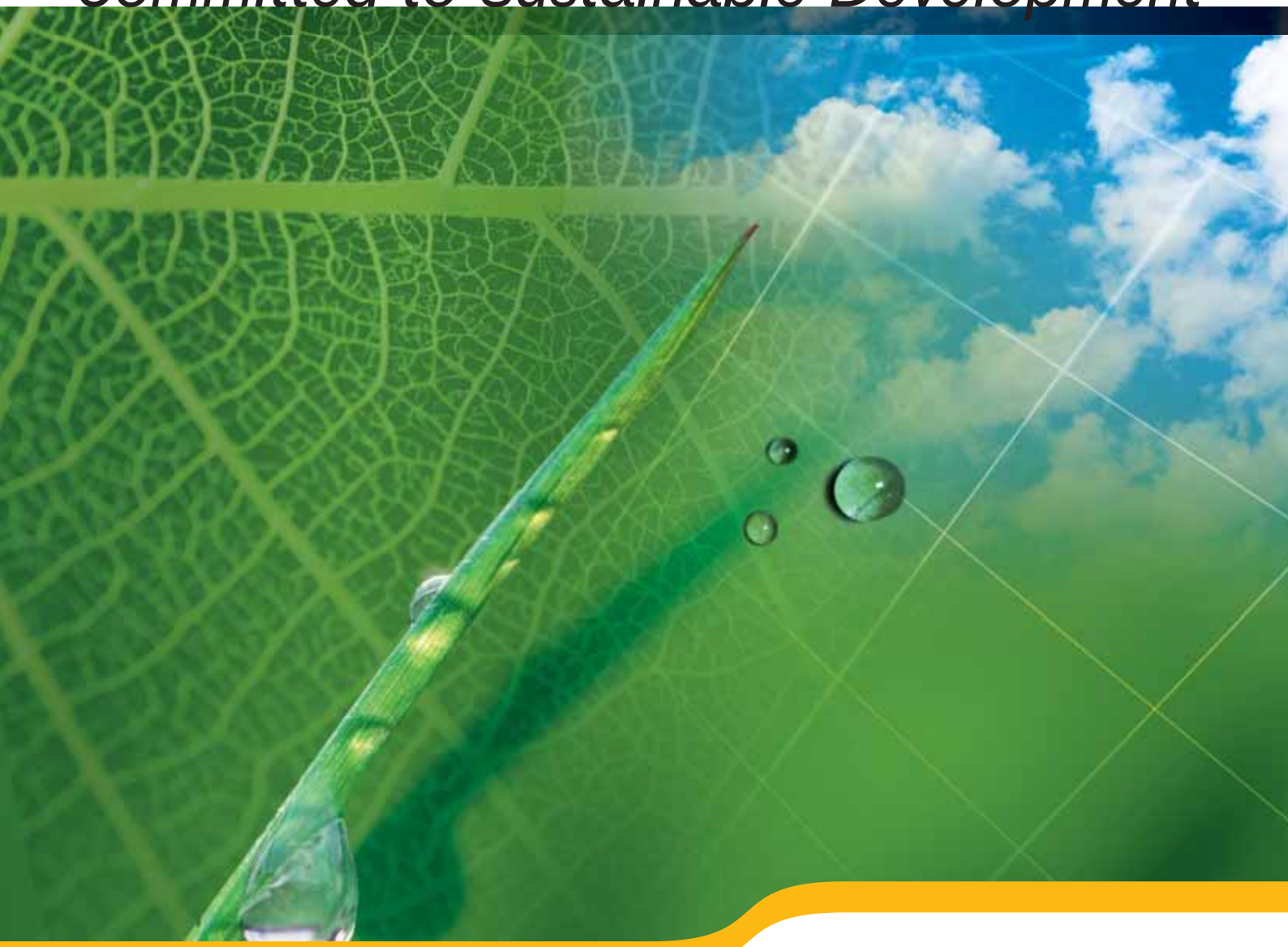
# Committed to Sustainable Development



**Floors to match your imagination**

Gerflor

# Committed to Sustainable

## Introduction from the President

As a group built on **pioneering brands and companies**, Gerflex, Taraflex and Mipolam, Gerflor recognizes the importance of being proactive and creating new ways to achieve sustainable development.

Gerflor ranks among the **world's leaders in PVC flooring** and for over a decade has invested heavily to ensure continued growth and environmental sustainability.

