RECOMMENDED FINISHES

There are no short cuts to optimum performance with the installation of any flooring. That is why an overview should be taken of each project so that the finishing details are considered right from the start of the project. It also means that all parties are aware of their individual areas of responsibility.

There is no question that the final details contribute so much to an impressive finish for the floor. These include relatively minor details such as awkward corners, internal or external mitres, the junction where different floorcoverings meet and finishing details around drains and other accessories. They make up only a small proportion of the total floor, yet they often make up most of an architect's snag list.

A Polyflor installation must focus on these important details and also take into account all aspects of the location. We believe that the floor must not only look good, but also perform well, so that it is impermeable, hygienic and safe.

1. DRAINAGE

The location of drains is important. As far as possible, they should be away from sources of vibration (to reduce movement) and from beams, columns and walls (to make leak detection easier). Obviously, they should be close to the main spillage sources, when direct outlets from spillage sources are not possible.

The floor gradient into the drain depends on the process, traffic volume and the surface texture of the floorcovering. The drains used should be built to permit examination, cleaning and repair without these operations causing damage to the floor.

1.1 Shower Drains

Only drains which have been specifically designed for use with sheet vinyl floorings should be considered. Most of these drains have clamping rings, which ensure the watertight security which is essential where hygiene and safety are of primary importance.

These clamping rings ensure that the Polysafe floorcovering is held securely in position and they prevent the ingress of water that could adversely affect the adhesion at this critical point.

Figure 1 BM stainless steel drain prior to fitting vinyl clamping ring

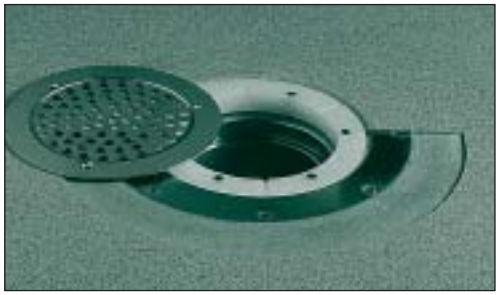

Figure 2 BM drain with clamping ring in place

1.2 Typical Specification Detail

The shower drain to be fitted must be suitable for use with Polysafe floorcovering, and must incorporate an effective clamping ring. It should be *(model type)* as manufactured by *(manufacturer)* or approved

