



Back to the Floor

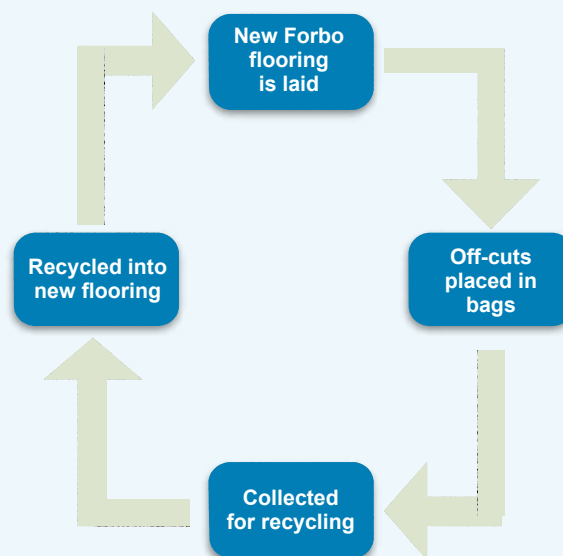
Case Study: Contractors

Back to the Floor is the Forbo Flooring take-back scheme which reprocesses installation off-cuts of Forbo flooring and cushion vinyl.

Material is collected from contractors, distributors and construction sites from across the UK and Ireland. Off-cuts are collected in colour coded clear plastic sacks and bulk bags. Collections are carried out by Forbo Flooring delivery vehicles.

Tessera off-cuts are processed at the Bamber Bridge plant near Preston, while the flotex and vinyl off-cuts goes back into flooring at the Ripley site.

At Forbo's plant in Kirkcaldy, marmoleum off-cuts are shredded into very fine pieces that are used in new marmoleum production.



How it works

The scheme collects off-cuts of:

- ✓ Tessera carpet tiles
- ✓ Flotex
- ✓ Smooth vinyl (Forbo only)
- ✓ Marmoleum
- ✓ Cushion vinyl (most brands)

Contractors place the off-cuts into the clear plastic sacks. The sacks are put into corresponding bulk bags and palletised on a standard Europallet for collection.

When 1 or more bulk bags are full, the contractor simply requests a collection by phoning or emailing the Back to the Floor team.

From May 2016, all collections will be FREE. With landfill tax now at £84.40 per tonne, using the Back to the Floor scheme can mean huge savings.



Testimonials

Kiely Carpets

Flooring contractors can benefit from savings on disposal costs versus sending their waste flooring material to landfill as Allan Kiely, Director of Kiely Carpets Ltd, discovered.

"Back to the Floor is very helpful for us; it cuts down on a lot of flooring waste to landfill while generating savings. Sending a tonne of off-cuts to landfill costs us £160, but recycling them is a third of this cost," he explains.

The Gloucestershire-based company sends back a full one-tonne bag every month. Allan adds: "Recycling makes sense; in the end it does cost you less."

Craftsman Flooring

Gareth Lewis, Commercial Director at Port Talbot-based Craftsman Flooring Ltd is an enthusiastic supporter of the scheme, saying: "It's brilliant, it works great for us and we get excellent feedback on the high quality of the material we send back for recycling."

"It is probably cost-neutral for us and even if it did cost a bit extra, we would recycle off-cuts anyway as a responsible business. Recycling is much better for the environment."

According to Gareth, main contractors invariably ask at the pre-contract stage if a flooring recycling system is in place. He adds: "Two years ago, it wasn't discussed, but it is now. We collect the full range of Forbo products accepted through the Back to the Floor scheme and everything works very well."

Smith Bros Marine

Paul Donnelly of Smith Brothers Marine, Fife, can testify to the scheme's economic and environmental advantages, adding: "It saves money on skips as well as helping the environment; so it's certainly a benefit for all."

Educational Arts & Craft Supplies

New members from many different sectors are joining the scheme, including long-standing Forbo customer, Worcestershire-based Educational Art & Craft Supplies, which recycles around 10 tonnes of Marmoleum off-cuts annually. The material is used for its range of linoleum and block printing products supplied worldwide.

Directors Chris and Stephen Yeomans are convinced that closed-loop recycling is the right way to go – and they'll get their old off-cuts back in new supplies.

"By recycling these off-cuts, we're going to be saving money on landfill costs," says Chris. "It's the way forward; there's no point burying this material when it can go back into new products."



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