



altro

Designed for possibilities.  
Made for people.



## Adapting spaces for a successful return to work

Your guide to using  
Altro floors, walls and doors

[altro.co.uk](https://www.altro.co.uk)

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# Getting your staff back to the workplace

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Your guide to using Altro floors, walls and doors to create the optimum new workspace and get your staff back to work safely and quickly in:

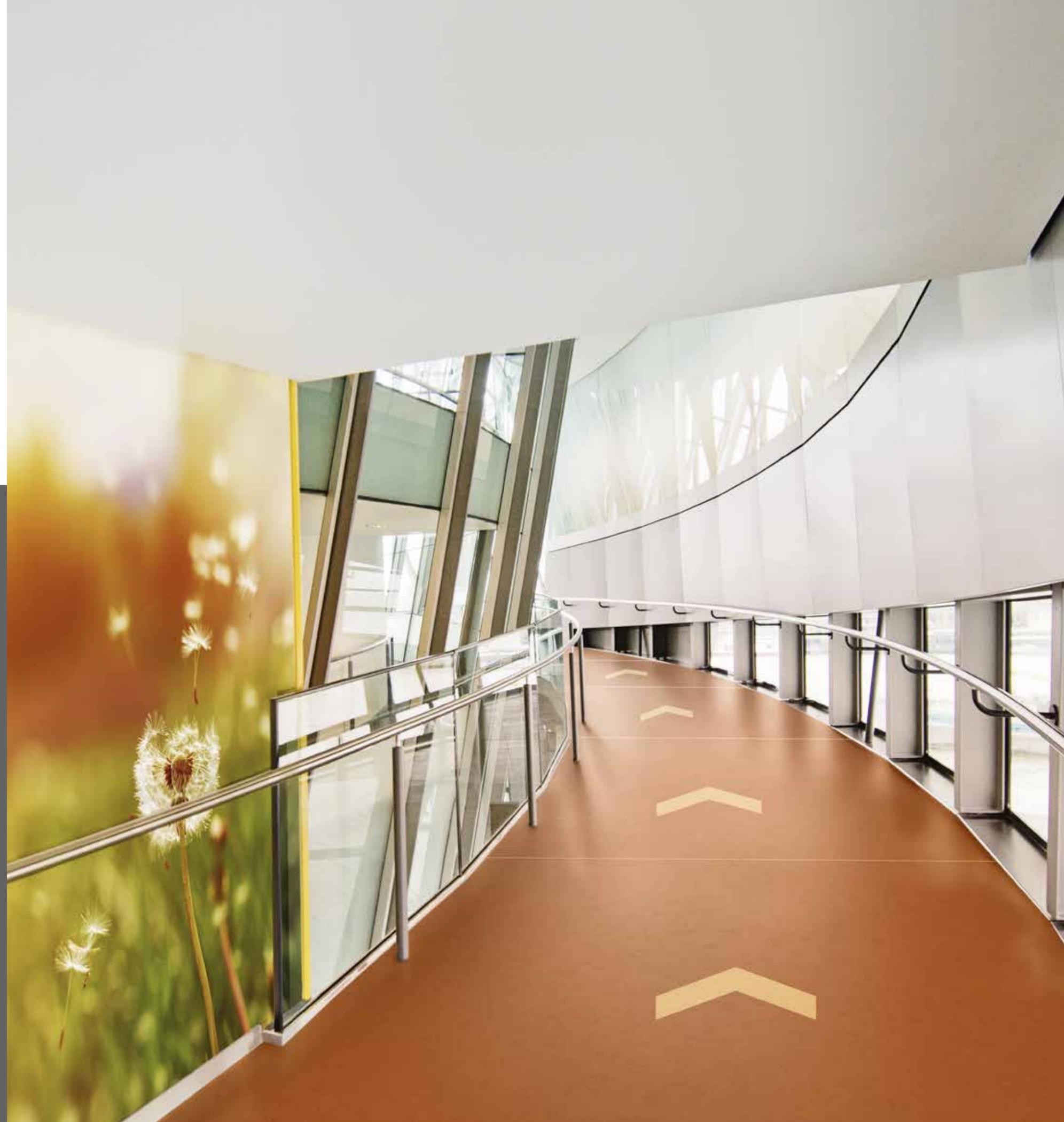
- Offices
- Communal work areas
- Corridors
- Eating areas / kitchenettes
- Classrooms

As employees start to return to the workplace, they need a safe environment: somewhere that feels as safe as home. And that safety includes both physical and mental wellbeing.