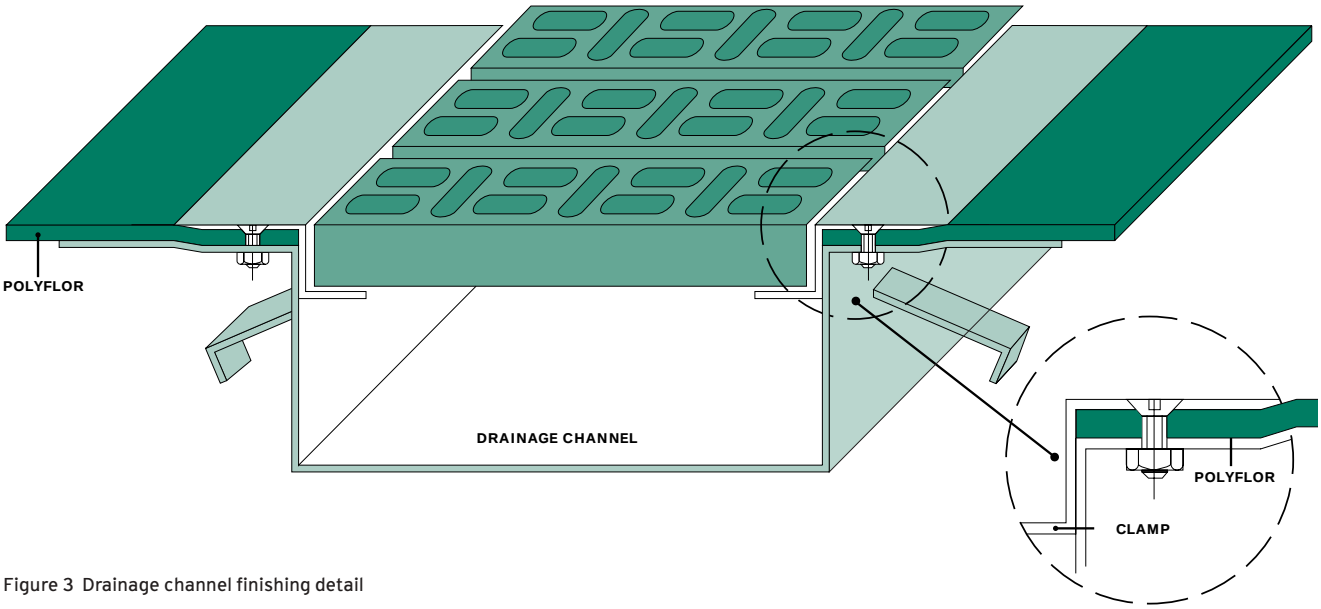

Figure 3 Drainage channel finishing detail

equivalent. It must be installed in strict accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Polysafe floorcovering must be heat formed with no joints onto the angular face of the drainage hole. The floorcovering should be adhered around the drainage hole for a minimum of 150mm, using a water-resistant epoxy or polyurethane adhesive as approved by Polyflor. In generally wet areas, a water-resistant epoxy or polyurethane adhesive as approved by Polyflor should be used throughout. The exposed edge of the Polysafe should be finished with a bead of mastic sealant.

1.3 Drainage channels and gulleys

Again, only drainage channels and gulleys which incorporate vinyl clamping and locking systems into their design should be considered.

1.4 Typical Specification Detail

The drainage channel to be fitted must be suitable for use with Polysafe floorcoverings and must incorporate an effective clamping ring or locking device. It should be *(model type)* as manufactured by *(manufacturer)* or approved equivalent. It must be installed in strict accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. The Polysafe floorcovering must be heat formed onto the angular face of the drainage channel. The Polysafe floorcovering should be adhered around the drainage channel for a minimum of 150mm, using a water-resistant epoxy or polyurethane adhesive as approved by Polyflor. In generally wet areas, a water-resistant epoxy or polyurethane adhesive as approved by Polyflor should be used throughout. The exposed edge of the Polysafe floorcovering should be finished with a bead of mastic sealant.

2. CONSTRUCTION JOINT COVERS

Correct treatment at expansion joints is also essential if the floor is going to last and perform in a safe and hygienic manner. We recommend that expansion joints are covered using either a PVC expansion joint cover, or a cover with a PVC insert, so that the flooring can be thermally welded to the cover.

On no account must the Polyflor or Polysafe be taken straight over the expansion joint. This will lead to failure.

2.1 Typical Specification Detail

The Polyflor must be welded to the expansion joint cover. On no account must the Polyflor be take straight over the expansion joint.

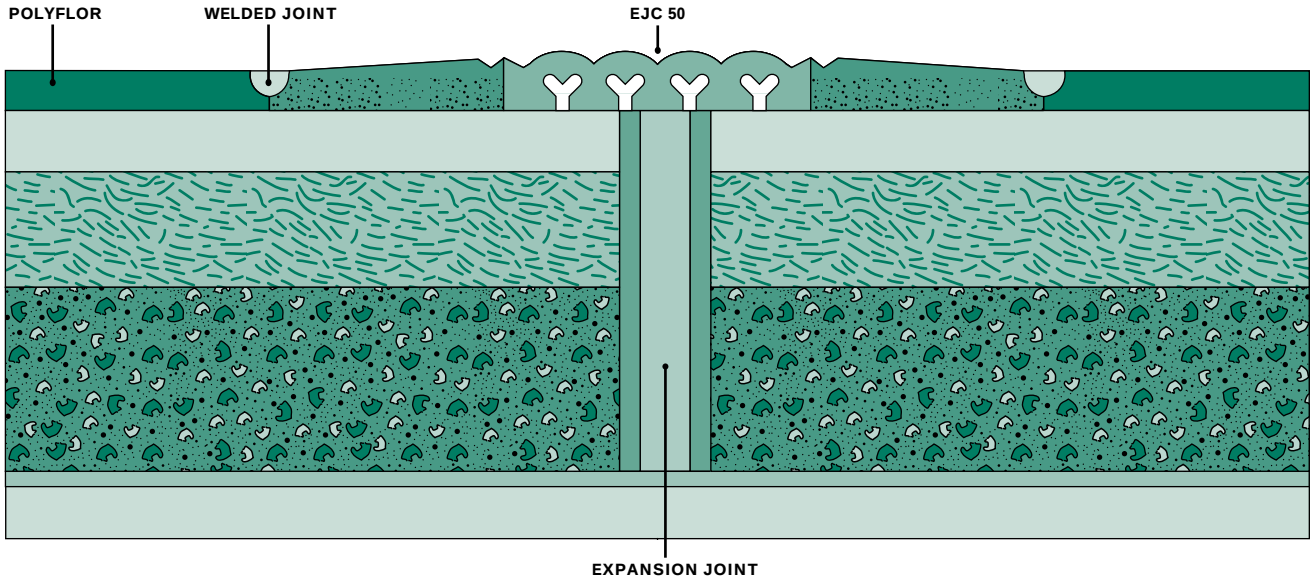

Figure 4 Detail for Gradus co-extruded joint cover

3. EDGE TRIMS

In many of the areas where Polyflor is installed, other types of floorcovering will also be used. The junction between the Polyflor flooring and these other types of floorcovering is a potential weak point, if not treated properly. Correct installation minimises problems such as water leakage and trip hazard.