Through our innovative and creative approach, we have worked hard to develop more and more **environmentally friendly PVC floor coverings**.

Our forward thinking **board of directors** are **deeply involved and committed** to producing environmentally sustainable products. Some twenty years ago they made a strategic decision which has been marked by the following achievements:

- **ISO 14001** certification of our industrial sites
- The eradication of all heavy metals from our manufacturing processes
- The increasing use of **recycled raw materials**
- **Recycling** of our post manufacturing waste
- Founding member of the **AgpR**
- Member of the **US Green Building Council**
- Founding member of the **HQE® approach** (High Quality Environment) in France
- Active involvement in **Vinyl 2010**
- Gerflor floor coverings are nearly 100% recyclable at the end of their life cycle, which may **earn credits towards green buildings certification from internationally recognized environmental programs**

We are **working together in partnership** with many key players within the industry including our customers to **continuously improve our sustainable processes** and are pleased to offer you a detailed overview of the activities we have undertaken to **promote this approach.**

**Bertrand Chammas**
**Chairman and CEO**

*Tarare manufacturing plant*

AFAQ ISO 14001 ENV/2003/20216

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL MEMBER

AgPR

HQE®

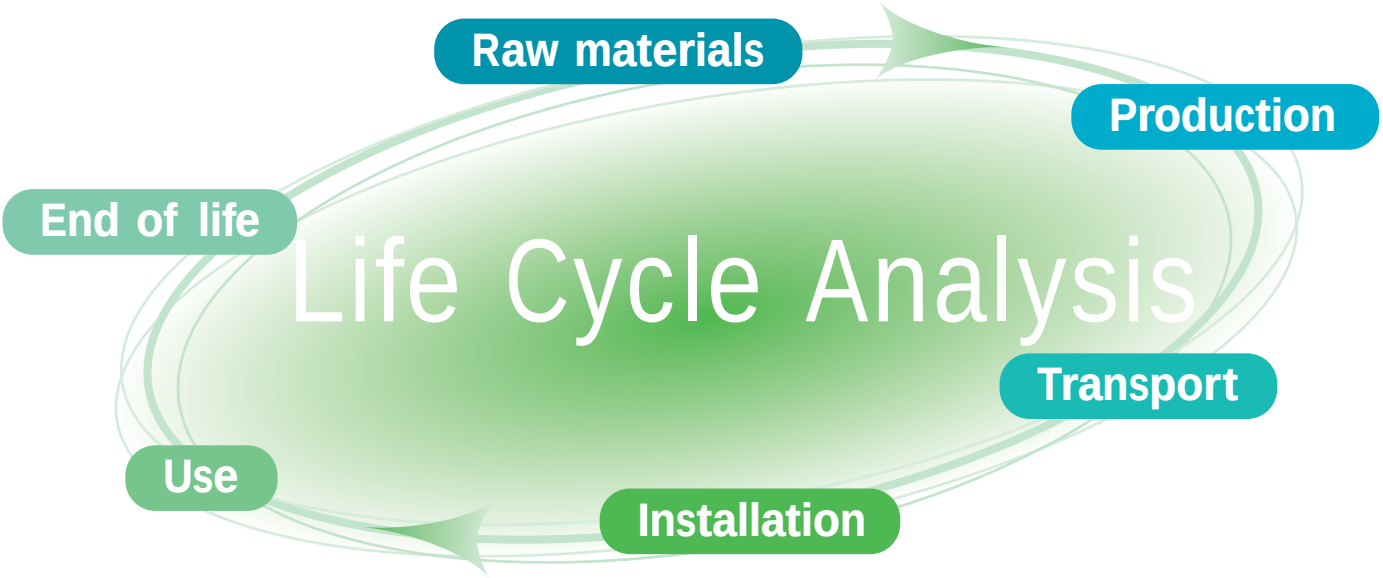
VINYL 2010

# Development

## Life Cycle Analysis

An assessment methodology designed to measure the environmental impact of all building materials throughout the full life of the product

All the key life cycle stages are measured and assessed to provide a complete picture

