

EXPONA[®]



For the
love of the
environment



Good for you and good for the environment: sustainably manufactured vinyl floorings

As one of Europe's leading providers of LVT (luxury vinyl tile) design floorings for residential and commercial properties, ensuring the highest quality has always been our number one priority. However, 'quality' means more for our Cologne-based company than just creating high-quality products. Quality is also expressed in the unique design and the durability of our products, as well as the development of healthy flooring and our future-oriented, environmentally friendly manufacturing processes.

We design our manufacturing processes with the future in mind, use valuable resources sparingly, strive to keep energy consumption low, use new manufacturing techniques, continually optimise our formulas to incorporate healthy materials and ensure that our floorings have a high level of recyclability. We are continuously inspecting, improving and perfecting our products to achieve the best possible results.

Healthy vinyl flooring – for your well-being



Low-emission

Hygienic

Odour-neutral

Comfortingly soft and warm underfoot

Good room acoustics



Low-emission – the best indoor air

Healthy materials are an absolute priority, given that we spend 80–90% of our life in closed rooms and breathe in the air indoors. Today's virtually air-proof buildings minimise the exchange of air to such an extent that toxins from the different materials and furnishings can build up in a room. EXPONA floors are labelled with the Indoor Air Comfort Gold seal, which is only awarded to products that stay within strict VOC emission levels and therefore guarantee the best quality of indoor air.

Hygienic – healthy homes

Floorings can have a significant impact on the health of a building's occupants by being easy to clean, not allowing germs and bacteria to become established and preventing mould from developing when the flooring gets damp. EXPONA floorings are hygienic, waterproof and highly recommended for allergy and asthma sufferers.

Odour-neutral – relaxation for the senses

Odours that are emitted by construction materials or furniture are perceived to be very annoying by the building's occupants, who consider these to have a significant negative impact on their well-being. EXPONA floorings are odour-neutral right from the outset. In other words, rooms can be used as soon as the flooring has been laid.

Soft and warm underfoot – a welcoming floor experience

People want to feel 100% relaxed at home, walking around barefoot or in socks. EXPONA flooring is made with this in mind: it doesn't get statically charged and is comfortably warm and soft underfoot. A wonderful feeling – with shoes or without.

Good room acoustics – an oasis of calm

Irregular, quickly changing sounds are perceived as being an unpleasant, aggravating noise. EXPONA floorings are quiet to walk on, cushion noise and enable good room acoustics.





100% recyclable – doing nature a good turn

We follow a future-oriented philosophy and continually strive to be pioneers in technical innovation and 'green' concepts. This entails a responsible approach to obtaining raw materials and ensuring the recyclability of our floorings. When our floorings have put in many years of good service and need to be renewed, they can re-enter the material chain with virtually no loss in value. Many years ago, as a member of the AGPU (a German working group focussed on PVC and the environment), we invested heavily in establishing a successful nationwide system for recycling and recovering raw materials.

Strict standards – our priority

We consider it key to comply with clearly defined quality and sustainability standards.

Greater transparency for you

- Our manufacturing plants are certified as compliant with the strict international standards BES 6001 and SA 8000, as well as with the environmental management standard ISO 14001, which confirms our commitment to environmentally responsible procurement, alongside many other aspects.
- Our floorings comply with the AgBB scheme for evaluating the health impacts of emissions from building materials.