3.1 Polyflor or Polysafe with ceramic or quarry floor tiles

In installations where the edge of the vinyl comes into contact with ceramic or quarry tiles, it is important that a watertight joint is achieved at the junction. Aluminium edge trims with PVC inserts are ideal for this purpose. They facilitate installation and the PVC insert allows for a welded joint between the edge trim and the Polyflor floorcovering.

Figure 5 Visedge VR edge trim from Howe Green

Figure 6 Finished detail

3.2 Typical Specification Detail

The edge trim to be fitted must be suitable for use with Polyflor vinyl flooring. It should be *(model type)* as manufactured by *(manufacturer)* or approved equivalent. The edge trim must be installed in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The Polyflor vinyl flooring should be fitted accurately to the edge trim and welded.

4. POLYFLOR WITH CARPET

It is important that the junction between Polyflor and carpet is clearly visible and that any trip hazard is minimised by using edging strips. A variety of edging strips are available for this junction.

The finishing detail for the Gradus clip top floor trim RT55/AFT55 is shown in Figure 7. The relevant manufacturers can supply further advice on installation and use of these types of trims.

4.1 Typical Specification Detail

At the junction between the Polyflor vinyl flooring and the carpet, an edging strip must be used. It must be *(model type)* as manufactured by *(manufacturer)* or approved equivalent.

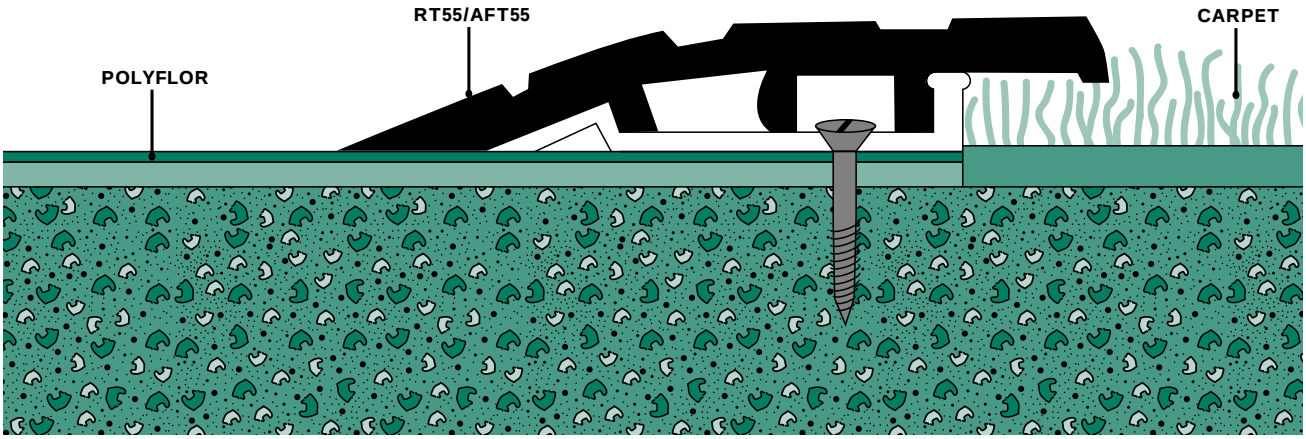

Figure 7 Joining Polyflor to Carpet detail

4.2 Bevelled and diminishing strips

Bevelled or diminishing strips should be used at all exposed edges of Polyflor vinyl floorings to minimise trip hazards.

Figure 8 Bevelled strip

The bevelled strip should be butted tightly to the exposed edge of the Polyflor vinyl flooring.

The bevelled strip should be fixed using a contact adhesive and the joint may be thermally welded.

4.3 Typical Specification Detail

The exposed edge of the Polyflor vinyl flooring must be finished using a suitable bevelled strip *(gauge)*, of type *(type)* and made by *(manufacturer)*. The bevelled strip must be welded to the Polyflor vinyl flooring.

