



altro

the future is safer with altro



Specialist products for specialist solutions:  
wet environments

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## Checklist for selecting flooring

- Identify your needs
- Identify your likely contaminants
- Conduct a risk assessment
- Understand your risk
- Select your flooring
- Install your flooring
- Maintain your flooring



# Wet environments; where you can't afford to slip up

We have been specialists in safety flooring and hygienic wall cladding systems for wet environments for more than 30 years. Our solutions have been developed to help prevent slips in areas where people are often at their most vulnerable, but also help promote hygiene, minimising opportunities for bacteria growth and improving cleanability.

**Most buildings have wet environments that will be used by a wide variety of people: that's a lot of individuals to keep safe**

Wet environments are not just about water; it's also what we use in those areas, including shower gel and shampoo. The slip risks that these contaminants create are potentially dangerous and could cause serious accidents. Slips and falls aren't the only consideration in wet environments. Indoor humidity and poor cleaning can lead to build-ups of bacteria and mould, which can impact health as well as the appearance of the rooms.

Our safety flooring and wall cladding solutions for wet environments can be used independently, or together, to create the environment that you need.

Staff who look after residents or patients in wet environments, as well as cleaners, can be at risk of slipping and the law says they need to be protected:

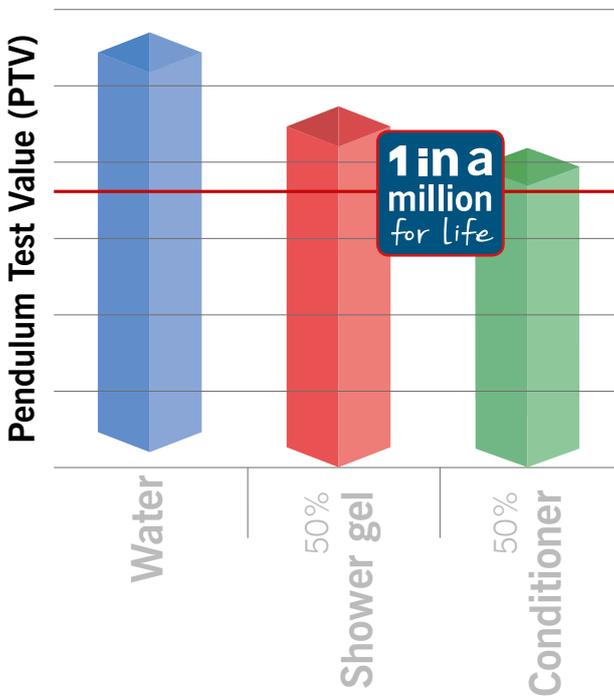
“Floor surfaces which are likely to become wet or to be subject to spillages should be of a type which does not become unduly slippery. Where there is likely to be danger, protection should be provided, for example through protective footwear, slip-resistant floor surfaces, barriers around areas being cleaned, proper cleaning techniques and adequate maintenance”,  
**Health and Safety Authority (H&SA)**

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (UK) requires employers to ensure the health and safety of all employees and anyone affected by their work, so far as is reasonably practicable, which means balancing the level of risk against the measures needed to control the risk in terms of money, time or trouble. This includes taking steps to control slip and trip risks.

# Preventing slips where it matters: our test results

At Altro we combine the available slip resistance tests to get the most accurate proof of just how safe our flooring is.

**Altro Aquarius delivers slip resistance of up to one in a million with water and common contaminants including shampoo and conditioner**



We believe standard industry test values don't always provide clarity of slip potential and that the categories of values are too broad, which is why we combine them. We also test using different contaminants so that we can be sure our flooring does what it should.

Our safety flooring for wet environments is tested with what you will actually find there: shower gel, shampoo and conditioner. Altro Aquarius still has a PTV of  $\geq 36$  against all these contaminants and the risk of slipping is just one in a million.

