

Tarkett completes one-of-a-kind circular economy resilient flooring project for IKEA

Tarkett, a worldwide leader in innovative flooring, has recovered 10,000 square metres of old flooring from IKEA in Kungens Kurva (Stockholm), as the department store is currently under renovation. The recovered flooring, which was returned to Tarkett's factory in Ronneby (Sweden), was ground and cleaned of glue and concrete residue using a new process developed in-house at Tarkett. The recycled materials were then used to produce new flooring for the IKEA store in Jönköping. In total, the climate-friendly project is estimated to have saved close to 100 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.



"This project is an excellent example of a circular economy in practice and we are extremely grateful for the great collaboration we have with IKEA retail Sweden that has made it possible. We have a long history of recycling manufacturing and installation waste, but now we can also show that we can recycle old flooring, which is brilliant. This is a beacon for future endeavours, and we believe that we will see many more collaborations like this down the line," says Dag Duberg, Nordic Sustainability Manager at Tarkett.

In the renovation project, which started in early August 2020, the floors from the IKEA store in Kungens Kurva were torn out, loaded into special containers and then transported back to Tarkett's factory in Ronneby. The groundbreaking technology to clean and recycle post-use homogeneous vinyl floors has been in operation at Tarkett since the beginning of 2019. The process is extremely resource-

efficient as the entirety of the recovered floor can be used as recycled content for new floors. This one-of-a-kind flooring project posed a number of practical challenges, but also demonstrated the benefits and possibilities of circular concepts. New flooring produced from the recycled raw material from Kungens Kurva are already successfully installed at the IKEA store in Jönköping.

"We have an ambitious goal for IKEA to become circular by 2030. This means extending the service life of both products and materials. Taking old flooring from one store, having it recycled by our supplier and then using it as raw materials for new floors in other stores benefits not only us, but also the planet. The project's climate savings of close to 100 tonnes of CO₂ emissions shows the power and potential of a circular economy in action," says Jonas Carlehed, Sustainability Manager IKEA retail Sweden.



The climate benefits of this recycling endeavour have been calculated as follows:

Incinerating one square metre of flooring emits 4.23 kg of CO₂*. Producing raw materials from scratch for one square metre of flooring emits 5.36 kg of CO₂*. By recycling, these emissions never arise, amounting to a savings of 9.6 kg of CO₂. For an area of 10,000 sqm, this amounts to a total climate savings of 96 tonnes. The ripped-up materials weigh about 3 kg/sqm. Transporting the materials by lorry between Stockholm and Ronneby emits about 2 tonnes of CO₂**.

The cleaning process in Ronneby runs on fossil-free electricity and, in this context, results in negligible climate emissions. Thus, the total climate savings of this project amounts to 94 tonnes of CO₂.

* Based on numbers from certified third-party EPDs for the flooring in question.

** Based on heavy lorry transport of 30 tonnes of material for 550 km emitting 120 grammes of CO₂ per tonne-kilometre, according to Trafa Rapport (2015:12)

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About Tarkett

With a history of 140 years, Tarkett is a worldwide leader in innovative flooring and sports surface solutions, with net sales of €3 billion in 2019. Offering a wide range of products including vinyl, linoleum, rubber, carpet, wood, laminate, artificial turf and athletics tracks, the Group serves customers in over 100 countries across the globe. Tarkett has 12,500 employees and 33 industrial sites, and sells 1.3 million square meters of flooring every day, for hospitals, schools, housing, hotels, offices, stores and sports fields. For more information, please visit tarkett.com.