5. ACCESS AND MANHOLE COVERS

It is important that access covers are used which facilitate either the welding of the Polyflor vinyl flooring to the cover and frame or where the Polyflor vinyl flooring can be clamped into place. Both these solutions result in a watertight, hygienic and safe joint.

5.1 Typical Specification Detail

The access covers to be fitted must be suitable for use with Polyflor vinyl flooring. They should be *(model type)* as manufactured by *(manufacturer)* or approved equivalent. The access covers must be installed in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The Polyflor vinyl flooring should be fitted accurately to the access cover and welded.

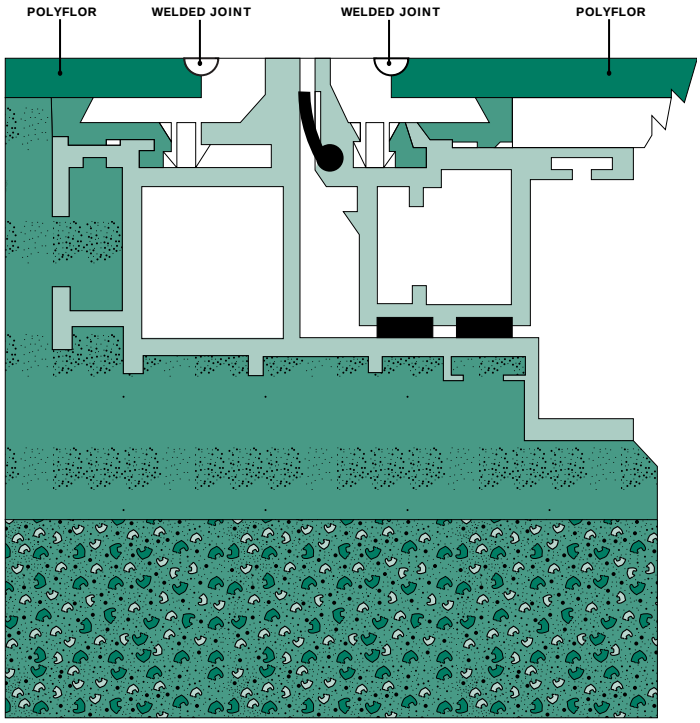

Figure 9 Fixing detail of the Howe Green Visedge single access cover

6. SKIRTINGS AND OTHER FINISHES

Polyflor supplies a wide range of PVC profiles which are ideal for use with the Polyflor product portfolio. In most installations, we would recommend that the Polyflor vinyl flooring is either self-coved up the wall, or a "set in" coved skirting is used which can be welded to the Polyflor vinyl flooring.

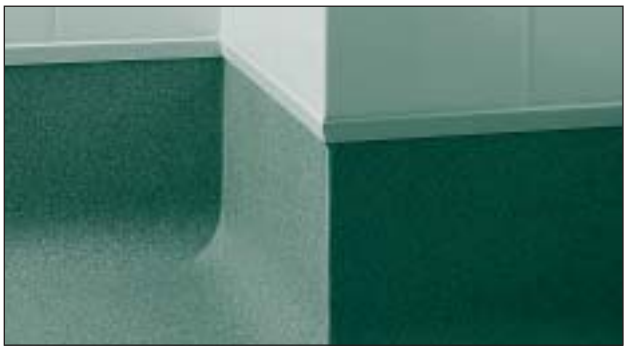

Figure 10 Polyflor Ejecta CT Strip

Figure 11 Polyflor Ejecta CT Strip in detail

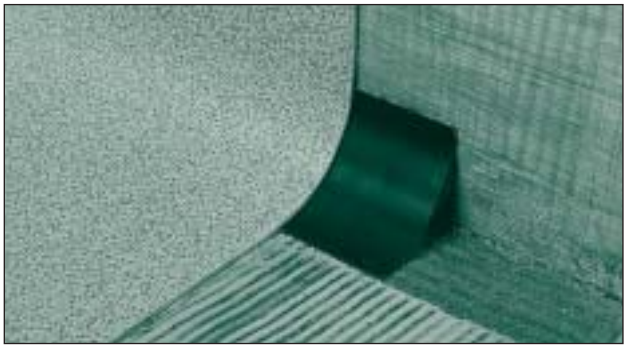

Figure 12 Polyflor CF PVC cove former

6.1 Self coving

For the junction between self-coved Polyflor vinyl flooring and ceramic wall tiles, Polyflor Ejecta CT strip provides the ideal solution.

The flexible section is designed to accept ceramic wall tiles on one side and the various gauges of Polyflor on the other.