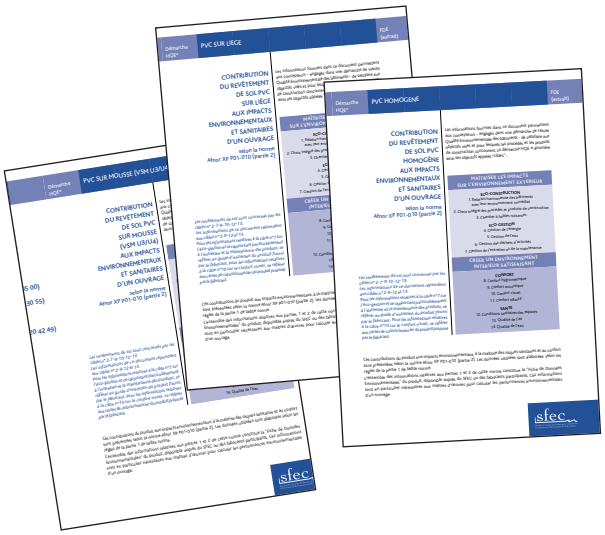



Life cycle analysis can provide an accurate picture of the environmental impact of floor coverings expressed in terms of the use of energy resources and assessed environmental impacts in accordance with the ISO 14040 standard which allow like for like assessment of varying materials.

With a view to sharing these results, Gerflor is working with other European manufacturers, and is actively involved with ERFMI (European Resilient Flooring Manufacturer Institute) in preparing LCA data sheets.

In France, along with other manufacturer members of the SFEC (French Association of Coaters, Laminators) Gerflor has played an active role in answering the HQE® requirements.

Seven FDE (Environmental Product Declarations) were developed to enable interested parties from the building industry to analyse and compare the environmental effects of the various products selected in a HQE® project.



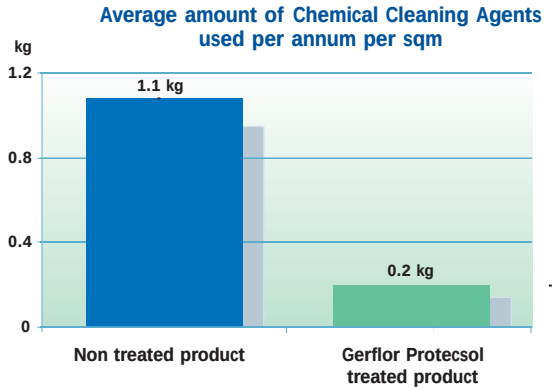
# Gerflor PVC Floors: proven technical resources for

## Economy and easy maintenance

In keeping with our environmental approach and reducing the use of chemical cleaning agents, our R&D laboratory has consistently worked towards improving the cleanability of our products by developing specialist surface treatments.

All our products are now factory treated with polyurethane (PU, PUR, PUR Protect®, Sparclean®, Protecsol®) and offer:

- Reduced use of strippers and polish treatments (NB: Protecsol® and PUR Protect® offer a no polish for life solution for the full life of the product)
- Reduced use of detergents
- Reduced water and energy consumption




**Gerflor *Initiative*: Protecsol® the first UV cured polyurethane surface treatment**
**- eliminates the need for polish/wax throughout the lifetime of the product**
**- reduces chemical usage.**

## Sustainable installation

Gerflor floors are environmentally friendly to install.

- All recommended acrylic adhesives are solvent free
- Site waste and all used materials are fully recyclable

**Gerflor *Initiative*: product concepts promoting sustainable development, such as:**
**- Attraction™:**
**• no adhesives required, quick and easy installation, clean removal, easy to recycle**
**- Texline:**
**• no adhesives required, easy installation over existing floor covering**

# performance - conserving precious
# a sustainable future

## Hygienic floors

Gerflor floors are easy to maintain and offer a fully hygienic solution for all areas:

- Inhibits the growth of mould and mildew
- Water proof
- Non-porous

Seams can be welded and coved to form an integral skirting to ensure easy, hygienic maintenance.

**Gerflor *Initiative*: the Sanosol® treatment developed by our laboratory is anti-bacterial and fungicidal, and actively inhibits the growth of micro organisms.**

## Safety

### ■ Fire behaviour

PVC floorings are inherrently fire safe because:

- PVC does not readily burn
- PVC floors are self extinguishing: they cease to burn once the source of combustion is removed

### ■ Acoustic and comfort performance

In order to provide underfoot and acoustic comfort for users, Gerflor offers a comprehensive range of acoustic flooring to ensure:

- underfoot comfort: provides anti-fatigue, muscle support and energy return ideal for areas where users stand for long periods
- acoustic comfort from 17-18dB sound insulation. Tests have shown that Gerflor's unique VHD (Very High Density) foam backing reduces impact noise transmission by up to 10 times when compared to solid floors.