Saving water and cleaning agents – for the love of the environment

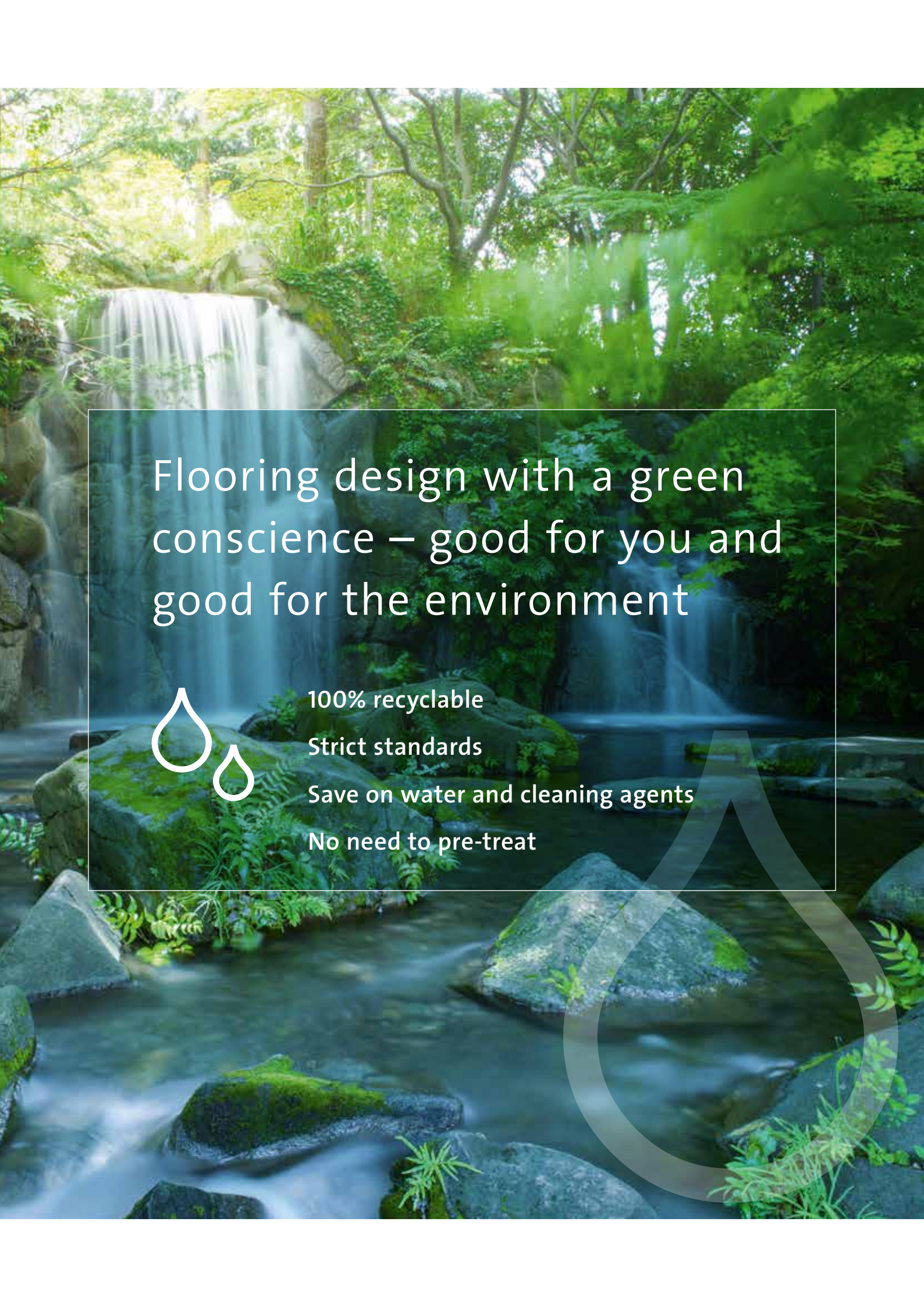
All EXPONA floorings have been coated with the CleanShield™ surface treatment. Our unique, cross-linked and UV-hardened PUR surface treatment protects the flooring over the long term, making it extremely hard-wearing and low-maintenance.

Dirt adhesion is significantly reduced. Regular vacuuming or sweeping is usually all that the floor needs. More stubborn dirt can be removed with a mop, using a minimum amount of water and a conventional neutral cleaning agent or PU (polyurethane) cleaner.

Durable – no need to pre-polish

Provided that the maintenance and cleaning instructions are followed, our floorings will last a lifetime without the need for any specific initial treatment.





Flooring design with a green conscience – good for you and good for the environment



100% recyclable

Strict standards

Save on water and cleaning agents

No need to pre-treat



Sustainability in focus – a better outlook for you and for future generations



100% environmentally friendly

Certified quality

Cost-saving



100% environmentally friendly – for a clear conscience

We adopt a future-oriented approach to development, our thinking and our actions and always keep a watchful eye on the entire product life cycle. We assess this from A to Z and from all angles – including the development of durable flooring, a responsible approach to procurement, the sparing use of valuable resources, low energy consumption during manufacturing and the recyclability of our floorings. Environmental factors are considered as much from a social point of view as they are from an economic perspective, to bring you – as well as future generations – the greatest benefits.

Certified quality – for maximum safety

Our EXPONA floorings have been inspected by independent, qualified testing institutions.

