

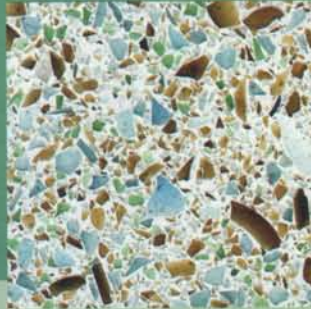


issues sustainability

Five of the best

Want to source green materials? It's easier than you think.

There are plenty of environmentally benign alternatives out there. Here, FX picks some of its favourites



TTURA

TTURA is a durable material typically consisting of 85 per cent recycled glass combined with a solvent-free resin. It can be laid as a screed or cast into tiles and has a high resistance to UV rays and chemical resistance to oils, petrol, diesel, alcohol, urine, dilute acids and alkalis.

The material uses post-consumer, building and automotive waste glass, which in the past has been difficult to recycle into product. Developed by the Design Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University in collaboration with Resin Building Products of Doncaster, TTURA is supplied by Eight Inch, which specialises in the design, development and manufacture of sustainable materials and products. www.eightinch.co.uk

Stratica

Stratica Eco-Polymeric flooring is Amtico's response to the demand for environmentally responsible solutions for public and corporate spaces. Chlorine-free, containing no plasticisers and emitting no volatile organic compounds (VOCs), the product does not need dressing or cleaning with caustic chemicals, which minimises lifetime cost as well as environmental impact.

www.stratica.com



Smile Plastics

Smile Plastics manufactures a range of recycled plastic sheet, much of which retains some visual clue to the product's previous life. The company began in 1994 by making plastic sheet from old plastic bottles, which had the appearance of multicoloured comflakes compressed by heat and pressure. It also has more hardwearing product ranges made from high-impact polystyrene (HIPS) and industrial plastic. More whimsical products include sheet made from old mobile phones (below) and wellies. The sheets are easy to work and can be sawn, drilled, routed and planed using conventional workshop tools. www.smile-plastics.co.uk



Plyboo

Great name, great product. Plyboo is laminated bamboo produced by Smith and Fong in the US: the company supplies flooring, plywood, panelling and veneers. Plyboo is shrink/swell resistant and durable, being as hard as most oak flooring.

Unlike traditional hardwoods, bamboo does not require replanting when harvested: mature bamboo has an extensive root system that continues to send up new shoots for decades. Bamboo also grows to a size that can be usefully harvested in just four years.

www.plyboo.com



DURAT

DURAT is a polyester-based, solid-surface material which contains 50 per cent recycled plastics and is 100 per cent recyclable. It can be used to create furniture surfaces for areas including kitchens and bathrooms, and withstands wear, humidity, and chemicals.

DURAT surfaces are most often made to measure in accordance with an architect's drawings. DURAT sheet (standard size 2,900mm x 800mm with a thickness of 12mm) is handled with carpentry tools, and glued with DURAT glue.

www.durat.com