### ■ Slip resistance

In keeping with all local and international standards, Gerflor has a full range of slip resistant floorcoverings designed to minimise the chance of slip accidents and litigation. All comply with the DIN 51130 standard and pendulum test results. For areas where high levels of contamination are likely to be present e.g. an industrial kitchen, Gerflor also has a range of R11 rated safety floors.

# Gerflor: investing in new raw materials building a sustainable

Our global approach spans the entire business, from top management, through to marketing, R&D, production, quality control, customer services and sales has resulted in Gerflor attaining ISO 14001 certification for our industrial sites.

## Environmentally friendly raw materials

### ■ Elimination of heavy metals

Aware of the effects on the environment, Gerflor has excluded the use of all heavy metals for over a decade including:

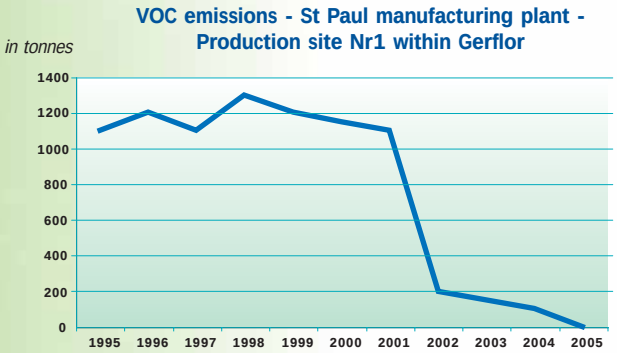
- Lead
- Cadmium
- Tin

These metals were replaced by **calcium and zinc based stabilisers**, which have a limited impact on the environment.

### ■ Reduction of VOCs

Gerflor is actively participating in European efforts to implement standards on “air quality inside buildings”, and offers products that comply with the most stringent requirements.

The results obtained are below the threshold requirements of the pr EN 15052 standard.

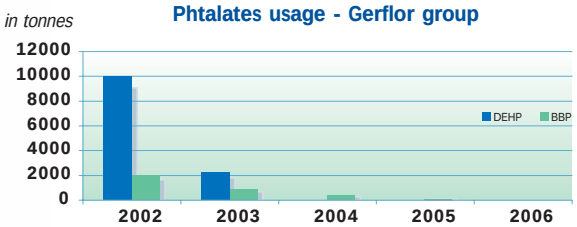



### ■ Withdrawal of solvent based inks

When solvents evaporate into the atmosphere, they trigger chemical reactions that reduce the ozone layer essential for filtering the sun's rays and a major contributor to climate change.
Given this major environmental hazard, Gerflor uses **water-based** inks in its designs.

### ■ Phthalates

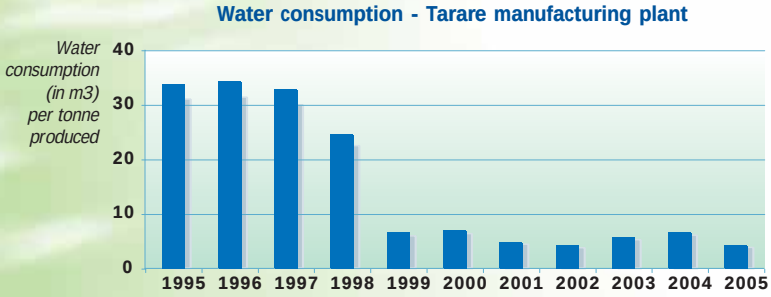
Gerflor only uses EU approved plasticisers and has excluded all BBP and DEHP phthalates from its production processes due to concerns raised over their long term safety.
Gerflor PVC floors are inert and have no impact on health and the environment.




## Environmentally friendly production processes

### ■ Preservation of water resources

The implementation of a closed-loop cooling system has substantially reduced our water consumption.




### ■ Air protection

Our production lines are equipped to treat all emissions prior to being released.

