



BACK TO THE FLOOR
RECYCLING PROGRAM

BACK TO THE FLOOR PROGRAM

we create better environments

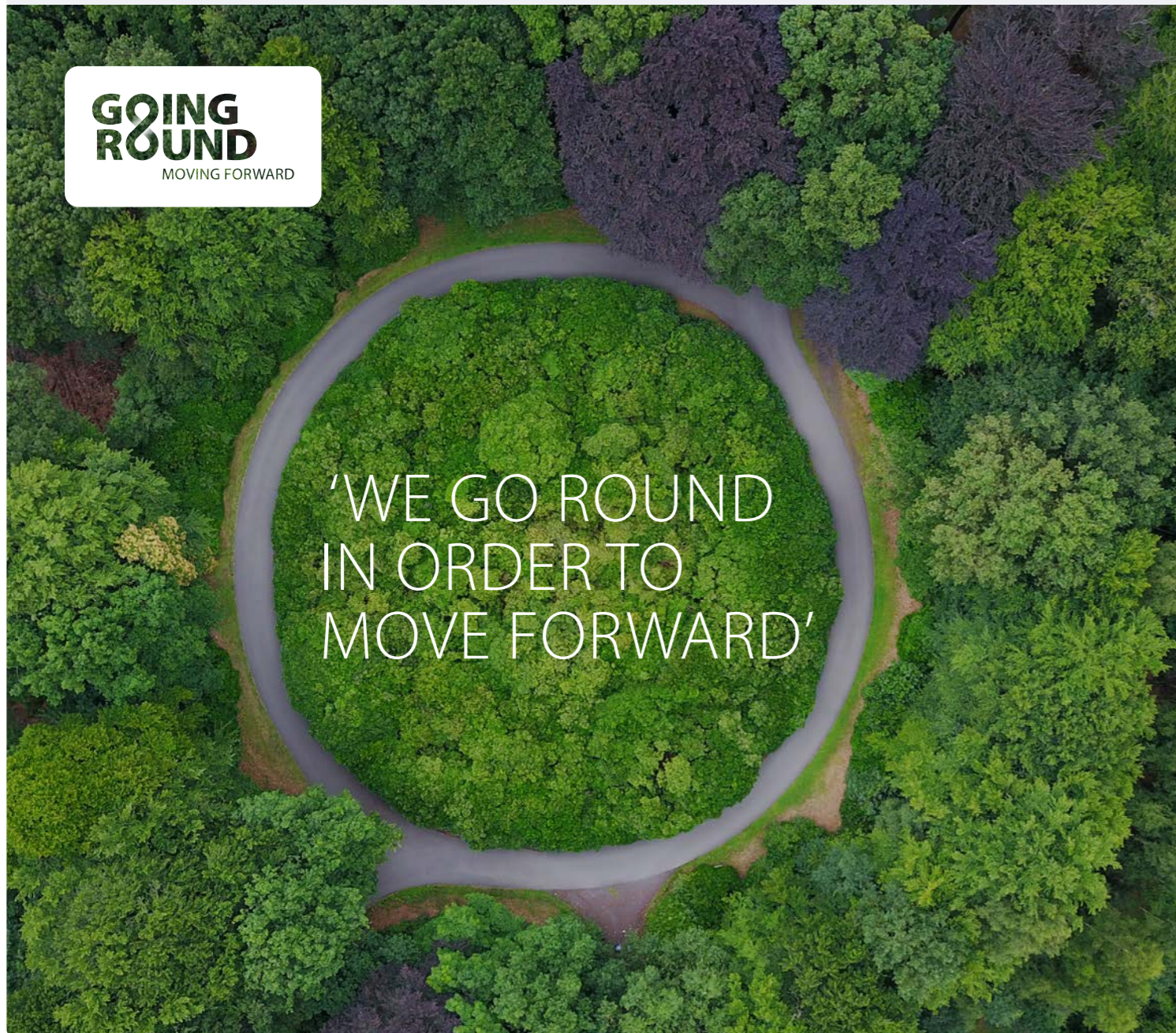


FLOORING SYSTEMS



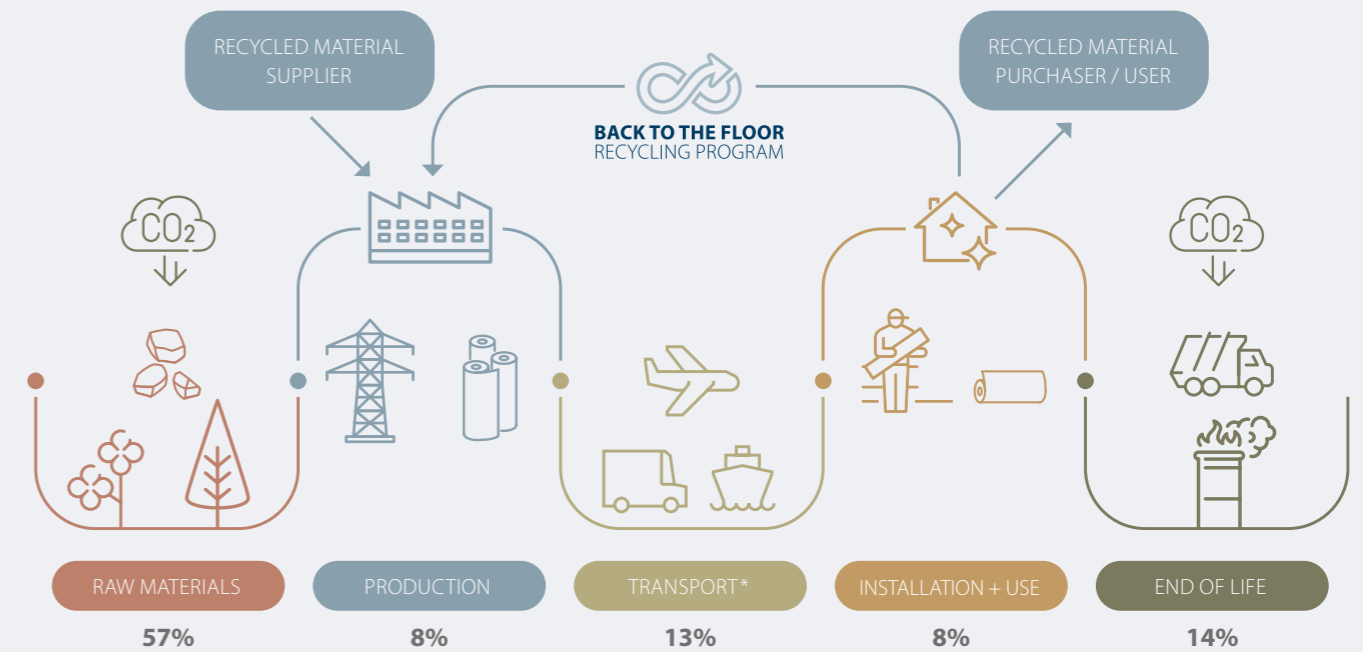
Our back-to-the-floor program

At Forbo Flooring Systems, it is action that is important, not just promises. We want to be a trusted partner by providing full transparency when it comes to circular flooring solutions and renewable raw materials. It is about the things we do, not just about the things we promise.



The reality about recycling and circularity

We are fully focused in closing the loop and making sure that responsibility for our products doesn't stop the moment the material leaves the factory. Therefore we developed our back-to-the-floor program. It includes reusing factory waste, taking back installation waste and even taking back old floors. In general, recycling programs involve costs. Recycling requires collection, transportation, sorting, and processing of materials to get it ready as raw material for a second round. We want to do it right and in a transparent way, not that in the end the used floor does go to landfill after all. In the current situation where rules and regulations differ per market, there is not one solution. We have to work together to make the solution work.



Data: 2023
*all transport and distribution

With our recycling program we bring down CO₂ levels in both the raw material extraction and at end of life as these two phases have the biggest impact on the full chain.

OUR AMBITION TOWARDS CIRCULAR FLOORING



>95%
Of product waste from production is recycled*



>20%
Recycled content in every product category

WHAT WE'RE DOING

- Taking back flooring material for recycling
- Increasing recycled content in our floors
- Designing loose lay floors for circularity and recycling
- Using safe or renewable raw materials



Taking back post-installation material

This is the process

We guide you in every step.

We are in this together and we will be guiding you along the way. We will be partnering in getting your waste material back and create new floors out of it.