**1 in a  
million  
for Life**



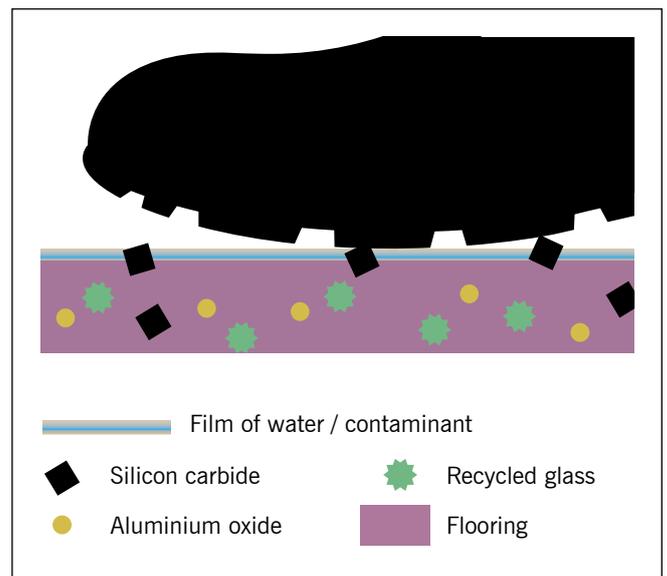
Risk of slipping	Altro Aquarius R11 PTV >50	Altro R10 >36
Water	1 in a million	1 in a million
Shower gel	1 in a million	1 in 20
Shampoo	1 in a million	1 in 20
Conditioner	1 in a million	1 in 20

## The Pendulum Test (BS 7976)

The 'pendulum' is a swinging, dummy heel that sweeps over a set area of flooring in a controlled manner to simulate slipping on a wet floor. The slipperiness of the flooring has a direct and measurable effect on the pendulum value. Flooring that achieves a wet result of Pendulum Test Value  $\geq 36$  has a low slip potential.

## The Ramp Test (DIN 51130)

The Ramp Test is widely used. R9-R13 values are based on angle measurements of a motor oil-covered ramp that an operator walks on. The angle at which the operator slips forms the R value, but because the most common contaminant on floors is water, using motor oil doesn't give a true representation of what happens in real life situations. The barefoot version of the test (DIN 51097), where the ramp is covered in water, rates flooring A, B or C. Altro Aquarius is rated class B.



## The test results prove:

- Altro Aquarius can protect users from slips, even with a range of contaminants
- It's important to choose flooring to cater for contaminants and the type of traffic that will use it i.e. shoes and / or bare feet
- Altro safety flooring for wet environments delivers a lifetime slip resistance of up to one in a million. By reducing the chance of slips and falls, you can reduce insurance claims.

So, we don't just say our safety flooring keeps people safer, we know it does and we can prove it.

# When looks count

In the places people call home, whether permanent or temporary, a comfortable, welcoming and attractive look matters.

Altro Aquarius and Altro Whiterock Satins offer contemporary shades that suit any domestic environment. We offer 16 shades of Altro Aquarius, developed using AltroBead Technology, which have a soft-look finish. The colours, which range from cool blues to warming pink and red, is more homely than traditional safety flooring.

In care homes, the bathing experience is an important part of a resident's routine and plays a role in making that person feel safe and relaxed. Colour is a way of achieving this, creating a warm, comforting and homely environment.

For environments that demand luxury, such as high-end hotels and spas, Altro Whiterock Satins is the ideal choice. Its smooth, high quality look and variety of shade combinations create the look that visitors would expect:

**a real wow factor.**

Altro Aquarius then completes the look, with the reassurance that users are safer from the risk of slipping.

We can recommend colour combinations for both safety flooring and Altro Whiterock hygienic wall cladding that are appropriate for people with dementia and achieve the right Light Reflectance Value differences to meet legal requirements.



# Creating unique environments

Altro Whiterock Digi clad™, which reproduces photographic images or vector art, is a stunning way of creating wet environments with impact.