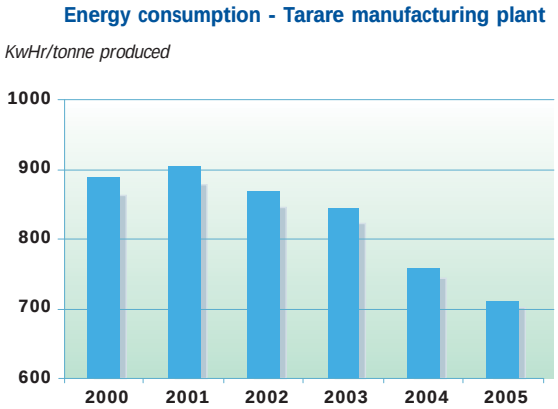
# and production processes, future

## Industrial waste management

Industrial waste management is an integral part of our daily environmental action plan.
We collect all our waste (ultimate waste, chemical products, paper, carton, metal scrap, etc.) and ensure that it is clearly identified and sorted for either re-use or disposal.
We also recycle nearly 100% of our post manufacturing waste in new production runs.

## Reduction of energy consumption

Gerflor's manufacturing processes are designed to optimise energy usage and have resulted in continuous year on year reductions in energy consumption.




## Transport

Unlike many other floor coverings, PVC floors are light, and consume less energy during transportation.

Moreover, Gerflor prefers to use local raw material and logistics suppliers to help reduce tranport costs and minimise the impact upon the environment.

In addition, Gerflor has installed videoconference facilities in all its major subsidiaries and uses the technology to help minimise environmentally costly air travel between sites and offices.

Furthermore, the cylinder capacity has been limited on all company vehicles within the Gerflor fleet to reduce the emission of pollutants on the road.

## Selection of our packaging

We use only the minimum amount of packaging to protect our products during transport to reduce the amount of costly, installation site waste. We also:

- maximise the use of recycled material in all our packaging
- use only materials that can be, in their turn, recycled

# Recycling

One of the main advantages of our PVC floors is that they can be fully recycled: at the production or end of life stage, they can be recovered, and used to produce new floor coverings.

## Gerflor's commitments

1

**First commitment:**

In 1988, Gerflor was the one of the founding members of the first PVC floor covering recycling workshop - **AgpR.**

Based in Troisdorf, Germany, and near our Mipolam industrial site, the AgpR plant recovers and recycles installation waste and end of life floors. Gerflor has been using AgpR recycled products for over a decade.

2

**Second commitment:**

Gerflor recycles nearly 100% of its post manufacturing waste.

3

**Third commitment:**

Gerflor is involved in **Vinyl 2010** within the EPFLOOR organisation.

Vinyl 2010 is a voluntary commitment of the European PVC industry.

One of the main aims of the approach is to increase the recycling of end of life PVC products. The target for 2020 is 10,000 tonnes per annum - currently the industry is well on the way to achieving that goal.

Vinyl 2010 publishes its progress report every year.

**For more information: www.vinyl2010.com**

# Questions & ANSWERS

## What is PVC made of?

PVC is a harmless and safe material made of 57% salt and 43% oil. By comparison to all other plastics, PVC requires the least oil and consumes the least energy during production.

## Is PVC toxic?

No. PVC is a harmless and safe material both for users and the environment. It is a material used on a daily basis by each of us at home and at work.

PVC is used extensively in hygienic, clinical areas and for tools and storage vessels which come into close and intimate contact with humans and animals, e.g.: blood storage bags, catheters, dialysis tubes etc …

## Are PVC floorcoverings environmentally friendly?

Yes. Gerflor's decision to exclude heavy metals, to meet and exceed all local and international safety standards and to continually strive to improve its sustainable processes, has proven its commitment to deliver environmentally friendly PVC floor coverings.

## Does PVC affect air quality?

All materials emit volatile substances called VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) during their lifetime. Some products release excessive amounts, resulting in air pollution inside buildings.

This is not the case with Gerflor floors. Our products have been assessed in accordance with the proposed European standard (pr EN15052) at both 3 and 28 days and are proven to emit VOC's well below the agreed acceptable standard.

Gerflor only recommends the use of solvent free acrylic adhesives for installation.

## Can PVC be recycled?

Gerflor floorcoverings can be fully recycled and are therefore often described as a sustainable product. Gerflor recycles nearly 100% of its post manufacturing waste. We also buy in further recycled PVC material thereby actively reducing the amount of used PVC sent to landfill.

