



Protect and preserve the past for present and future generations.



FLORA

ENVIRONMENTAL

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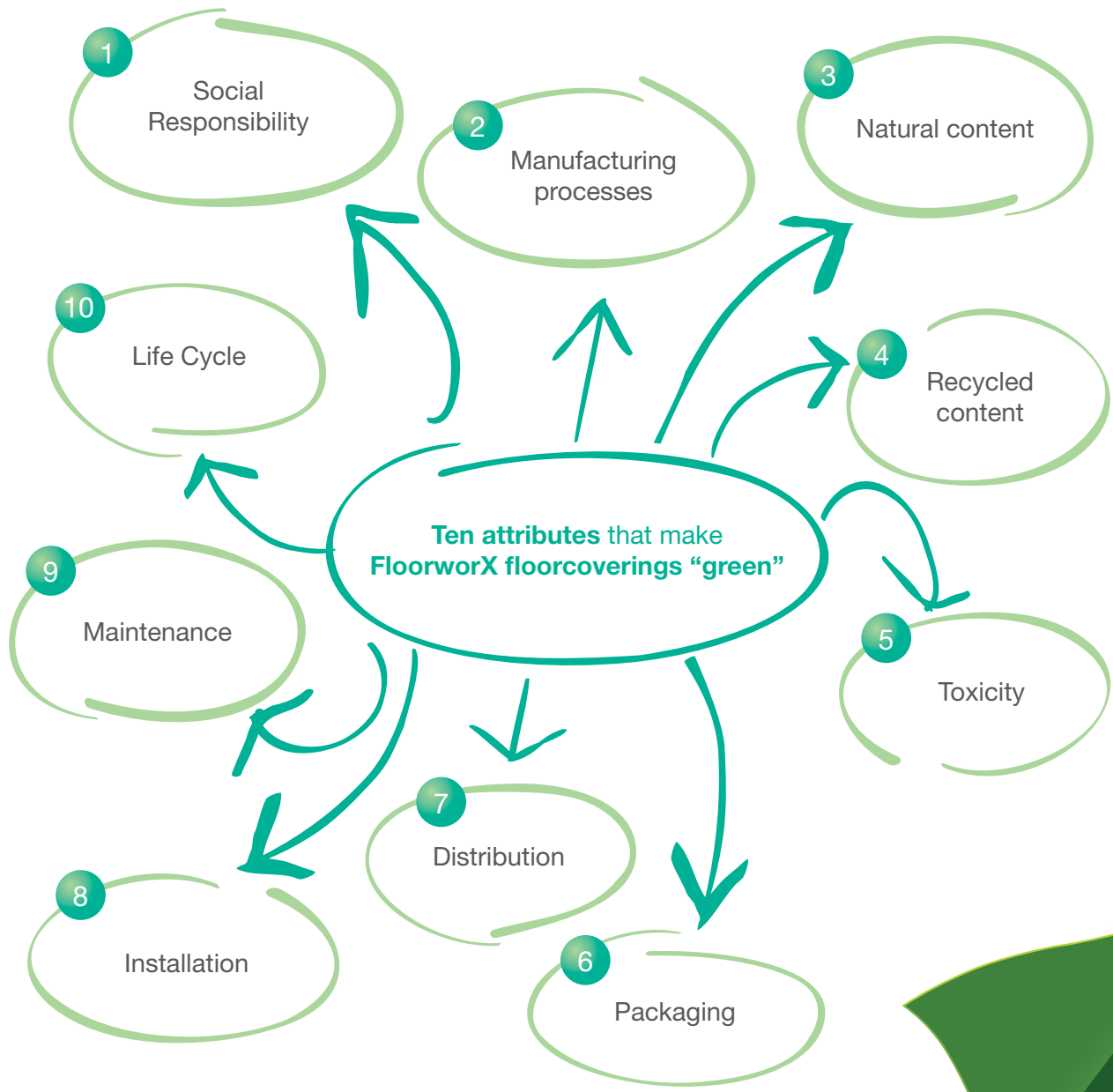
As the only vinyl flooring manufacturer in South Africa, FloorworX hereby commit to assist our country's project leaders by supplying 'green' floorcoverings, adhesives, accessories and maintenance products which will enable them to design sustainable buildings and thus protect and preserve this place we call home.

our commitment

our philosophy

On the aesthetic side of green architecture is the philosophy of designing a building that is in harmony with the natural features and resources surrounding the site.

We implemented green practices based on ten attributes throughout our business, which will help make our floorcoverings "green" and in the process inspire more environmentally considerate flooring choices in the design of sustainable buildings.





social responsibility

FloorworX is a founder member of The Southern African Vinyls Association (SAVA). SAVA members are committed to the responsible and sustainable use of additives, the implementation of a sustainable recycling programme and the promotion of a healthy vinyls industry.

The Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign is a worldwide tree planting campaign established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the goal of a billion trees being planted during 2007.