As an employer, cleaning and hygiene are top of mind. Not only your staff, but also your customers and visitors will need reassurance that your premises are clean and well maintained.

Your budgets may be tight and so you want reassurance too: that what you are about to invest in will offer you proven cleanability and hygiene, will maintain its appearance and performance for years and provide you with excellent long-term value.

We have put together a collection of our best solutions that offer you precisely all this!



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## Hygienic and easy to clean floors, walls and doors – just what the British Council recommends!

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**British Council for offices guide** - THOUGHTS ON OFFICE DESIGN AND OPERATION AFTER COVID-19

“Materials and finishes should be selected to be easily cleaned; they should be hard, smooth and resistant to appropriate cleaning chemicals. Surfaces should be free from irregular features (nooks and crannies) that may harbour contamination.” [www.bco.org.uk](http://www.bco.org.uk)

As we start to return to offices, schools and other enclosed places of work, a review of your current building layout, furniture positioning, boundaries and people navigation is probably underway.

The materials that make up your working environment are also coming under scrutiny with a view to implementing changes to satisfy the emotional and physical needs of users, as well as the requirements of the government and recommendations of the British Council.



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## Take the worry out of adapting your workspaces. Trust the guaranteed, proven solution for all this: The Altro solution

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Install vinyl flooring combined with wall cladding and doors for a **total hygienic system** which is **proven** to be easy to clean and maintain.

### System overview

- Hygienic floors, doors and walls systems with unrivalled **industry-leading guarantees** up to 25 years. We were established in 1919, so you can rest assured that our guarantees have been proven over time
- **Easy to clean** floors, doors and walls - **dirt sits on the surface rather than penetrating** the whole pile on the carpet, the substrate on a damaged painted wall, the grout or cracks on tiles
- **Steam cleanable** with high chemical resistance for disinfecting floors and walls (**tested with up to 1,312 chemicals** for proven performance)
- Altro floors, doors and walls have impervious, hard, level, non-porous surfaces with **no hiding places for microorganisms**, which can lead to the growth of viruses and bacteria
- **Proven effective** with detergents. No need to vacuum prior to wet cleaning (unlike carpet / carpet tiles) and the release of the contaminant is quicker
- Altro floors feature **Altro Easyclean Technology**
- We offer **P22 NHS Approved** floors, walls and doors; this means their **hygienic credentials meet the strictest requirements** for infection control and critical care





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## Do your current surfaces meet guidelines and give your staff the reassurance they need?

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You may well currently have carpet or carpet tiles installed, paint on the walls and tiles both on your walls and floors. Let's take a close look at these surfaces in light of British Council recommendations and Altro alternatives.

### The problems with carpet tiles / carpet

- Carpet tiles / carpets are usually made of materials such as nylon polypropylene or organic porous materials including wool and jute; all of these are **highly absorbent** and are **designed to trap dust and dirt**, therefore make cleaning more difficult
- Some carpets / carpet tiles feature impervious PVC-backing to offer protection in care homes against incontinence. While this backing can help protect the subfloor from becoming contaminated from any spillages, it has the negative affect of meaning that the carpet / carpet tiles can **retain dampness**, requiring a **stringent cleaning process**
- Carpet tiles in offices are frequently cleaned with a wet extraction unit and tend not to be impervious in this environment; the result is that the water from the wet clean can go through the carpet tile and its backing, reaching the subfloor and **affecting** not just the subfloor itself, but also the **adhesives and services underneath**, for example electrics and data cabling
- Some carpet tile manufacturers advise that pile soft carpet tiles / carpets can only be cleaned at up to 50°C max; **viruses are killed at 56°C** according to US National Library of Medicine
- Carpet tiles / carpets are designed to be vacuumed and not cleaned daily with the detergent required to clean viruses– **you cannot vacuum up bacteria and viruses**
- Having vacuumed, in order to kill any virus you need to **wet clean the carpet /carpet tiles with detergent daily at 56°C**. This daily process is required because the virus remains active for 24 hours on this surface. Cleaning therefore becomes more costly in terms of time and money, while requiring a long time, possibly several hours, to dry; this means your surface can remain damp for hours each day after cleaning, providing the potential for yet more ideal conditions for the growth of microorganisms, including bacteria and viruses
- Overwetting carpet tiles can cause them to curl, be prone to fast **re-soiling, the growth of mildew** and the occurrence of odours
- **Detergents can stain carpet tiles / carpet** easily and need to penetrate properly to clean fully
- Cleaners, who may be inexperienced with detergents, may over-apply them, potentially leading to a residue remaining on the fibres attracting **fast re-soiling**
- Carpet tiles can take **12-24 hours to dry fully** when steam cleaned, during which time they cannot be walked on; if you absolutely have to walk on them, then it is recommended that you wear plastic bags on your feet