Contact Customer Service, they will inform you about possibilities, terms and conditions



You'll receive a **container/big bag** for the material within a week



Avoid contamination to avoid extra costs

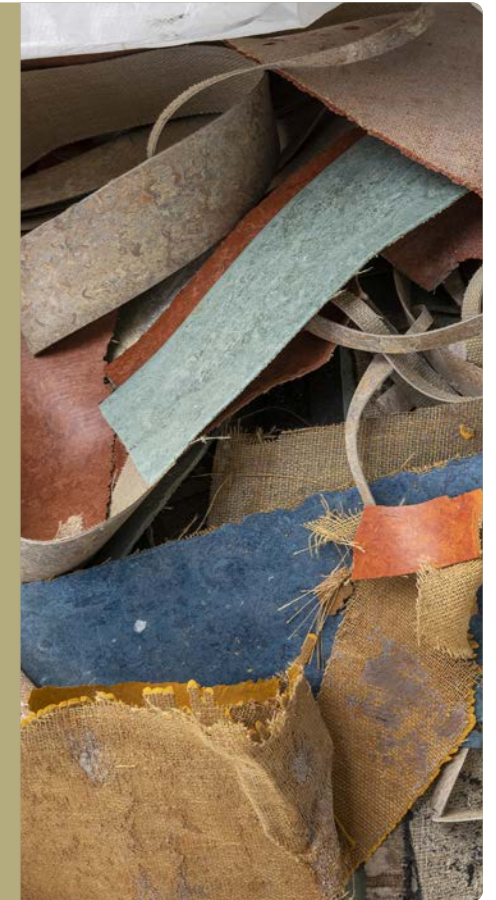


Container or bigbag full? Contact Customer Service, we'll arrange pick-up.



Only clean material is suitable for recycling:

- Keep all types of flooring separate.
- Limited glue residues are fine but no subfloor residues or other trash may be added.
- Material must have been installed after 2005.
- Only Forbo Flooring material may be offered, material from other suppliers cannot be recycled.
- Keep the material dry.



FAQ's

Why do floors have to be installed after 2005?

Before 2005 in vinyl floors there were ingredients which are currently no longer usable. We do not want to reuse these materials back in new floors.

Why can material from other suppliers not be returned?

We don't know the exact ingredients in the floors of other suppliers so we don't want to run the risk that we bring back materials in our floors which we don't want in it.

Why are costs involved?

Sustainability and circularity should be a joined effort for everyone in the building chain we set up the systems but also have costs as we are securing a very thorough processing of the materials to guarantee the recycling and use in new products. We experience that when the cost is shared, the carefulness in how materials are gathered and treated at the building site is much higher than when the costs are fully covered by us as a manufacturer. We are in this together to take care of generations to come.

Project type

Based on the size of the project we need to define the procedure. In short there are two options.



SMALL PROJECTS <1000 m²

- Request the big bags or containers at our customer service department and indicate when they are ready to be picked up



LARGE PROJECTS >1000m²

- Project meeting about how to run the job and the costs involved
- Check of the floors at the job
- Explanation at the start about the stripping and sorting of the material
- Logistic agreements to ensure efficiency.



What do we do with it? Marmoleum recycling process

STEP 1



Installation waste and end-of-life material



Production cutting waste



Old stock

Marmoleum is cut into flakes



STEP 2

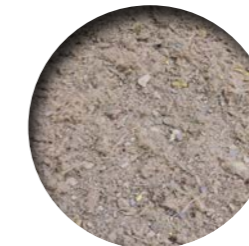


Grind further



Mix with chalk

All flakes come together and are grinded. This process gives a lot of heat, adding chalk prevents from overheating



STEP 3



Crushed to powder

The grinded waste is crushed to powder and can be used as raw material



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What do we do with it?

Vinyl recycling process

STEP 1



Production waste and old stock



Installation waste from projects



Loose lay end of life vinyl floors

The vinyl material is being inspected for any pollution and sorted afterwards.



STEP 2



Grinding



Immediate reuse

First the material is being crinded and afterwards further crushed.

Sometimes it can be used immediately into a new floor

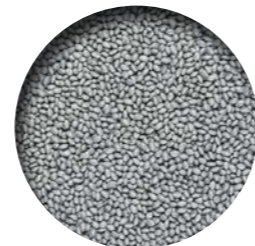


STEP 3



New raw material

In other cases we need to add other raw materials so it can be used in the backing of our LVT and project vinyl

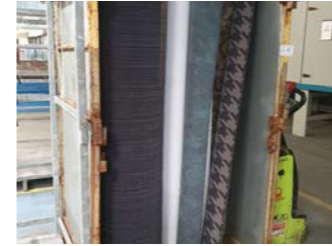


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What do we do with it?

Textile recycling process

STEP 1



Production waste and obsolete materials



Edge trims from carpet tile production



Yarns cone ends

Different products require different processes



STEP 2



Grinding



Ready for recycling at supplier or external recycling usage.

Our Flotex waste is fully used in the backing of our tile products. Tessera edge trims are recycled in other external products and Coral yarn go back to the supplier to recycle for new yarns.



STEP 3



Raw material for backing in our Flotex tile products.