**ASIA:** Gerflor South East Asia - Tel.: (603) 7954 1131 - Fax: (603) 7954 1334 - e-mail: gerflorasia@gerflor.com **- AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND** - Gerflor Australasia Pty Ltd - Tel.: 1800 060 785 - e-mail: gerflorpacific@gerflor.com **- AUSTRIA/SWISS:** Gerflor GmbH - Tel.: (43) 07229/70800-0 - Fax.: (43) 07229/70800-218 - e-mail : austria@gerflor.com - switzerland@gerflor.com **- BENELUX/BELGIQUE/LUXEMBOURG:** Gerflor Belgium - Tel.: (32) 03 766 42 82 - Fax: (32) 03 766 29 14 - e-mail: gerflorbelgium@gerflor.com **- CANADA:** Gerflor International - Tel.: (1) 450 538 9828 - Fax: (1) 450 538 9827 - e-mail: gerflorcanada@gerflor.com **- CHINA:** Gerflor (China) Ltd - Tel.: (852) 2142 3728 - Fax: (852) 2834 4795 - e-mail: gerflorchina@gerflor.com **- ESPAÑA:** Gerflor Iberia SA - Tel.: (34) 91 653 5011 - Fax: (34) 91 653 9525 - e-mail: gerfloriberia@gerflor.com **- PORTUGAL:** Gerflor Iberia SA - Tel.: (351) 21 843 95 49 - Fax: (351) 21 846 55 44 - e-mail: gerflorportugal@gerflor.com **- AMERICA LATINA :** Gerflor América Latina Pisos E Revest. Ltda - Tel.: (55) 11 30 55 2020 - Fax: (55) 11 30 55 2023 - e-mail: gerfloramericalatina@gerflor.com **- FRANCE:** Gerflor International : Tél. : (33) 04 74 05 40 00 - Fax : (33) 04 74 05 03 13 - e-mail : gerflorcontract@gerflor.com **- GERMANY:** Gerflor Mipolam GmbH - Tel.: (49) 0 22 41-25 30-0 - e-mail : GerflorMipolam@gerflor.com / Muster- und Kundenservice Tel.: (49) 0 22 41-25 30 131 Fax: (49) 02241-25 30100 - e-mail : Kundenservice@gerflor.com / Service Anwendungstechnik Tel.: (49) 0 22 41-25 30 555 - Fax: (49) 02241-25 30550 - e-mail : Technik@gerflor.com **- IRELAND:** Gerflor Ltd - Sample service - Tel.: (44) (0)870 264 7581 - Office - Tel.: (353) 42 9661431 - Fax: (353) 42 9661759 - e-mail: gerfloirl@gerflor.com **- ITALIA:** Gerflor S.p.A - Tel.: (39) 02 90 78 60 12 r.a. - Fax: (39) 02 90 42 74 84 - e-mail: gerfloritalia@gerflor.com **- MIDDLE EAST:** Gerflor Middle East - Tel.: (966) 3 847 1779 - Fax: (966) 3 847 1781 - e-mail: gerflorME@gerflor.com **- NETHERLANDS:** Gerflor BV - Tel.: (31) 0418 65 29 65 - Fax: (31) 0418 65 17 96 - e-mail: gerflorNL@gerflor.com **- POLSKA:** Gerflor Polska Sp z o.o - Tel.: (48) 61 823 34 01 - Fax: (48) 61 823 34 33 - e-mail: info@gerflor.pl **- RUSSIA:** Gerflor Moscow Office - Tel.: (7) 095 432-86-03 - Fax: (7) 095 430-85-46 - e-mail: gerflorrus@mspk.east.ru **- SCANDINAVIA:** Boide Gerflor Scandinavia a.s. - Tel.: (47) 64 95 60 70 - Fax: (47) 64 95 60 80 - e-mail: gerflorscand@gerflor.no **- UNITED KINGDOM:** Gerflor Ltd - Sample service Tel.: (44) (0)870 264 7581- Office Tel.: (44) (0)1926 401 500 - Fax: (44) (0)1926 401 647 - e-mail: ContractUK@gerflor.com **- USA:** Architectural Floor Systems, Inc- Tel.: (1) 847 394 3944 - Toll free: 8 003 236 792 - Fax: (1) 847 394 3753 - e-mail: info@gerflorusa.com

**For more information, please contact us at : contactenvironment@gerflor.com**
**You can also visit our web site on : www.gerflor.com**

GUTENBERG ON LINE | EXPRESSION - RCS NANTERRE B 343 997 433 - 04 72 84 69 11 - April 2006

cyclus
Do it 100%

This brochure is made from 100% recycled paper "Cyclus Print"

Gerflor
Floors to match your imagination