Altro steps to sustainability

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Vinyl - The material for life

Vinyl is the most versatile and most thoroughly researched plastic in the world with over 50 years of safe use in society. Vinyl will not rot or corrode like other materials. This explains why it is frequently used in such hygienic applications as catheters, blood bags, examination gloves, piping and anything else that must remain sterile.

Vinyl is made up of 57% salt and 43% oil. Salt is an inexpensive, naturally occurring, and abundant substance and the amount of oil used in global vinyl production annually represents approximately 0.3% of the world’s total oil consumption.

Life cycle assessment is now the recognized method by which to compare the environmental impact of competing materials. Recent life-cycle studies show the health and environmental impacts of vinyl building products generally are comparable to or less than the impacts of other materials.

Advantages of vinyl floors + walls:

- Uses less energy in the manufacturing phase than other flooring.
- Generates fewer emissions during its manufacture.
- Boasts a lower carbon footprint than most common consumables.
- Hygienic + inorganic, does not sustain growth of microorganisms.
- Extremely long life span 25 years+.
- Flame retardant, self-extinguishing once the source of flame is removed.
- Good indoor air quality.

Creating value

How we create and add value to the marketplace, helping to achieve a long-term sustainable future.

Valuing our environment

Actively reducing the impact our activities, services and products have upon the environment.

Valuing people

Being a responsible employer and exerting a positive influence on the people and markets in which we operate.

Steps to sustainability

As a family owned business, Altro has always taken our environmental responsibilities very seriously, but sustainability is about so much more than just environmental issues.

Sustainability encompasses both social and economic dimensions as well as environmental responsibility.

We recognize that sustainability is a journey, a series of steps. Our Steps to Sustainability program is a holistic approach to managing sustainability issues, considering our impact on all three aspects of sustainability and not just the environment.

O-phthalate-free

Recently, phthalates have come under scrutiny as being possibly dangerous to public health. In response, we have removed all ortho-phthalates from our safety flooring range and have replaced them with a renewable, bio-based alternative not destined for human consumption. Our wall products also do not contain any ortho-phthalates.
Valuing resource efficiency

- Since 2014 we have achieved a zero factory waste to landfill policy.
- Rain water capture systems on the roof of our manufacturing plant have helped us achieve a 99% reduction in water consumption since 2000.
- We have made significant carbon savings with our energy efficiency program in the last five years, for a total reduction in energy consumption of 11.2%.
- All Altro safety flooring is wrapped using 100% recyclable packaging.
- We include post-consumer recycled glass and pre-consumer recylcate into our safety flooring. By doing this we divert 900 tons of glass and 500 tons of vinyl destined for landfill every year.
- With every sample sent out, Altro includes free shipping labels and instructions for AltroSampleWise, our sample take-back program.

Safety floor recycling

As the first manufacturer with the capability of recycling safety flooring in-house, we collect all the safety flooring on behalf of the program, irrespective of manufacturer.

1. Factory scrap, edge trimmings and installation waste off cuts are collected.
2. Collected material is mechanically shredded.
3. Shredded material is granulated into 3 different fractions.
4. Fractions are mixed.
5. Recyclate mix is combined with aggregate material.
6. PVC chips, aggregates and recyclate mix are combined.
7. New flooring is manufactured from mixture.
Indoor air quality is a key consideration when selecting interior finishes. People spend up to 90% of their time indoors and are far more likely to be affected by pollutants inside than out.

Poor indoor air quality can be caused by a number of factors, including inadequate ventilation, poor cleaning and excessive emissions from building products including floor finishes, furnishings and wall coverings as well as adhesives and sealants.

Altro products have gone through rigorous external, third party VOC testing. Altro safety flooring is more than compliant with a number of national and international indoor air quality schemes including California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method v1.1–2010, CA 01350, and FloorScore.

Our wall products are also low-VOC compliant. In fact, VOC emissions for Altro Whiterock have been found to be below detectable limits.

Lastly, the adhesives used to install Altro floor and wall products are also low VOC emitting and are FloorScore certified.

Indoor air quality + VOCs

Discover more of our sustainability story and credentials at altro.com/sustainability

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