE Information Sheet – Health Services Sheet No 2
- UK Slip Resistance Group (UKSRG) Guidelines, 2005
- Health Technical Memorandum 61: Flooring – Department of Health

All HSE Guidance is available on: [www.hse.gov.uk/slips/information.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/slips/information.htm)
There are no short cuts to optimum performance with the installation of any flooring. That is why an overview should be taken of each project so that the finishing details are considered right from the start of the project. It also means that all parties are aware of their individual areas of responsibility.

There is no question that the final details contribute so much to an impressive finish for the floor. These include relatively minor details such as awkward corners, internal or external mitres, the junction where different floorcoverings meet and finishing details around drains and other accessories. They make up only a small proportion of the total floor, yet they often make up most of an architect’s snag list.

A Polyflor installation must focus on these important details and also take into account all aspects of the location. We believe that the floor must not only look good, but also perform well, so that it is impermeable, hygienic and safe.

**DRAINAGE**

The location of drains is important. As far as possible, they should be away from sources of vibration (to reduce movement) and from beams, columns and walls (to make leak detection easier). Obviously, they should be close to the main spillage sources, when direct outlets from spillage sources are not possible.

The floor gradient into the drain depends on the process, traffic volume and the surface texture of the floorcovering. The drains used should be built to permit examination, cleaning and repair without these operations causing damage to the floor.

**SHOWER DRAINS**

Only drains which have been specifically designed for use with sheet vinyl floorings should be considered. Most of these drains have clamping rings, which ensure the watertight security which is essential where hygiene and safety are of primary importance.

These clamping rings ensure that the Polysafe floorcovering is held securely in position and they prevent the ingress of water that could adversely affect the adhesion at this critical point.
DRAINAGE CHANNELS AND GULLEYS
Again, only drainage channels and gulleys which incorporate vinyl clamping and locking systems into their design should be considered.

CONSTRUCTION JOINT COVERS
Correct treatment at expansion joints is also essential if the floor is going to last and perform in a safe and hygienic manner. We recommend that expansion joints are covered using either a PVC expansion joint cover, or a cover with a PVC insert, so that the flooring can be thermally welded to the cover (see below).

On no account must the Polysafe be taken straight over the expansion joint. This will lead to failure.

EDGE TRIMS
In many of the areas where Polysafe is installed, other types of floorcovering will also be used. The junction between the Polysafe flooring and these other types of floorcovering is a potential weak point, if not treated properly. Correct installation minimises problems such as water leakage and trip hazard.

POLYSAFE WITH CERAMIC OR QUARRY FLOOR TILES
In installations where the edge of the vinyl comes into contact with ceramic or quarry tiles, it is important that a watertight joint is achieved at the junction. Aluminium edge trims with PVC inserts are ideal for this purpose. They facilitate installation and the PVC insert allows for a welded joint between the edge trim and the Polysafe floorcovering.

POLYSAFE WITH CARPET
It is important that the junction between Polysafe and carpet is clearly visible and that any trip hazard is minimised by using edging strips. A variety of edging strips are available for this junction. The relevant manufacturers can supply further advice on installation and use of these types of trims.

BEVELLED AND DIMINISHING STRIPS
Bevelled or diminishing strips should be used at all exposed edges of Polysafe vinyl floorings to minimise trip hazards.

The bevelled strip should be butted tightly to the exposed edge of the Polysafe vinyl flooring. The bevelled strip should be fixed using a contact adhesive and the joint may be thermally welded.

ACCESS AND MANHOLE COVERS
It is important that access covers are used which facilitate either the welding of the Polysafe vinyl flooring to the cover and frame or where the Polysafe vinyl flooring can be clamped into place. Both these solutions result in a watertight, hygienic and safe joint.

SKIRTINGS AND OTHER FINISHES
Polyflor supplies a wide range of PVC profiles which are ideal for use with the Polysafe range of products. In most installations, we would recommend that the Polysafe vinyl flooring is either site-coved up the wall,
or a “set in” coved skirting is used which can be welded to the Polysafe vinyl flooring.

**SITE COVING**

For the junction between site-coved Polysafe vinyl flooring and ceramic wall tiles, Polyflor Ejecta CT strip provides the ideal solution.