Flooring you can rely on

- All EXPONA floorings have been certified according to the Green Guide to Specification and awarded the top rating of A+. This guide is the oldest and most internationally widespread evaluation system for sustainable construction materials, released by the independent organisation BRE Global.
- An independent inspector from the Institut Bauen und Umwelt e.V. (IBU) inspects our environmental product declarations (EPD) for compliance with ISO 14025 and EN 14804. These inspections cover the entire life cycle of the products – from procurement of the raw materials to their disposal.
- As a provider of LVT floorings, we have been awarded the DGNB Navigator Label from the German Society for Sustainable Construction. To ensure that customers have quick and easy access to all key information regarding sustainable construction, all products in the collection are listed in the DGNB Navigator with the corresponding EPD.

Cost savings – a long-term benefit

The quality of EXPONA floorings and the special CleanShield™ surface treatment – which makes flooring easy to clean with a minimum of water, energy and cleaning agent – both pay off for you too. The maintenance costs of EXPONA floorings are approx. 30% lower than other flooring materials. This is a significant saving, because the maintenance costs of floorings over a 10-year period represent around 90% of the total costs of the floor – and EXPONA floorings usually last twice as long as other floorings.



www.bre.co.uk



www.dgnb-navigator.de



www.ibu-epd.com



FAQ at a glance



1

What is vinyl, and what is LVT (luxury vinyl tile) flooring?

The main component of vinyl flooring is polyvinyl chloride (PVC). This material is also used for manufacturing products such as life-saving medicines, children's toys, shoes and food packaging. When subject to specific processing techniques, polyvinyl chloride presents the optimum characteristics for use in flooring, since it is low-maintenance, robust, resistant to damp and durable. This is why LVT flooring has proved its worth for a good number of decades in buildings such as shops, hospitals and restaurants.

2

What are the benefits of vinyl flooring, particularly for the home?

Over the last 25 years, we have developed, optimised and perfected our printing and embossing techniques to such an extent that our wood and stone designs look **deceptively real** and have an authentic **textured finish**, making it incredibly difficult to tell them apart from their natural counterparts. This explains how we became the leading supplier of healthy vinyl floorings for homes. Since then, EXPONA floorings have become particularly popular for both residential and commercial properties. They are as beautiful as wood, yet are **waterproof and low-maintenance**, too. They are as attractive as ceramic, yet are **comfortingly warm underfoot**. EXPONA can be installed in any room – including the lounge, kitchen and bathroom – ensuring a consistent, harmonious floor design throughout the house. Even more exclusivity: the dimensions of the planks and tiles allow the designs to be installed in a wide range of patterns, or combined with different feature strips and grouting strips. Our collection also comprises unique, striking designs – for example, graphic patterns.

3

What is the composition of EXPONA vinyl flooring?

Due to their **minimal installation height**, the vinyl floorings are also perfect for renovations. Old tiles do not need to be chiselled out – the vinyl flooring can be laid directly on top of a professionally primed tiled floor. There is no need to plane doors down, either.

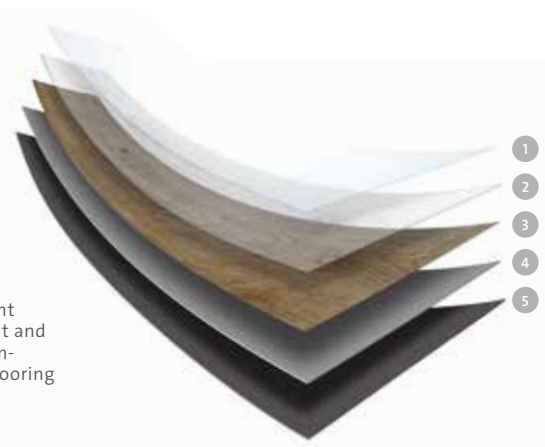
1 CleanShield™ surface treatment
Easier maintenance and less time and effort spent cleaning, thanks to the 100% polyurethane PUR surface treatment.

3 Decoration layer
The different designs are transferred onto the decoration layer using innovative printing techniques.

2 Wear layer
The high-density, transparent coating is extremely resilient and protects the pattern. The embossed surface makes the flooring incredibly realistic.

4 Stabilisation layer
Greater dimensional stability due to the minimised impact of physical factors (e.g. fluctuations in temperature).

5 Load-bearing layer
The basis for the durability and high-performance of EXPONA floorings.





4

What are plasticisers?