**Its beauty is that the choice of image is yours so it can match any decor or theme.**

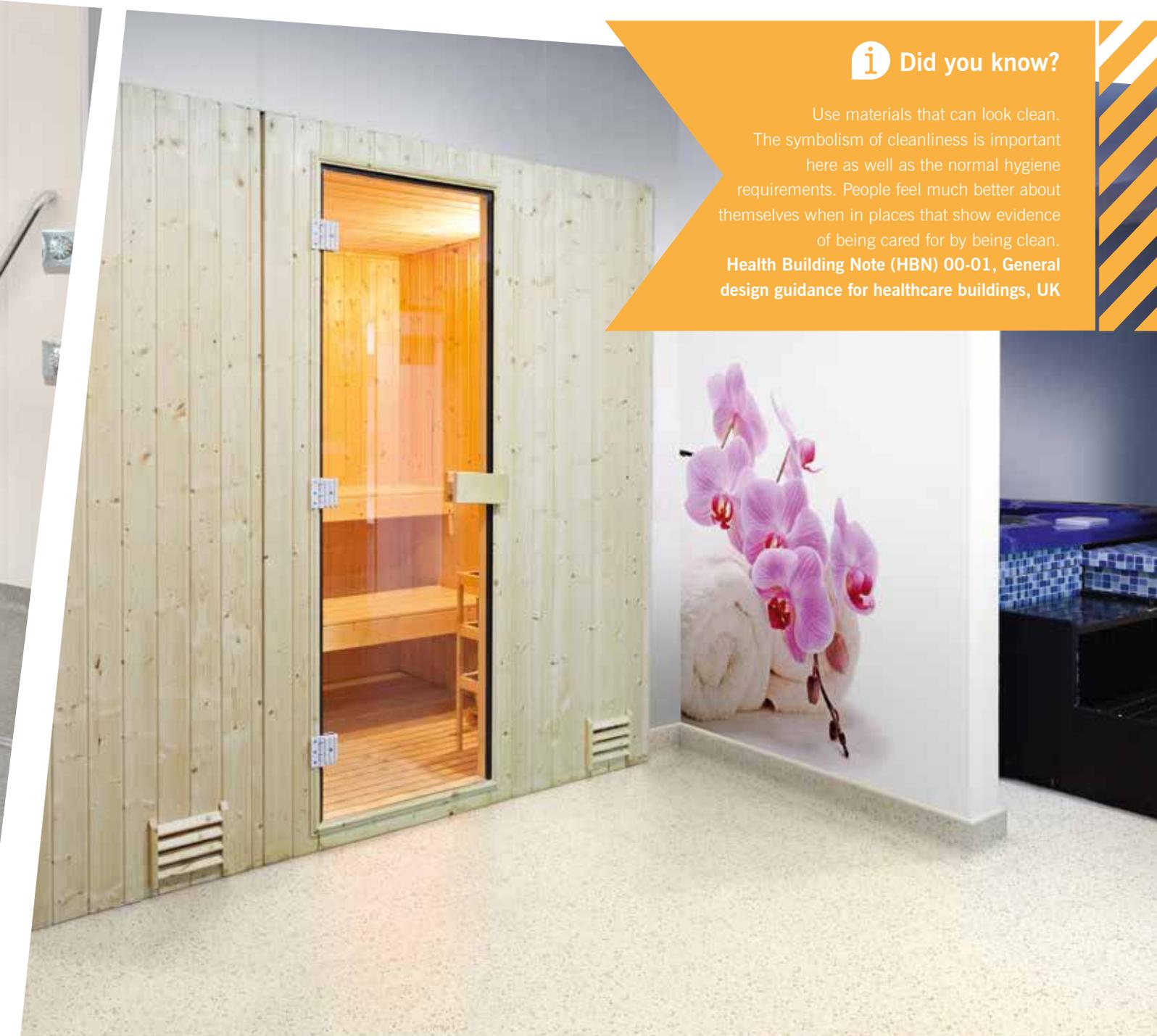
It also helps achieve different purposes, from being a talking-point to helping people with visual impairments or dementia to recognise the room they're in. With hard-coat technology providing scratch-resistant properties for added durability, Altro Whiterock Digi clad offers the ideal solution for long-lasting art in busy environments.

For guidance on designing for dementia, please visit [www.altro-me.com/designing-for-dementia](http://www.altro-me.com/designing-for-dementia)

## Did you know?

Use materials that can look clean. The symbolism of cleanliness is important here as well as the normal hygiene requirements. People feel much better about themselves when in places that show evidence of being cared for by being clean.

**Health Building Note (HBN) 00-01, General design guidance for healthcare buildings, UK**





### Did you know?

The **World Health Organisation** says that building owners need to ensure proper building construction and maintenance to meet their responsibility for providing a healthy workplace or living environment free of excess moisture and mould.



# Hygiene

No one wants to wash, swim or change in a dirty environment, but what about the contamination that's not obvious?