Recycled parts are visible in the Flotex tile backing.



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Results

Flooring recycling contributes to a lower CO₂ emission by avoiding the use of virgin raw materials.



250 ton vinyl & marmoleum material taken back and recycled in 2023



77% CO₂ reduction realised in 2023 since 2004



7% reduction in 2023 versus base year 2019 (in kg CO₂/m²)



The avoidance of the use of virgin raw materials outweighs the transport for taking it back in terms of lowering CO₂ emissions

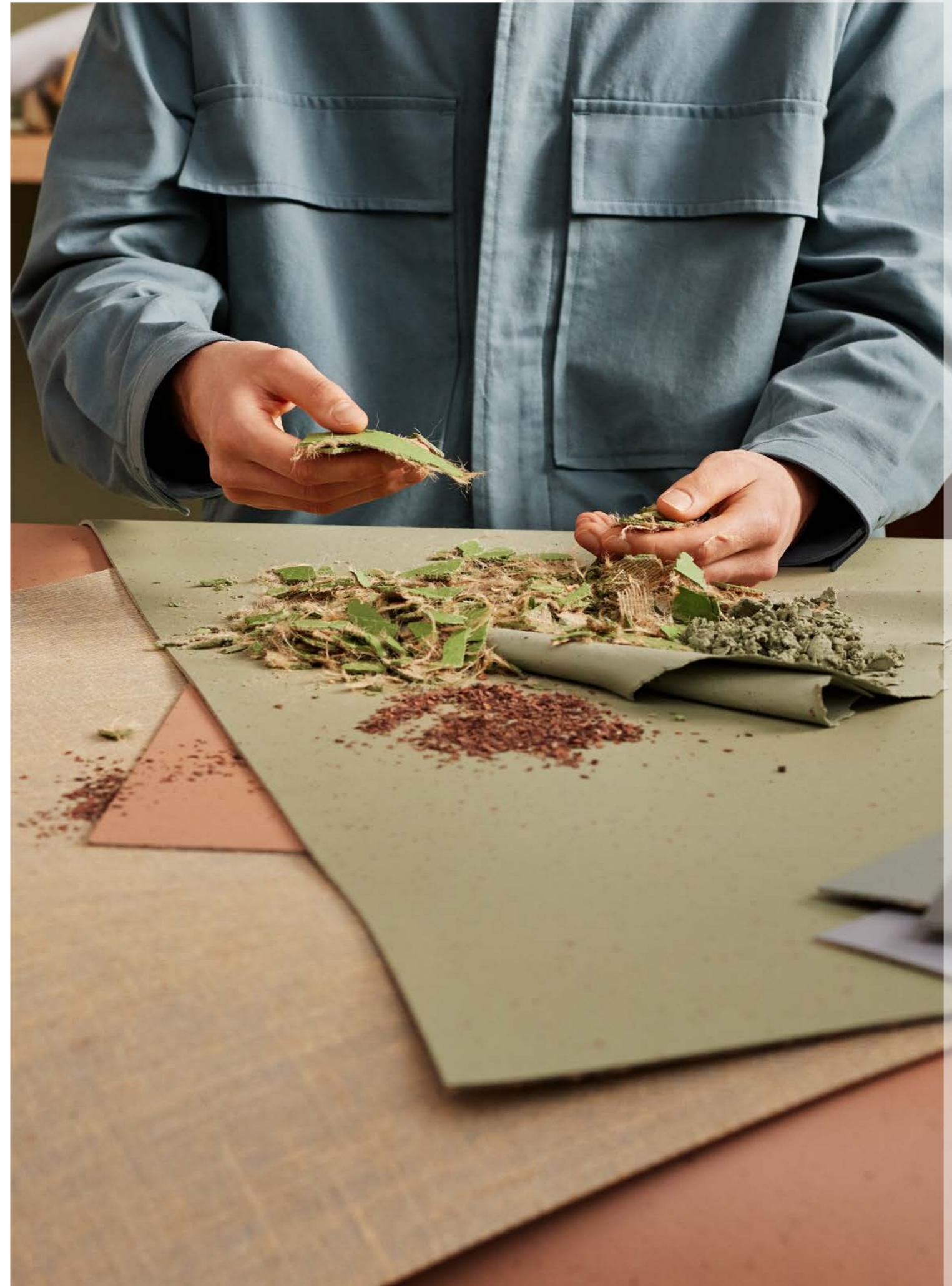


Our 'Back to the Floor' programs are currently running in 13 countries



250,000kg

FLOORING RECYCLED IN 2023





Find us on



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