Because vinyl or PVC is a hard plastic, it needs to be made soft and flexible before it can be used as flooring. The substances that give vinyl the necessary malleability, dimensional stability and flexibility are known as 'plasticisers'. There are many different types of plasticiser. They are strictly tested to ensure that they are harmless for our health and either approved – or forbidden – for specific applications by the EU Commission. For example, the EU has forbidden the use of lower-molecular-weight (or short-chain) phthalates in certain areas, such as children's toys. Many years of research and the development of improved formulas have enabled the emergence of safer and non-hazardous plasticisers. EU risk assessments carried out by leading scientific experts from EU member states have shown that modern high-molecular-weight, long-chain plasticisers can be safely used in vinyl flooring without endangering either human health or – as they are biodegradable – the environment. **EXPONA floorings are manufactured exclusively using non-hazardous, organic and phthalate-free plasticisers.**

5

Which other products contain the same plasticisers that are used in EXPONA flooring?

The organic, phthalate-free plasticisers that we use are also used in strictly controlled fields, such as medicines, toys and products designed for food contact. **We ensure that our floorings comply with the strictest standards – such as those applicable to baby equipment.**



6

Is formaldehyde used for the manufacture of vinyl flooring?

No. Formaldehyde can be found in certain construction materials, floorings (e.g. ready-to-use parquet and laminate flooring) and furniture. Because formaldehyde has been declared as a carcinogenic substance, its concentration indoors is not allowed to exceed a certain recommended threshold. **Our vinyl flooring is manufactured strictly without any formaldehyde.**

7

What impact does vinyl have on valuable resources?

With a petroleum content of 43%, vinyl only contains a small amount of non-renewable resources, compared to other products. Petroleum can be found in almost all items that we use on a daily basis, such as toothbrushes, shower products, ballpoint pens and medicines. Chloride, which makes up almost 57% of vinyl, is derived – like the majority of the salt that we eat – from rock salt, which is available in large, virtually infinite, supply. We refrain from using any type of wood as a raw material at all – in fact, wood never even enters our manufacturing process. **Modern manufacturing processes mean that vinyl has a low environmental impact.** Because the material can be processed at low temperatures, the energy required for manufacturing is relatively low compared to other materials such as metal, glass and ceramics. Other benefits include durability, low-maintenance properties and good recyclability.





A winning choice for quality and aesthetics



The original – built on decades of experience

As one of the first providers of healthy vinyl floorings, we possess more than 20 years of experience and unparalleled expertise in the design and manufacturing of first-class flooring solutions. With 45 million square metres of EXPONA vinyl flooring already laid on customers' floors and our continual investment in development and innovation, you can rest assured that you have chosen a first-class flooring.



Extraordinary designs – greater individuality

All designs have been conceived with minute attention to detail, resulting in natural-looking effects, realistic surfaces and design-coordinated dimensions – in other words, a product that is as harmonious as it is perfect. Each design comprises a variety of different planks and tiles, ensuring that the large-scale effect looks incredibly natural – allowing you to enjoy ultimate exclusivity.



3D effect – flooring that looks and feels realistic

Our wide range of wood and stone designs are treated with up to six special colours during the manufacturing process, resulting in exceptional colour saturation and a uniquely realistic matt tone. The special way in which the surface embossing is coordinated with the design coating creates an authentic feel to the finish with an exclusive 3D effect – for your ultimate flooring experience.



A winning choice for safety and easy maintenance



Special manufacturing processes – best quality and stability

We take the time we need to achieve outstanding results, integrating the best technical production methods in our manufacturing processes. We put a lot into our flooring – but it pays off! This explains why your EXPONA vinyl flooring is of outstanding quality, with the best possible stability for extreme robustness and durability.



Low-maintenance – CleanShield™ surface treatment

Our unique, cross-linked and UV-hardened PUR surface treatment protects the flooring over the long term, making it extremely hard-wearing and low-maintenance. Protection that works – so that your design flooring always stays looking good.



Waterproof – suitable for damp rooms

EXPONA floorings are waterproof. They don't swell up when in contact with water, which makes them perfect solutions for kitchen and bathrooms.



Convincing quality – 15-year warranty*

You benefit from our high quality, expertise and outstanding manufacturing processes. Because we are so convinced of the quality of EXPONA vinyl floorings, we offer a 15-year guarantee* – wherever they are in your home.

*Please refer to the guarantee for details



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