If safety flooring isn't cleaned properly, a hazardous level of dirt and contaminant build-up can accumulate on the surface, potentially increasing the risk of a slip to as high as one in twenty. In a wet environment, the effects of a slip or fall could be devastating.

A build-up of bacteria on floors or walls can lead to mould growth, the effects of which range from exacerbating allergies to respiratory problems. Older people and children, as well as those with existing health issues, can be particularly affected by this.

Altro Aquarius contains Altro Easyclean Maxis PUR™, which requires a less stringent cleaning regime.

**The lack of studs on Altro Aquarius also makes it easier to clean as there is nowhere for limescale to build up**

Altro Whiterock™ hygienic wall cladding has a stain-resistant, wipe-clean surface that is

## **watertight and impervious**

even when installed over tiles. As it's a fully-bonded system with fully sealed edges, abutments and jointing systems, not only are liquids unable to penetrate but there is nowhere for bacteria to go. This means it can be cleaned easily and effectively.

**Using these solutions together creates a complete, impervious system (see page 11)**

 visit [altro-me.com/cleaning](https://altro-me.com/cleaning) for our new cleaning guides and read our top tips for cleaning.

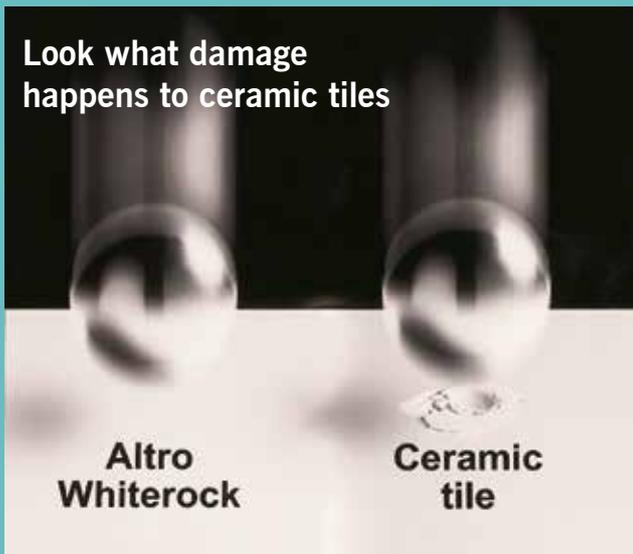
# The dirt on tiles

According to the Ceramic Tile Federation, 65% of all tile installations are fixed incorrectly, leading to serious problems – especially in showers.

It's difficult to be sure that water-resistant adhesive and epoxy grout have been used, and if they haven't, water could seep through to the substrate behind and cause structural damage. Poor fixing and grouting can also provide multiple areas for bacteria growth.

There's no grout involved in our products and the finish leaves dirt and bacteria nowhere to hide. When up to 20% of a tiled surface is grout, there are real risks to health and safety.

**Ceramic tiles with standard grouting absorb significant amounts of water, compromising hygiene; Altro Whiterock doesn't absorb a drop.**



BS EN438-2-1991 Drop Ball Test



**Wetroom test ETAG 022 Part 3 Annex A & F carried out by SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden shows Altro Whiterock is impervious to water ingress**



# The perfect partnership

Choosing the right flooring or walls covering is one thing but a complete, impervious flooring / wall cladding solution means no one part of the installation will let you down; you can rest assured that it is all up to the task.

Altro Whiterock Satins has been designed to fit together perfectly with Altro Aquarius, forming a sealed, watertight system for enhanced safety and hygiene. This integrated system includes welded jointing, coveability and compatibility with drainage. This means: installation is easier, there is no need to worry about joined surfaces 'parting company' and the system will require less maintenance.

## The integrated system

- Totally sealed, hygienic system
- Impervious, non-absorbent and washable
- Withstands extremes of hot and cold temperatures (+60°C to -30°C)
- Coved junctions between wall cladding and flooring create an impermeable seal, which is easier to keep clean
- Sound investment – designed to maintain performance and retain appearance for up to 20 years

### Did you know?

The lifetime cost (over 25 years) of Altro Whiterock is 20% lower than ceramic tiles. This is because ceramic tiles produce maintenance problems that Altro Whiterock doesn't, such as staining, grout cracking and individual tile failure. And because Altro Whiterock creates fewer issues, there is less need to spend time and money inspecting surfaces.