## Specific comparison of our system against carpets / carpet tiles

- **Acoustics – similar dB levels are available** to those offered by carpet tiles, which in offices average at 17-18dB, so there's no need to compromise on in-room sound and transmission of noise. Minimise noise from footsteps by using Altro Cantata and Altro Wood adhesive-free floors which offer 14dB, Altro Ensemble or Altro Orchestra with 15dB or acoustic Altro Serenade with 19dB protection. Alternatively, you can combine the floor of your choice with impact sound reduction underlays Altro 1101 and Altro Everlay B, which offer sound reductions of 18dB and 20dB respectively
- **Comfort underfoot is now a key performance benefit** of many of our floors (particularly the ones named above) to rival levels afforded by carpet tiles
- You can clean Altro vinyl floors at up to **60°C**; viruses are killed at 56°C – US National Library of Medicine. In order to get rid of viruses from hard surfaces, the ability to **spray, steam or power clean our products** is vital; no different detergent is needed, just your standard process, saving you considerable time and proving more hygienic
- As dirt sits on the surface of our flooring, rather than penetrating the pile of a carpet tile / carpet, you can **clean our floors faster** - with a wider range of products that are less likely to cause damage to the floor - and they dry faster for a speedy return to service
- Depending on the size of your area, there are **no / few joints** on our floors – most microorganisms are harboured in the joints of carpet tiles
- Tackifier / acrylic adhesives, as used in carpets / carpet tiles break down faster and can lead to the **growth of microorganisms** faster than the adhesives used with vinyl flooring
- Our vinyl floors are up to 4mm thick with guaranteed performance for up to 20 years; you will **not wear through them or damage them** when you follow our cleaning recommendations
- Our vinyl floors are impervious, when you wet clean **water will not penetrate** through the flooring to the subfloor, potentially damaging the subfloor itself and any underlying electrics or data cabling etc
- Vinyl flooring is a proven, robust solution, **not affected by indentation** from office furniture movement or rolling loads; carpet / carpet tiles, however, can suffer from damage to or flattening of the pile, making furniture reconfiguration less attractive and affecting the overall aesthetic ambience of the environment



## The problems with paint

- **Paint is only microns thick** and therefore easily damaged. Plasterboard under paint tends to be weak and absorbent and **easily dented or damaged**, particularly below waist height where walls can be prone to knocks and scrapes, or subject to cracks from building movement. These damaged surfaces can harbour and provide **breeding grounds for microorganisms** more readily than undamaged, smooth surfaces, as they are more porous
- Emulsion paint is not designed to be wet cleaned; it can come away when cleaned with water, a process which is **exacerbated** when cleaned with the detergents required to keep an area hygienic. This results in patchiness, reducing the overall aesthetic appeal of an area and requiring further maintenance
- The World Health Organisation has proved that the Covid 19 virus will **live for 72 hours** on a hard surface, such as paint, therefore necessitating regular detergent cleaning, which can damage this type of surface



## Specific comparison of our system against paint

- Our wall cladding is 2.5mm thick, **guaranteed for up to 20 years**
- It is impact-resistant and impervious. Altro Fortis wall protection will **protect your wall** and substrate from bumps and scrapes
- Even though our wall cladding is a hard surface, it is easy to clean, even with detergent, **up to 60°C**
- The colour runs through the thickness of the product for **aesthetic durability**
- It is **fully bonded** and will protect the substrate, even when knocked or bumped into, giving nowhere for microorganisms to hide and breed

