

Floor Covering Media

Your Gateway to the Floor Covering Industry

The first official recycling program exclusively for the vinyl flooring industry



[Polyflor South Africa](#) has launched the first official recycling program targeting the local vinyl flooring industry, according to [Engineering News](#).



The need for an official recycling initiative has been a long time coming and is in line with one of the key objectives of the South African Vinyls Association's ([SAVA](#)) Product Stewardship Program – of which Polyflor SA is a member, according to Tandy Coleman, Polyflor SA Chief Executive Officer: *"The vinyl flooring market has seen a tremendous growth in recent years. While many of the local manufacturers tend to recycle their own factory waste in-house, there has not yet been an official program set in place for the recycling of off-cuts from installations."*



Polyflor UK was one of the founding members of [Recofloor](#) – the vinyl take-back scheme that started in Europe in 2009 and collects post-consumer vinyl flooring for recycling into new flooring.

This initiative recycled a record amount of 508 tons of post-consumer waste vinyl flooring last year alone, which is enough to cover 23 football fields, and continues to grow from strength-to-strength. According to Coleman, 'used' vinyl floors are currently not being recycled largely because of the [glue](#) and the [screed](#) that are attached to the floors.

Coleman said *"There is currently no technology available in South Africa that can separate glue residue from the vinyl for recycling. We are hopeful that this technology will be available in the near future, but in the meanwhile we believe it is important to make a difference where we can. Every piece of off-cut that we can recycle will help to alleviate the strain on the country's landfills and natural resources."*

Polyflor contractors will be given specially branded bags for them to place their off-cuts in and returned to the company's head office, where it will be weighed and recorded before it is collected by recyclers. She said: *"We have arranged with the major recyclers of vinyl around the country to collect the material from our premises for recycling into a wide variety of products, including traffic management products and gum boots."*

Although this is a Polyflor initiative, Coleman makes it clear that they encourage industry support and participation.

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"We are hoping that eventually this pilot project will develop into an industry-wide take-back scheme."

Commenting on this recycling initiative, SAVA's Chief Executive Officer Delanie Bezuidenhout said they welcomed any pro-active steps taken by industry members to take responsibility for their own waste. *"We have made a firm commitment to increase responsibility and sustainability within the PVC industry as a whole."*

Sustainability Report 2016

Environmentally Preferable Flooring

One of the key challenges outlined within this product stewardship program has been the commitment to [increase recycling](#). Polyflor is due credit for taking the lead in such an important industry activity.

Flooring Updates



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