

Natural flooring

INTRODUCTION

Construction Resources can confidently claim to offer the best range of ecological floor coverings available in the UK market. These include 100% natural wool carpets, sisal and coir, and top quality solid timber flooring.

GENERAL

Construction Resources wool carpets

These carpets offer a 100% untreated wool carpet collection in a variety of weights and grades. There is also a choice of three backing materials available - jute, latex or wool.

The range is the first available in the UK to positively address the issue of air quality. During production all raw materials for the carpet, such as wool and jute, are carefully checked for chemical contamination. The woollen thread is woven onto a base of linen and cotton mix, rather than synthetic materials. The jute backing is attached with 100% natural latex, rather than synthetic latex.

Unlike most carpets on the market, the CR range carpets are naturally anti-static because they can absorb up to one third of their weight in moisture. The lanolin from the fleece is still present and so acts as a natural stain inhibitor.

Not only do these carpets perform to the highest standards, but they are available in a beautiful range of colours, thanks to the natural dyes and mixing of wools.

Like conventional carpets, the amount of wool per square metre dictates the durability and whether they are best suited for living or working areas, stairs, or provide resistance to office chair casters.

Unlike conventional carpets, when the time comes for disposal, the carpets can be disposed of without damaging the environment.

Sisal and coir carpets

Sisal and coconut coir carpeting comes in a variety of attractive colours and textured weaves. All sisal comes from the same sources – mostly Latin America and Africa, in differing qualities – and most of it is dyed and woven at source. The difference, as with wool carpets, comes in the backing. Our sisal and coir carpeting is unique in having 100% natural backings. Natural latex backing, coupled with the exceptionally high density of the selected sisal, makes it suitable for demanding use in offices and public buildings, where it can stand up to the heavy demands of office chair casters. Latex-backed sisal is 5mm thick and needs to be fully glued down.

With the jute backing alternative, and double-sided tape, up to 25 square metres of 6 mm-thick sisal can be loose laid, making it suitable for rented buildings or floors on which glue is undesirable. Woollen felt backing brings the thickness up to 10 mm, but provides a uniquely comfortable surface to walk on, as well as being warm underfoot and adding sound insulation.

We can also offer one or more of a range of attractive coloured linen edging tapes to order.



Happy Step underlay

For underlay, particularly where sound-deadening is a matter for concern, Happy Step underlay boards, manufactured from compressed wood fibre, can provide both a smooth surface and an impressive 36 decibel sound reduction.

Wood flooring

Our wood flooring has a beautiful range of 12* native European species of timber, including the little-known robinia or false acacia which is more durable than oak, with a similar rot resistance to teak.

Woodline flooring can be supplied as parquet or floorboards in grades that range from 'rustic' to 'exclusive'. The solid timber flooring is from 16 mm to 22 mm thick, ensuring that it will last several lifetimes.

Woodline only use timber from sustainably managed European forests and the suppliers must rigidly

avoid timber contact with pesticides.

The wood is supplied unfinished and we recommend the use of natural oil and wax finishes. This allows the pores of the timber to stay open, enabling the wood to breathe, which helps stabilise relative humidity in the building.

Construction Resources also sells and rents machines for sanding and polishing floors.

For advice on matters relating to flooring contact our Product Specialist.

* *maple, douglas fir, oak, alder, ash, beech, robinia, chestnut, larch, maritime pine, red maritime pine, white beech.*

Wool is a natural material, so woollen carpets are 100% natural, right? Sisal is natural, too, so surely the same applies? Generally not.

Most woollen carpets are dyed with synthetic dyes, made from a wide range of chemicals. But the trouble really starts with the wool itself. To carry the heavily-promoted Woolmark® label, wool has to be treated with pyrethroids, for example the Beyer chemical company's Eulan®, to a minimum concentration of 130 milligrams per kilogram. Pyrethroids act as nerve poisons, and their use in carpets has been banned in the USA for 15 years.

So "pure wool" carpets are not usually very pure. The problem gets even worse if they have a "latex" backing. In most cases this actually means synthetic latex. First of all, this is not bio-degradable, unlike natural latex, which means that most latex-backed carpets should only be disposed of as expensive chemical waste.

Secondly, synthetic latex contains an unhealthy cocktail of anti-ageing chemicals. Thirdly, it contains vulcanisation agents which include styrene, a cancer-producing chemical. It is the styrene which gives new carpets their special smell.

Sisal, too, is a wonderfully durable and attractive carpeting material whose natural qualities are most often spoiled by synthetic latex backing, if not synthetic dyes as well.

If you really want a healthy home, make sure that your carpets are not polluting your environment. There are some carpets around that are truly 100% natural and without chemicals – and they are not more expensive than conventional carpets of similar quality. Make sure that you ask your carpet supplier about the exact, full content of the wool or sisal and the backing. You'll be surprised by some of the answers.