## The problems with tiles

- Tiles are proven to **crack and shatter** more easily than Altro Whiterock hygienic wall cladding and their damaged surfaces can harbour and provide **breeding grounds for microorganisms** more readily than undamaged, smooth surfaces; furthermore, individual damaged tiles are extremely difficult to remove, perpetuating the problem
- Grout can become **porous** with age and harbour microorganisms, providing breeding grounds for bacteria and viruses
- Grout is **difficult to clean**, making it even harder to remove microorganisms. It can also **shrink** and cause gaps between tiles, providing perfect areas for microorganisms to multiply
- Grout and tiles can stain when cleaned with detergents



## Specific comparison of our system against tiles

- Altro floors and walls are durable and hygienic, **with life expectancies of up to 25 years**. They provide seamless, **impervious and impact-resistant** surfaces, which provide low maintenance for life
- Altro Whiterock hygienic wall cladding has a **smooth, non-porous and easy to clean surface**, which comes in sheets to provide coverage from floor to ceiling. A fully bonded and watertight system, it gives microorganisms, bacteria and vermin **nowhere to hide**. It is simple to keep clean: it's easy to wipe, steam or power-wash clean. Combined with Altro doors and Altro floors it creates an impervious system that meets the hygienic requirements of even the most critical care environments
- There is **no grout** required with our wall and floor systems so you avoid all the maintenance problems associated with it
- For smaller areas such as washrooms, toilets and kitchens, Altro Whiterock Splashbacks are the **hygienic alternative**, available as kits in a range of sizes to suit most hand wash basins and vanity units, or custom-sized for the perfect fit
- Giving you the flexibility to coordinate or contrast, you **don't have to compromise** on the design options afforded by tiles, as Altro Whiterock hygienic wall cladding and Altro Whiterock Splashbacks as well as Altro vinyl come in a vast array of colours and finishes complemented by colour-matched sealants and weldrods

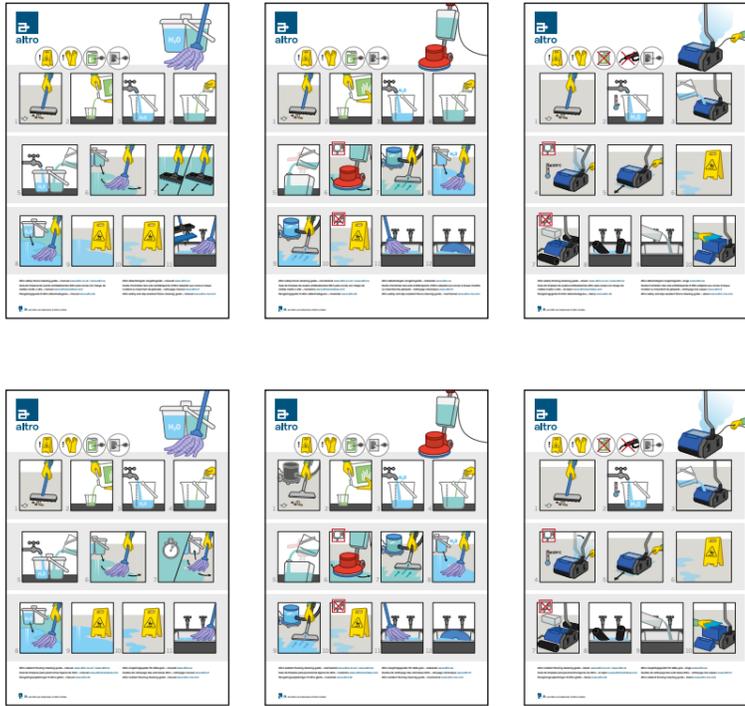
# Cleaning made easy

Because it's so vital to clean any floor, door or wall effectively, we've produced a range of cleaning guides to help you get it right first time.

Download your copies here:

[www.altro.co.uk/Support/Technical-documents/Cleaning-and-maintenance](http://www.altro.co.uk/Support/Technical-documents/Cleaning-and-maintenance)

For help with specifying your spaces, call us on 01462 707600 or email [enquiries@altro.com](mailto:enquiries@altro.com)



## Samples

If colour choice is critical, please  
request a sample of the material

☎ 01462 707600

✉ [samples@altro.co.uk](mailto:samples@altro.co.uk)



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