The Buffalo City Environmental Trust (BCET), Buffalo City Municipality's Integrated Environmental Management Planning (IEMP) Unit and the Wildlife & Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) co-ordinated a local effort in Buffalo City, to contribute to the Billion Tree campaign.

At the FloorworX factory in East London, 33 indigenous trees were planted as part of the company's contribution to the Billion Tree Campaign during Arbour Week 2008.

Further to this, FloorworX aligns itself with global partners such as Kährs and Quick-Step who want to maintain our forests.

Quick-Step has Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC), a new tool to improve the sustainable management of our forests, and prides itself on the fact that you can enjoy the most beautiful wood patterns without having to damage our forests. Kährs on the other hand plants more than 6 trees for every one that they fell to produce flooring products.

Within its global programme framework, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) network aspires to collectively tackle environmental issues. FloorworX is a principal member of WWF South Africa and supports its integrated strategy to ensure that South Africa's biodiversity is conserved and that our footprint remains within the earth's capacity to sustain life.



manufacturing processes

FloorworX is aware of the fact that it has to comply with green processes and is therefore continuously investigating and testing the viability of new manufacturing methods to decrease the negative impact on the country's scarce resources.

The company has implemented several Environmental Management Systems (EMS) in its East London manufacturing plant: the factory is certified according to international standards such as ISO 9001 (Quality Management) and ISO 14001 (Environmental Management System).

Locally manufactured products (Floorflex, Superflex and Industrial floor) carry the SANS mark for quality.

We are currently addressing our commitment to sustainability through processes such as resources used, pollution prevention, installation, utilisation, recycling and packaging material. Great emphasis is placed on the reduction of the scarce resources used for local manufacturing.

To tie in with our philosophy, we focus on providing cutting-edge products while our processes strictly focus on achieving complete sustainable progression.

We have also partnered with industry leaders who passionately believe in creating green products without compromising product quality and performance.





natural content

FloorworX uses a range of naturally occurring minerals in the manufacture of locally produced floorcoverings. Floorflex has a total natural content of 78%, Superflex 62% natural content and Industrial Floor is made from 52% natural content.



recycled content

FloorworX always has and always will continue to include waste management as a high-level improvement objective. Production off-cuts such as punch burrs from our floorcoverings are always re-used. They are granulated and become part of the raw material basis of different semi-flexible and fully-flexible products. They can also be used as high-quality filling materials and partly as designer decoration granulates (for flashings on Floorflex and Superflex).

REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE



toxicity

As of the 19th October 2011, the GBCSA Technical Steering Committee (TSC) resolved to adopt the recommendation put forward by the Green Building Council South Africa (GBCSA) Technical Department to withdraw the Mat-7 PVC Minimisation credit from the Green Star SA rating system and not replace it with an alternative version based upon the Green Building Council Australia (GBCA) 'Best Practice Guidelines for PVC in the Built Environment' (in part or in full, localised to the South African context).

The GBCSA acknowledges that the South African PVC industry has, and continues, to address the historical environmental concerns with PVC, and is transitioning to improved environmental performance. The transition to date is deemed to a similar degree to that of the Australian PVC industry. There are, however, several aspects of PVC resin and product manufacture within the South African industry which have not yet transitioned to the extent achieved by the Australian PVC industry, nor counterparts in Europe. However,

in its existing form, the Mat-7 PVC Minimisation credit would be unlikely to drive the improvements deemed necessary by the GBCSA. Accounting for this limitation and the continuing transition of the South African PVC industry (and acknowledging the current transition achieved), the withdrawal of the Mat-7 PVC Minimisation credit from the Green Star SA rating system is warranted.

Plasticizers for plastics are additives that give hard plastics like PVC the desired flexibility and durability. For plastics such as PVC, the more plasticizer added, the lower its cold flex temperature will be. This means that it will be more flexible and its durability will increase as a result of it.

Some plasticizers evaporate and tend to concentrate in an enclosed space; the "new car smell" is caused mostly by plasticizers evaporating from the car interior.

Safer plasticizers with better biodegradability and fewer biochemical effects are being developed and FloorworX continually evaluates new alternative plasticizers for future use.

All FloorworX floorcoverings are heavy metal free. FloorworX does not use any stabilizers or pigments that contain Lead, Cadmium, Chromium or Mercury.



packaging

Waste reduction, sustainability for intended purpose and transportation are all considered when choosing packaging, to ensure that what FloorworX sends out is both environmentally considerate and user-friendly.

For example, tiles are supplied in cardboard boxes on pallets. The cardboard boxes are made from waste paper and can be recycled. Only wooden pallets are used, and these can be returned and re-used by FloorworX.