### **Ensuite –**

Water, shampoo, shower gel, conditioner

### **Solution:**

**Altro Aquarius**

**Altro Whiterock Satins**

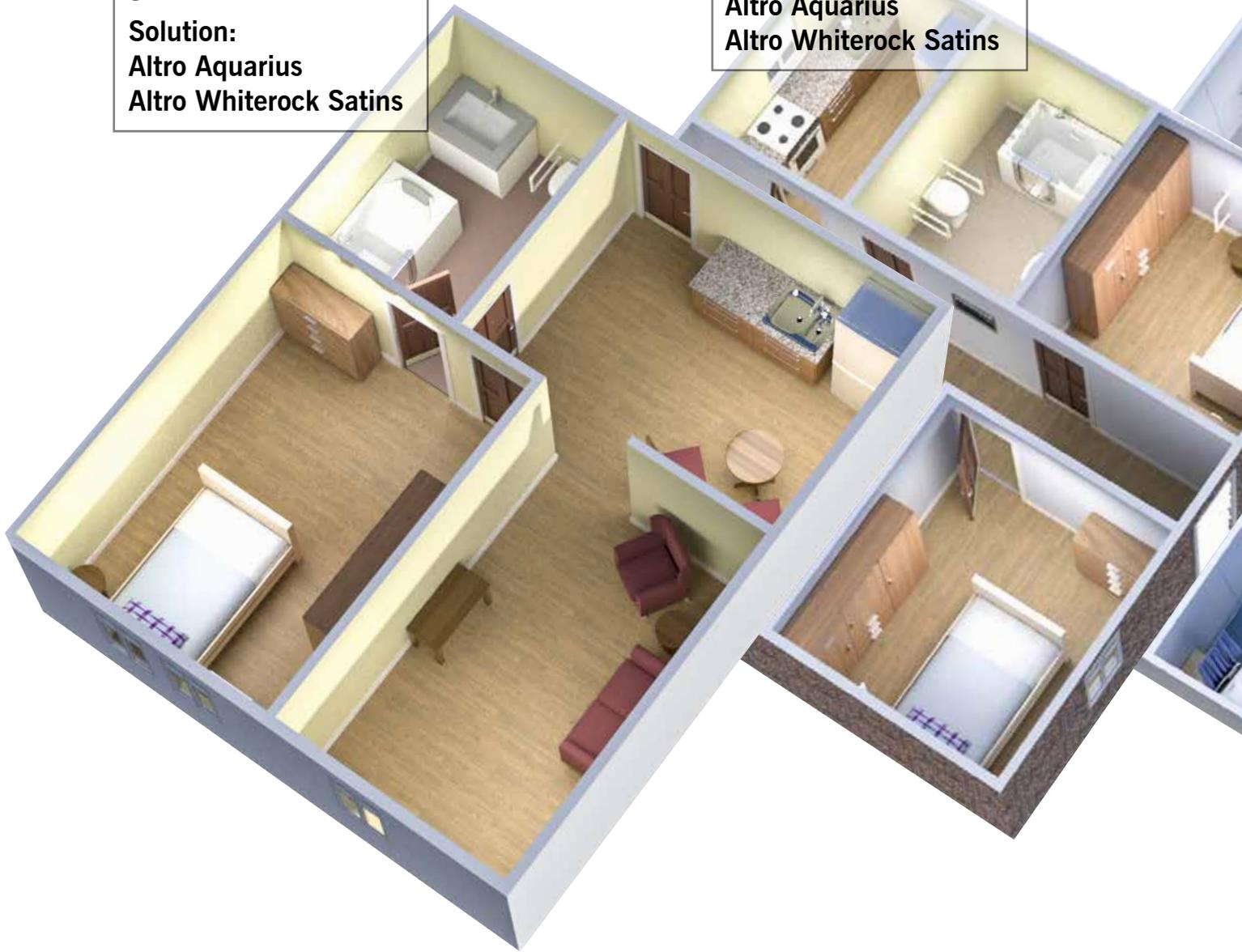
### **Bathroom –**

Water, shampoo, shower gel, conditioner

### **Solution:**

**Altro Aquarius**

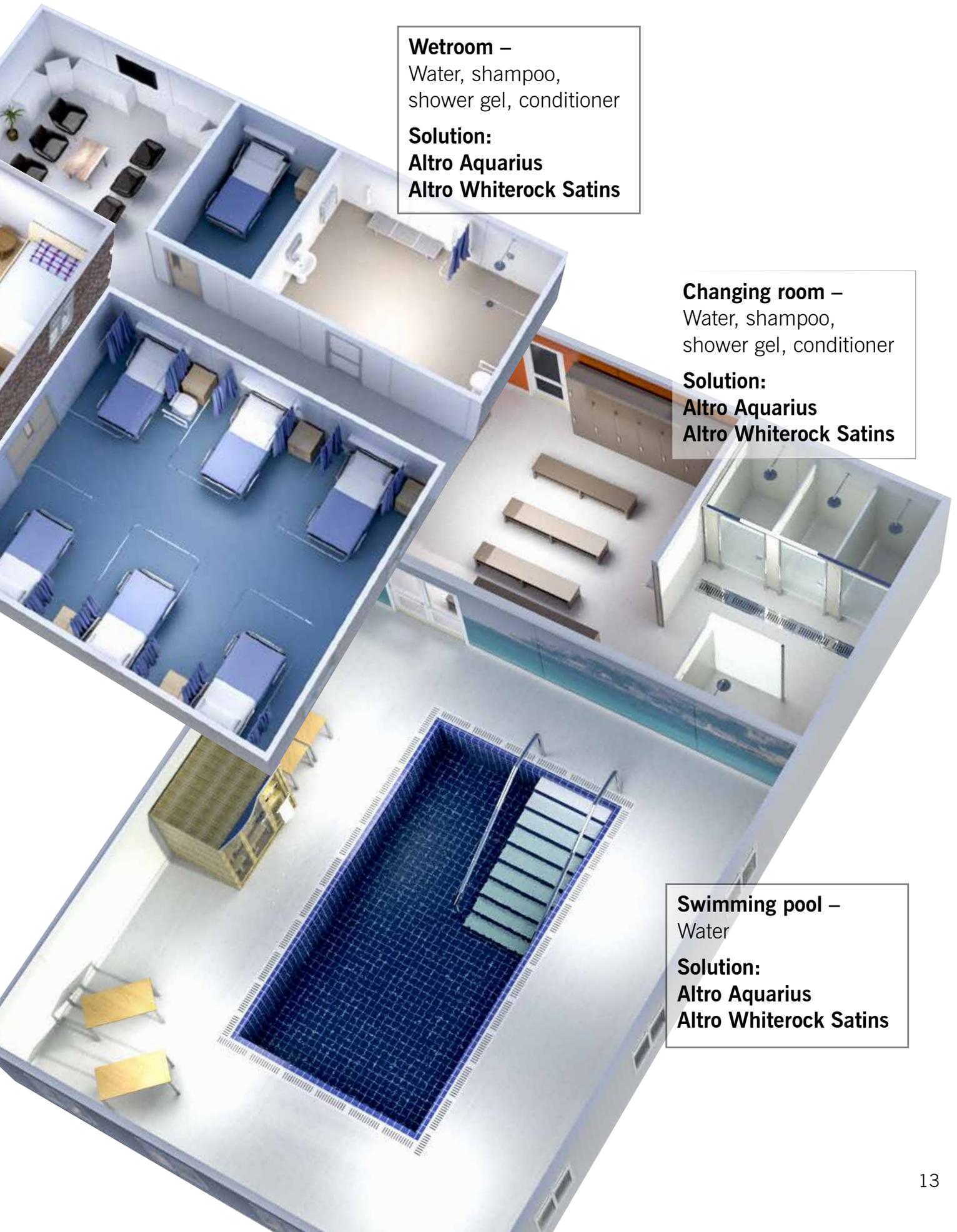
**Altro Whiterock Satins**



## Your safe solution

Wet environments may come in a variety of shapes, sizes and types but one thing is consistent: where water and contaminants are used there is the risk of a slip, plus the potential for unhygienic conditions.

The beauty of Altro Aquarius and Altro Whiterock is that you can install a safer, integrated system that's easier to clean, with the product and colour choice you need to create any sort of wet environment, for any type of project.



