

# Vinyl vs Linoleum



	Vinyl	Linoleum
Chemical Resistance	Vinyl floor coverings have good <b>resistance to dilute acids and alkalis</b> , as well as alcohol based sanitisers and are suitable for use in all areas where most chemicals are used and there is a risk of accidental spillage.	Vinyl sheet provides category-leading scratch, stain and scuff resistance while also protecting against chemicals and damage from alcohol based sanitisers - protection Linoleum can't provide.
Cleanability & Maintenance	Polyflor products feature a PUR finish, to provide a <b>straightforward cleaning</b> and maintenance regime. Regular cleaning can be carried out simply, <b>without the use of expensive equipment</b> or external cleaning contractors.	Linoleum requires ongoing maintenance to retain water resistant properties. There are a limited number of cleaning products available and using the incorrect product can damage the floor.
Coving	Polyflor sheet vinyl can be coved up the wall, leaving <b>no joints</b> for bacteria to congregate.	Vinyl is inherently more flexible and is easily self coved, whereas Linoleum is less flexible and therefore prone to cracking when coved.
Design	Unlimited directional & marbled designs, wood, stone & effect finishes. Range functionality across safety, acoustic, ESD and sport ranges.	Limited to a marbled design only.
Durability	The majority of Polyflor 2mm vinyl floor coverings obtain the highest Use Area Certification of 23/34/43 making them suitable for heavy domestic, heavy commercial and heavy-light industrial use.	In comparison, a greater thickness is required for Linoleum to achieve a similar recommendation. 2.5mm or 3.2mm product gauge is typically required to perform to the same level of durability as 2.0mm vinyl.
Ease of Disinfecting	Most leading tablet and liquid disinfectants are <b>safe to use</b> with most Polyflor and Polysafe ranges. These disinfectants can be <b>easily introduced</b> into routine maintenance plans.	Durability is dependent on a protective coating being applied at the time of installation and frequent ongoing resealing of the product.
Fire Performance	Vinyl is engineered to provide the best fire performance characteristics of all resilient flooring materials.	Many of the constituents used in the manufacture of linoleum are wood based, which means that the fire characteristics are in line with that of burning wood.
High Temperature Cleaning	Vinyl flooring can <b>easily be cleaned</b> at temperatures high enough to kill viruses. <b>Steam cleaners are effective</b> when following manufacturer guidelines.	Linoleum is susceptible to moisture damage. Moisture damage can lead to mold and mildew.
Installation Costs	Vinyl installation is easier than Linoleum.	Installation & maintenance costs higher due to specialised fitters, tools and installation skills required. Linoleum welding is very different from vinyl welding.
Manufacture	Less energy is typically used to produce vinyl than linoleum – the embedded energy is reduced by using recycled vinyl in the manufacturing process.	15% more energy is used to manufacture Linoleum and the product is baked in ovens for 14-21 days.
Materials	All ingredients used in the manufacture of Polyflor vinyl flooring are responsibly sourced and follow the strictest industry regulation. No harmful substances are included, such as lead, mercury, organic tin or cadmium compounds and formaldehyde. Our products are environmentally sound and safe for human use.	Linoleum can include chemical treatments for longevity including formaldehyde, which must now be transparently communicated via CE marks. Flax is also intensively harvested, with problems occurring from pesticides used, causing eutrophication potential.

Product Performance	Homogeneous vinyl colours remain true. Heterogeneous colours can show a yellowing when exposed to moisture.	Linoleum shows a yellowing when deprived of light.
PUR	Most Polyflor vinyl flooring ranges have a very tough protective PUR layer, so no waxing or sealing is ever necessary.	The older Linoleum ranges require periodic stripping & sealing to keep it resistant to moisture and stains but new products in the market no longer require this procedure.
Recycling	Vinyl is the most suitable material for recycling. It is 100% recyclable and it can be recycled many times over, without losing any of its performance properties. Post production waste vinyl is automatically recycled with an increase of post consumer waste being reclaimed and recycled back into flooring and non-flooring products. Recofloor operates 68 drop-off sites across the UK, Ireland & Australia. PFSA has take back schemes running in Johannesburg and Cape Town and will be branching out to other major centres in the future.	Generally, recycled content for vinyl is higher than that of linoleum flooring and the recycling schemes do not compare favourably for the linoleum manufacturing industry. Only Forbo offers a recycling service and is limited to 2 drop-off sites.
VOCs	The VOC emissions on Polyflor products are all below the strictly set, accepted levels. Products have been tested by independent laboratories, passing the most stringent VOC emissions' tests with no negative contribution to indoor air quality.	Independent studies have shown that linoleum does off-gas. It has a very strong odour and the substances produced from off-gassing linoleum are generally a range of volatile organic chemicals known as aldehydes.
Wall Cladding	Vinyl flooring can also be used in conjunction with vinyl wall cladding systems to provide clean room facilities to very rigid requirements, classed as non-shedding material.	Linoleum can not be used as a hygienic solution for walls or ceilings where hygiene & infection control is of absolute importance.
Water Resistance	Thermally welded sheet vinyl flooring is <b>100% waterproof</b> , allowing it to be frequently wet cleaned.	Because Linoleum includes natural materials, moisture damage or simple gouges that penetrate the protective layer may lead to mold and mildew, and other issues - putting the safety and well-being of occupants at risk, especially in healthcare environments.
Welding	Vinyl is impervious and can be thermally welded with the joints actually fused together. Regarding welded seams, vinyl has better dimensional stability than linoleum.	Linoleum cannot be welded in this way. Where the joints need to be filled, a hot melt adhesive must be used. Linoleum has the tendency to expand, especially when in contact with moisture or with wet cleaning methods. This can again be highlighted by the fact that most linoleum tiles are supplied on an inert polyester scrim rather than the jute backing.