The flexible section is designed to accept ceramic wall tiles on one side and the various gauges of Polysafe on the other.

**SET-IN COVED SKIRTINGS**

Where it is impractical or where it is not cost effective to use the site-coved method of installation, the Polyflor Ejecta set-in skirting is a viable alternative. Very similar to the sit-on type skirting in appearance, the set in skirting has a 50mm toe which is adhered to the subfloor and allows the main field of sheet vinyl to be welded to it.

**SIT-ON SKIRTINGS**

Sit-on skirting generally tend only to be used in conjunction with tiled floors to provide a finish around the perimeter of the room. The sit-on skirting is adhered to the walls and the toe of the skirting sits on top of the floor; it is not welded. If requested, suitable mastic sealant can be used beneath the toe of the skirting.

**MASTIC SEALANT FINISH**

When specified, suitable silicon mastics can be used as a finish around the perimeter of a room. This is provided a water tight finish is not required and all parties are in agreement as to this type of finish.

**PROTECTION FROM RADIATED HEAT SOURCES**

The Polysafe range of floorcoverings is often used in situations where excessive heat causes problems with the floorcovering and the adhesive. It is impractical to give specific details, as equipment such as ovens and kilns vary in design and height above the flooring material.

Where the conditions may cause a problem, we would recommend the use of metal oven trays that deflect the heat away from the floor, and an adhesive suitable for these conditions, such as an epoxy or polyurethane. If you are unsure, we recommend that you discuss the application with our Customer Technical Services Team.

Full installation instructions for Polysafe products can be found in the Polyflor Technical Manual – also available online at www.polyflor.com.
A solution of neutral or alkaline cleanser to the floor diluted to the floor to remove loose dust, grit and debris. Next, apply a
A.
Q. What is the best way to clean your Polysafe
A. Yes, increasingly in schools and social housing projects, the issues of underfoot safety and acoustic performance are becoming intertwined in an endeavour to comply with Part E of the UK Building Regulations (2003 Edition). The Polysafe solution to this is to combine safety flooring with use of our closed cell Acoustifoam product. This is a 2mm thick layer of sheet foam laid on the subfloor first, with Polysafe or alternative Polysafe smooth vinyls laid over the top of the Acoustifoam. This combination in no way impairs the performance of the safety flooring and will provide an impact sound reduction level of over 18dB in acoustic performance when tested to EN ISO 140-8. This exceeds the requirements set down in the UK Building Regulations.
This acoustic performance can also be achieved on a safety floor by specifying Polysafe Wood FX Acoustic PUR, complete with an integrated foam backed layer that is built into the product and gives an impact sound reduction level of 19dB and above.
A.
Q. What is the best way to clean your Polysafe safety flooring?
A. All our Polysafe ranges require a straightforward maintenance regime. Firstly, sweep, mop sweep or dry vacuum the floor to remove loose dust, grit and debris. Next, apply a solution of neutral or alkaline cleanser to the floor diluted to the manufacturer’s instructions, with enough time given for the solution to react with the soiling. The floor should then be machine scrubbed using a 165 rpm rotary machine fitted with a rotary scrubbing brush, or if necessary, a scrubbing pad, followed by the slurry being picked up with a wet vacuum. For areas where no suitable scrubbing machine is available, a deck scrubber should be used in conjunction with a wet vacuum or mop and bucket system. Where a mop and bucket system is used, it would be pertinent to use a separate bucket to wring the mop out and hold the dirty water, thereby increasing the dirt removal. The floor should then be rinsed thoroughly with clean, warm water and picked up with a wet vacuum and left to dry thoroughly. It is important that those responsible for floor maintenance leave the floor to dry completely before pedestrians are allowed access. In areas where this is not possible, suitable barriers should be used to tell people that the floor is still wet and if possible advise them to make alternative bypass routes.

For areas where there are instances of water-based spillages, an effective method of removing these contaminants can involve cleaning spills up immediately as they happen. This ‘clean as you go’ policy avoids spreading contamination around the floor as spillages are taken care of immediately. This allows contamination to be controlled as these spot cleanings are carried out at times separate to the whole floor area being cleaned. For water spillages, users can undertake spot mopping or cleaning, using a paper towel or similar to remove small areas of contamination from the floor. For greasy and oily spills, a neutral detergent, diluted to the manufacturer’s instruction should be used to spot mop the contaminant. Stubborn black marks can be removed by using the centre disc of a scrubbing pad and a small amount of undiluted alkaline cleanser. The disc should be placed under the sole of the shoe and rubbed to give greater pressure to the surface.