**Wetroom –**  
Water, shampoo,  
shower gel, conditioner

**Solution:**  
**Altro Aquarius**  
**Altro Whiterock Satins**

**Changing room –**  
Water, shampoo,  
shower gel, conditioner

**Solution:**  
**Altro Aquarius**  
**Altro Whiterock Satins**

**Swimming pool –**  
Water  
**Solution:**  
**Altro Aquarius**  
**Altro Whiterock Satins**

# Specialist solutions for safer wet environments

## Altro Aquarius™

Altro Aquarius is a specialist 2mm safety floor for wet and dry areas and for any shoes and bare feet. In a practical sense this means it protects users in real situations in real environments. Whether someone is walking into a wet changing room with their shoes on, or stepping back into the room barefoot after a shower, the level of protection is the same.

Altro Aquarius achieves a Pendulum Test Value (PTV) of  $\geq 50$  and Class B to DIN 51097 for barefoot use and provides optimum lifetime sustained slip-resistance in its recommended areas of use. Altro Aquarius performs against a range of contaminants typically found in wet environments.

It also has a good resistance to chemicals, retaining its look and performance for longer

## Altro Aquarius featuring AltroBead™ Technology

Altro Aquarius is available in 16 soft-look shades that make it ideal for home-from-home environments, including home adaptations and student accommodation.

The domestic, high-end feel that these nature-inspired shades create, also make them the perfect choice for spas, including the swimming pool surround and sauna.

The 16 shades are the first to feature AltroBead Technology: tiny beads in three different shades are blended and evenly distributed into the flooring, on top of a base colour. The result is the consistent, soft appearance you would expect and want from domestic interiors.

With its range of 36 shades, Altro Aquarius offers design flexibility whatever the project.





## Altro Whiterock™ hygienic wall cladding

Altro Whiterock hygienic cladding system is a complete system of compatible wall cladding and doorsets. It is constructed from the highest quality virgin-grade PVCu, with a tight molecular structure that prevents the ingress of moisture and odour, making it a great alternative to ceramic tiles.

**Its stain-resistant, wipe-clean surface makes it a lasting, attractive and easy to maintain option for wet environments**

Altro Whiterock Satins is available in a range of solid, decorative, satin shades, enabling you to create the exact ambience needed.

For artwork that can be part of an impervious solution for non-clinical wet environments, Altro Whiterock Digiclad, our durable wall cladding created using photographs or vector art, is ideal.

### Did you know?

You can hire one contractor to install the entire system, as the components are compatible and are made to be installed together. Many contractors are trained to install the Altro system, saving you time and money and giving you peace of mind, that the installation will be done correctly.

Lesley Meaker,  
ArtCare design team  
**Salisbury District Hospital, UK**

For dementia patients, bathrooms can be very confusing and dangerous areas, so it is essential that they are safe, clearly defined and easy to use. Using Altro Whiterock Satins for plain, non-reflective walls and Altro Aquarius for the floors – which is slip-resistant for both bare feet and shoes – we have wet rooms that are ideal for patients and staff.



Ron Stewart,  
STV Sports Facilities Manager,  
**University of Bath, UK**

The University has been using Altro Whiterock for many years as standard in its shower areas, so we know that it's a great product – superb quality, easy to clean and with a contemporary look. The Altro Aquarius looks perfect, the colour is just right, it feels great underfoot and the feedback has been very positive about every aspect of it, including the cleaning regime. It is certainly proving to be exactly the right choice, and has helped transform our changing areas into something we are really proud of.

Due to Altro's continual innovation and product development, please consult [www.altro-me.com](http://www.altro-me.com) or your local Sales Consultant for the latest product range information.

Printed on paper produced at a mill that is certified with the ISO14001 environmental management standard.

Produced at a mill that is certified to the EMAS environmental management standard (No FIN-000021)

FSC Mixed Sources product group from well managed forests and other controlled sources.



#### Samples

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

 **8000 444 7649**

 **[samples@altro.com](mailto:samples@altro.com)**

**Altro Middle East DMCC, Jumeirah Lake Towers, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.**

 8000 444 7649  [enquiries@altro.com](mailto:enquiries@altro.com)  [www.altro-me.com/wet-environments](http://www.altro-me.com/wet-environments)

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TO ASSIST IN TRAINING, SOME CALLS MAY BE RECORDED