

FORBO FLOORING SYSTEMS

Forbo Flooring Systems is a leading global flooring manufacturer that offers a fully integrated portfolio of floor coverings, from linoleum and vinyl to carpet tiles and flocked flooring, for a variety of segments, including the health and aged care sector. Its mission is to design and deliver products, which will positively contribute to creating better environments for all end users, whether they be employees, patients, residents or visitors.

www.forbo-flooring.co.uk

DSDC accredited products

Forbo has over 900 products accredited by the DSDC. This includes a wide variety of floor coverings from its own linoleum brand, Marmoleum; its Luxury Vinyl Tile collection, Allura; and its acoustic and safety flooring ranges, Sarlon and STEP. What's more, its Westbond carpet tiles collection and a selection from its Tessera range, along with some of its 'off the floor' solutions such as Bulletin Board and Furniture Linoleum are also DSDC accredited. All of the above ranges have been assessed for their suitability for use in dementia-inclusive environments, with them being certified as either Class 1a, 1b or 2 on the rating system.

Q What interested you in having your product accredited by DSDC for dementia design?

With life expectancies increasing, and the number of people living with dementia also set to rise to more than a million by 2025, the industry is now facing the challenge of adapting care homes or medical environments to meet the demands of the aging population. In addition, the Government, BBC and financial institutions are all also looking to make their public buildings more dementia friendly - and while there is a lot of information available about how to create dementia-friendly environments, there is still some confusion within the industry about what is actually correct. As such, we decided to partner with the DSDC back in 2013 to explore which of our extensive bank of entrance systems and floor coverings would be suitable for these types of environments, to help ease the selection process for any project and provide peace of mind to those choosing the flooring that it will be fit for purpose, as it has been accredited.

Q Can you describe one aspect of this product which is designed to be dementia friendly?

All of our DSDC approved floor coverings have a matt finish, with simple, plain and/or recognisable designs (like wood or concrete). When designing dementia-inclusive interiors however it's important not only to select an appropriate design but to fully appreciate the tonal contrast and/or continuity required in its application. As such, our floor coverings all have LRV ratings clearly available to help identify how contrast (with other surfaces such as walls) or continuity (where more perhaps the desired aesthetic requires more than one floor covering colour to be used) can be achieved.

Q Has the DSDC product accreditation benefitted your organisation? If so, in what way?

The accreditation itself makes it easier for clients to select which of our products are suitable for use, but the ongoing partnership with DSDC and their training is equally important to Forbo. We want to ensure that we can provide the most up to date knowledge and service to our customers and help them understand how our flooring fits into dementia inclusive environments. As such, Forbo's Care Key Account Manager attends training annually and Forbo's Sales teams are regularly updated on ongoing DSDC research and activities to ensure that their knowledge is constantly relevant and refreshed.