For Polysafe™ PUR and Supratpec PUR products, all the traditional methods of maintenance such as scrubbing machines can be used, in particular for heavily soiled areas. However, a clean microfibre mop can also be used to pick up the diluted solution of detergent once it has reacted to the soiling, using a continuous side-to-side motion. Once the mop head becomes loaded, it will start streaking the floor. At this stage, the dirty mop head should be replaced with a clean mop head. The cycle should then be repeated until the whole floor is completed.

For POLYSAFE HYDRO, our profiled emboss product for continually wet and barefoot areas, the scrubbing pad on the rotary machine should be replaced with a rotary scrubbing brush, bristle brush or deck scrubber. Alternatively, a cylindrical type scrubbing machine should be used. All spot cleaning for this product should involve the use of a deck scrubber.
The frequency for each type of cleaning operation is dependent upon the type and intensity of traffic. However, if cleaning procedures are carried out daily, it may be possible for the maintenance regime to be undertaken last thing at night, so the flooring is dry for the start of the next working shift.

Full maintenance information for each Polysafe range and recommended maintenance products are available online at www.polyflor.com or via Polyflor Customer Technical Services.

Q. Can I apply polish to your safety flooring?
A. Categorically, any polish or floor maintainer should not be applied to any Polysafe flooring as this may impair the performance attribute of the floor - its slip resistance. For further advice please contact Polyflor Customer Technical Services.

Q. Can I use under-floor heating with Polysafe flooring?
A. Yes, all Polysafe vinyl product ranges can be installed over underfloor heating, providing that the service operating temperature does not exceed 27°C (80° F) and the heating system is switched off during the installation period from 48 hours prior to installation until 48 hours afterwards. The adhesive used should be capable of withstanding temperatures up to 27°C.

Q. How dry does a subfloor need to be before Polysafe can be laid?
A. Polysafe flooring should only be laid on subfloors where the moisture level does not exceed 75% RH in accordance with BS 8203 and which do not suffer from rising damp or hydrostatic pressure.

The Hygrometer is the only method of test acceptable as detailed in BS 8203 and only readings taken over at least a 72 hour period should be considered to represent the moisture content of the subfloor. Subfloors with a relative humidity in excess of 75% will invariably cause failure of the bond between the substrate and floorcovering. Polyflor does not condone the practice of laying safety flooring direct to subfloors with moisture content readings above 75% and accepts no responsibility for non-performance of Polysafe products in such instances. For further advice on methods to implement when the moisture of a subfloor exceeds 75%, please contact Polyflor Customer Technical Services.
## Specifications

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<tr>
<th>GAUGE</th>
<th>ROLL SIZE</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>GENERAL PERFORMANCE</th>
<th>REACTION TO FIRE</th>
<th>ENHANCED SLIP</th>
<th>ACOUSTIC IMPACT SOUND REDUCTION</th>
<th>ABRASSION RESISTANCE</th>
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For information regarding handling and installation, adhesives, maintenance, applications and chemical resistance, consult Polyflor.

1. WATER TIGHTNESS EN 13553 Annex A
2. Independently assessed by the BBA. With proper maintenance, product performance is assured for at least 10 years in recommended use areas.
3. Sustainable wet slip resistance. The slip resistance across all Polyflor products is assured throughout the guaranteed life of the product, with strict adherence to HSE Guidelines. For further clarification regarding slip resistance, consult Polyflor.
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4. Independently tested & inhibits growth of MRSA on flooring. Effective maintenance is the most important defence against infection.

5. Refer to BRE Global ratings on [www.greenbooklive.com](http://www.greenbooklive.com)

6. A full Environmental Report detailing Polyflor’s achievements in areas such as recycling, energy reduction and waste avoidance can be found at [www.polyflor.com/environment](http://www.polyflor.com/environment)

Decoration and shade may vary slightly from the samples shown. The data presented is correct at the time of printing. For latest information, please check our website at [www.polyflor.com](http://www.polyflor.com)