All locally manufactured sheeting products are rolled on cardboard cores made of recycled cardboard. Even the secondary packaging of the rolls is made of recycled paper. Each roll is positioned on wooden pallets and sealed in environmentally compatible and recyclable film.

distribution

FloorworX uses “green” transport suppliers. FloorworX partnered with Triton express and are now part of the global drive towards environmentally favourable transport. In addition to their Euro 3 compliant, Triton also uses Volvo Euro 5 13 litre engine vehicles in South Africa. Volvo has always been a leader in environmental care and its Euro 5 unit is 7½ times cleaner than the Euro 3 version. In addition, the Volvo Euro 5 engines offer good fuel economy, high power and torque ratings and above all are eco-friendly.





installation

In terms of installation, FloorworX floorcoverings can be laid in (amongst others), low VOC, environmentally friendly adhesives.

Some adhesives are manufactured by SAFIC, a leading subsidiary of Accéntuate Limited that is consistently committed to the preservation of the environment – hence all practices are carried out within a framework of responsible care to save our planet.





maintenance

The closed surface of FloorworX vinyl floorcoverings permits easy and economic cleaning. The variety of Topshield, PU and PUR coatings on these floorcoverings offer a series of benefits regarding care and maintenance.



life cycle

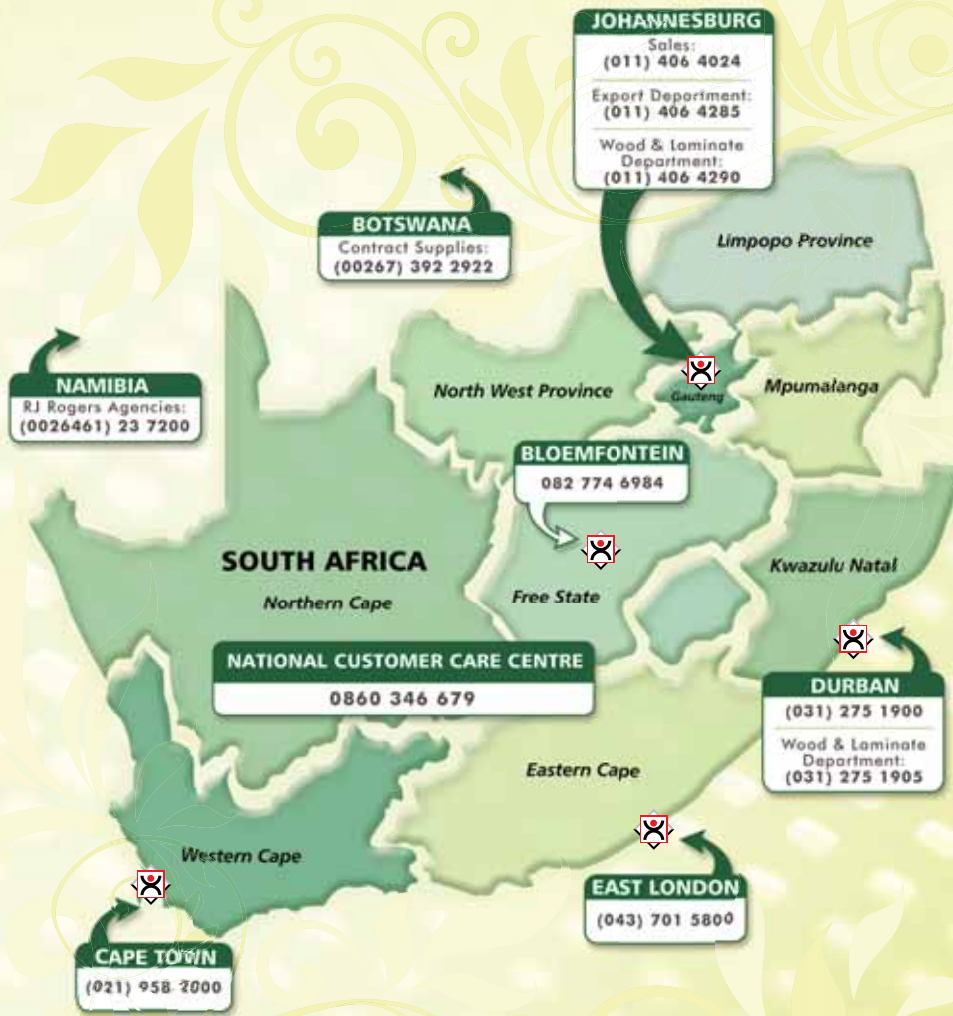
The Southern African Vinyls Association (SAVA), through its Product Stewardship Programme, will assist members, relevant authorities and experts to understand, characterize and address issues associated with the life cycle of PVC products.

Improving life cycle cost performance begins by choosing the right product.

A long product lifespan means a long period of utilisation, therefore one can make the assumption that there is higher conservation of resources because of the infrequent need of regeneration and disposal of both PVC products and the supplementary materials necessary for installation.

When you choose building materials that are manufactured locally, you minimize the energy embedded in their transportation to the building site. Choose from our locally manufactured semi-flexible Floorflex tiles and fully-flexible Superflex tiles and sheeting.





Also available from:

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- Mozambique** Isoflooring LDA
- Mauritius** Ireland Blyth Limited
- Zimbabwe** BB Designer Projects

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