

MARCH 2008

Q&A: GLASBAC™ CARPET TILE BACKING - 100% RECYCLABLE

1. WHY IS INTERFACEFLOR MOVING TO GLASBAC™ BACKING?

InterfaceFLOR is committed to Mission Zero – eliminating any negative impact the company may have on the environment by 2020.

To achieve this, InterfaceFLOR looks at its products from a total life cycle perspective.

GlasBac™ carpet backing is 100% recyclable. InterfaceFLOR can offer a *Re-Entry Program* for carpet tiles at the end of their life. InterfaceFLOR feeds the recycled materials back into creating new carpet tiles. InterfaceFLOR is closing the lifecycle loop.

From 7 March 2008, all InterfaceFLOR Australia's carpet tile backing will be GlasBac.

To facilitate this change, InterfaceFLOR is investing \$31million over three years to upgrade its manufacturing plant in Picton, south of Sydney, NSW.

InterfaceFLOR has been on its sustainability journey for 14 years. This is another significant step in this journey.

2. WHAT DO YOU MEAN GLASBAC™ IS SUSTAINABLE FROM A 'TOTAL LIFE CYCLE' PERSPECTIVE?

The production, use and disposal of a simple piece of carpet – if not done right – can leave a huge footprint on the environment.

InterfaceFLOR monitors the total impact its processes and products have on the environment. In short, the full lifecycle of a piece of carpet.

Here are just some of the steps involved in the life cycle of one square of carpet:

- Raw material extracted from oil well or quarry
- Manufacture of raw material
- Transportation
- Carpet manufacture
- Buying and installation
- Usage, maintenance and cleaning
- Removal and end of life options

The main environmental impact comes from the manufacture and supply of raw materials.

Recycling the backing of carpet tiles, and feeding the materials back into the production loop, will reduce InterfaceFLOR's impact on the environment by 30%.

3. WHY IS LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS (LCA) IMPORTANT?

LCA analysis is what the leading Materials Manufacturers Industry is adopting as a definitive scientific evaluation method in relation to assessing environmental footprint impact.

It's what the Green Business Council of Australia (GBCAUS) and the US Green Building Council are using for their objective evaluation tools. It's what credible green product third-party certifiers and evaluators are using.

In Australia, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is ramping up its green compliance activities and pushing for a valid tool to assess the strength of environmental claims businesses make in labelling, packaging and advertising.

Organisations have realised there is a competitive advantage to be had by appealing to the new 'green awareness' of consumers, and the latest marketing claims are all about 'carbon neutral', 'carbon offset' and 'carbon footprint'.

With LCA evaluation tools, companies that are viewing their environmental impact from a LCA will continue to do well. Those issuing false claims will be caught out and fail.

4. WHAT ELSE IS INTERFACEFLOR DOING TOWARDS ACHIEVING MISSION ZERO?

In 2007 all InterfaceFLOR's products became Climate Neutral. All greenhouse gas emissions calculated over the entire life cycle of its carpets were eliminated or offset.

This is a first for an Australian manufacturing company. It's particularly significant as manufacturing companies often have the greatest impact on their environment. They therefore have the greatest ability to effect meaningful change.

Globally, InterfaceFLOR has reduced its environmental footprint by 40% since beginning its sustainability journey in 1994.

In Australia, InterfaceFLOR has:

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 24.3%, despite substantial production increases.
- Reduced energy consumption by 56% per unit of production.
- Reduced non-renewable energy usage by 55.7%.
- Reduced water intake per unit of production by 48%.
- Reduced environmental impact of the installation process by more than 90%¹

InterfaceFLOR was the first manufacturer to receive a Good Environmental Choice Certificate in 2006².

In 2006, GlobeScan's Survey of Sustainability Experts³ ranked Interface Inc. (InterfaceFLOR's parent company) as number one globally for Leading Corporate Social Responsibility, with Toyota and BP coming in second and third respectively.

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¹ InterfaceFLOR has introduced TacTiles, a water-based tackifier used in place of glue to provide adhesiveness during the carpet installation process. Because TacTiles contain no liquid components, they virtually eliminate the issue of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). TacTiles reduce InterfaceFLOR's environmental impact of carpet installation by up to 90%.

² Good Environmental Choice Australia is an independent environmental certifier of products and services. The certification process is a comprehensive environmental impact and environmental performance evaluation, and includes the associated production processes.

³ GlobeScan's Survey of Sustainability Experts is published twice yearly. Each report is based on the strategic insights and predictions provided by a selected panel of experts across mainly OECD countries. The panel represents all industry sections, as well as leaders of major policy institutes and non-government organisations.