6.2 Typical Specification Detail

The Polyflor CT strip should be adhered using a contact adhesive as recommended by Polyflor. The edge between the CT strip and the ceramic tiles should be grouted. The Polyflor vinyl flooring should be fitted into the bottom edge of the CT strip and adhered to the wall using a contact adhesive as recommended by Polyflor.

A thin bead of mastic sealant should be run along the underside edge of the CT strip and the Polyflor vinyl flooring.

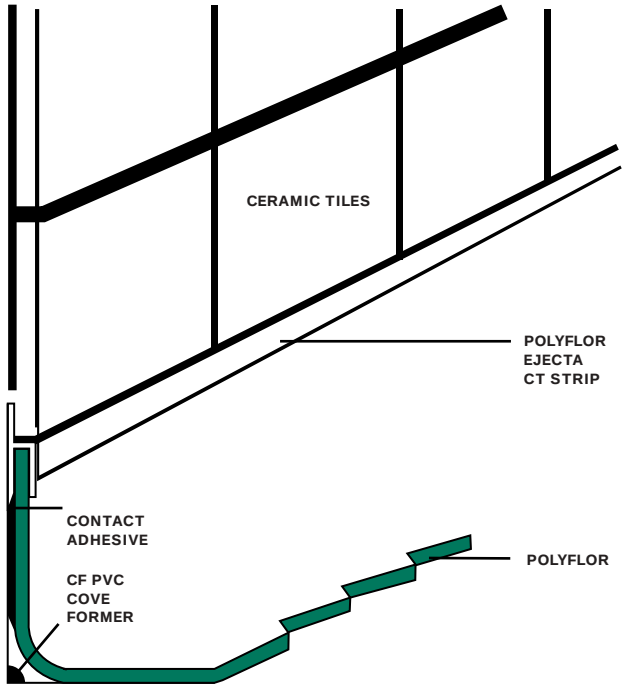

Figure 13 Junction detail between Polyflor and wall tiles

6.3 Set-in coved skirtings

Where it is impractical or where it is not cost effective to use the self-coved method of installation, the Polyflor "set-in" skirting is a viable alternative. Very similar to the "sit-on" type skirting in appearance, the set in skirting has a 50mm toe which is stuck to the subfloor and allows the main field of sheet vinyl to be welded to it.

6.4 Typical Specification Detail

The Polyflor set-in coved skirting MC *(profile type)* should be adhered using a contact adhesive as recommended by Polyflor. All internal and external corners should be mitred. The Polyflor vinyl flooring should be welded to the skirting. If a totally impervious finish is required, see the 'Installation of Accessories' pdf.

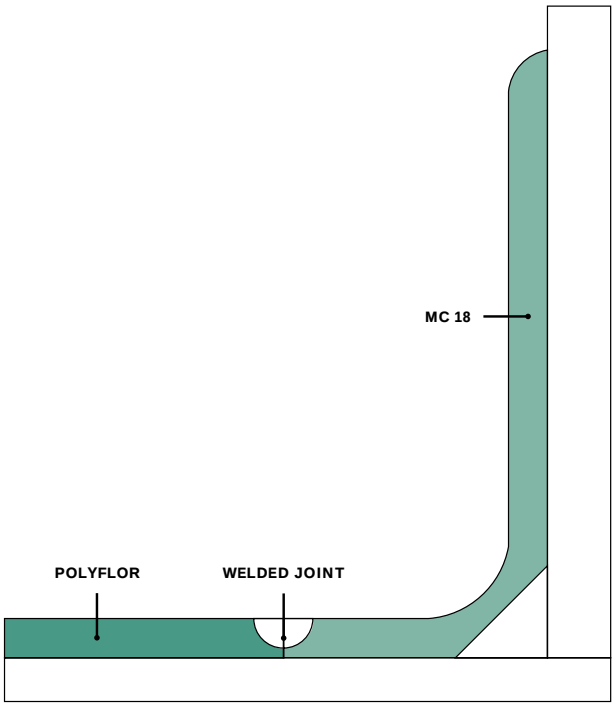

Figure 14 MC set-in coved skirting

7. PROTECTION FROM RADIATED HEAT SOURCES

The Polysafe range of floorcoverings is often used in situations where excessive heat causes problems with the floorcovering and the adhesive. It is impractical to give specific details, as equipment such as ovens and kilns vary in design and height above the flooring material.

Where the conditions may cause a problem, we would recommend the use of metal oven trays that deflect the heat away from the floor, and an adhesive suitable for these conditions, such as an epoxy or polyurethane. If you are unsure, we recommend that you discuss the application with our Customer Technical Support team.

POLYFLOR
COVERING THE WORLD