



LifeLine flooring for the health care sector





The innovative LifeLine™ flooring provides much more than resistance to wear and ease of maintenance

Each material is the sum of its parts, its structural elements affecting the properties and functionality of the product. Finnish Upofloor has developed innovative flooring for public spaces, the properties of which are ideally suited to the demands of the care sector. The LifeLine flooring material is manufactured exclusively of natural minerals and pure polymers: it does not contain PVC, plasticisers, heavy metals or other elements that might prove harmful or outright hazardous to human health or the environment.

LifeLine provides users with more advanced maintenance and wear resistance properties than conventional, widely used floorings do, as well as a flooring alternative that is environmentally friendly and safe for people.

Research shows: easiest to maintain

The dense, wear-resistant surface of LifeLine comprises ionomers similar to those used in various applications in e.g. dental technology and tooth implants; since dirt cannot penetrate the material it is easy to remove. The antistatic qualities of the surface layer also facilitate maintenance. Cleaning implements move smoothly over the ionomer surface, making the work less taxing in physical terms. LifeLine does not require waxing; its excellent maintainability and elegant appearance will last through the years.

Factors impacting on human well-being and healing environment are especially pronounced in hospitals and other care sector facilities such as private clinics, service centres and day-care centres. Broadly defined, these factors include the materials used for interior decoration.

Durability and ease of maintenance have conventionally been considered the most significant properties of interior decoration materials. Moreover, the functionality and aesthetic character of public premises have an effect on the mental state and comfort experienced by both personnel and patients.

Upofloor has taken the concept of flooring to the next level by developing new generation flooring that supports the sustainable ecological and health-related choices of a new era.

FACT

The LifeLine CS contract sheet with welded seams can be used in cases in which a completely waterproof and seamless surface is required. The contract sheet can also be used as covered skirting and in drain installations.





FACT

The disintegration of plasticisers used in PVC flooring, resulting from dampness in the subfloor and alkaline stress, may cause allergic reactions in the eyes and respiratory system with long-term exposure. This phenomenon of disintegration does not occur in plasticiser-free LifeLine floorings. No volatile emissions were found in studies conducted by the Technical Research Centre of Finland.

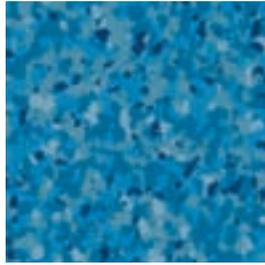
FACT

The plasticisers used in PVC flooring make it more susceptible to dirt while hampering maintenance and making cleaning more expensive and more taxing in ergonomic terms. LifeLine is plasticiser-free. A doctoral thesis from the University of Helsinki stated that LifeLine's surface is less susceptible to dirt and easier to clean than conventional PUR-coated floorings containing plasticisers.

LifeLine CS Contract sheet



LifeLine Tile



LifeLine LT Luxurytile



Unsurpassed resistance to chemicals, antibacterial properties

LifeLine denotes a hygienic surface. Ease of maintenance, the density of the wear layer and the material's resistance to dampness and strong chemicals make LifeLine an exceptionally hygienic flooring throughout its entire life cycle. Various acids, alkalis and disinfectants leave no marks on the flooring, and rubber products (such as hospital bed casters) do not stain it. LifeLine is, among other things, the only flooring from which hospital hand rinsing materials and silver nitrate (lapis) can be cleansed without permanent colour alterations to the flooring.

The mineral-based, dense and dampness resistant material is ideally suited to the hospital environment since





Comfortable to use

LifeLine flooring is user-friendly as well as comfortable and safe to walk on. Its slightly embossed surface structure and subtle elasticity provide excellent slip resistance. LifeLine can tolerate heavy concentrated loads, making it easy to push hospital beds and meal carts over the flooring.



it does not act as a substrate for bacterial growth. According to laboratory tests, even the notorious MRSA bacteria cannot survive on this surface.

Clean indoor air – no identified emissions

People often spend long stretches of time at a hospital, making the high quality of indoor air all the more important. LifeLine floorings do not emit hazardous substances in any situation; in studies, they have not been found to emit any volatile substances. LifeLine floorings are less hazardous in cases of fire than the other floorings commonly used in hospitals. LifeLine flooring does not support combustion in fire situations, nor does it generate toxic combustion gases such as hydrogen chloride or sulphur dioxide. These gases are generated as PVC burns, and they are harmful to the human respiratory system and electronic devices.

FACT *Plasticisers*

PVC is made flexible by means of plasticisers. Plasticisers contain so-called phthalates. Several phthalates used in plasticisers have been banned because of the health hazards they represent. The industry has had to look for replacements for phthalates, which have proven a health risk, in products such as plastic food containers and children's toys. PVC-free LifeLine does not add to the phthalate load indoors.



FACT

Ease of maintenance plays a significant role in the cost-efficiency of flooring, since more than 90% of the total costs of flooring consist of maintenance.

Comprehensively cost-efficient hospital flooring

Replacing the flooring in a hospital is an expensive and complex procedure, which heightens the importance of durability and a long life cycle on these premises. Thanks to its excellent resistance to wear and chemicals, LifeLine is a durable flooring. The life cycle of LifeLine reaches the same length as that of PVC floors, renowned for their durability. The colour of the flooring is highly resistant to UV radiation. Moving furniture around will not leave a different-coloured area on the floor, making it easier to convert a space for another use, if necessary.

Owing to its ionomer surface, LifeLine is easy to maintain; common cleansers and conditioners are adequate for floor maintenance, while waxing and wax removal along with the related moving of furniture are not required. This means that floorings can be used at all times. Due to its excellent resistance to chemicals, damaging LifeLine flooring through incorrect maintenance is practically impossible. Even after heavy soiling, the flooring can always be restored to its original state.

Product family features a variety of options

The LifeLine product family comprises three products: The chip-pattern LifeLine tile is 50 cm x 50 cm in size, the nearly solid-colour LifeLine CS is a sheet product and LifeLine LT is a wood-pattern design tile. All LifeLine floorings are 2.0 mm thick, meaning that you can combine them with one another or use them in the various spaces of a building – for instance, the chip-pattern tile for lobbies and hallways, the more evenly coloured CS sheet flooring for patient rooms, and the luxurious LT tile for guest rooms, dining facilities and lecture halls. All of the floorings are maintained using the same methods, making it easy to clean them using the same cleaning implements and cleansers.

Floorings for sustainable development

No ecologically hazardous substances are used in the manufacture of LifeLine floorings. The products contain no chlorine, plasticisers, heavy metals, phthalates or stabilisers. Therefore, they do not emit allergenic substances, or generate toxic combustion gases in the case of fire. The new Thermofix production line has a low energy demand. The material is recyclable during production, can be disposed of by burning, and used as energy producing waste.

LifeLine

Applications in hospitals: patient rooms, hallways and lobbies, laboratories, offices, conference rooms and lecture halls, cafeterias and dining rooms.

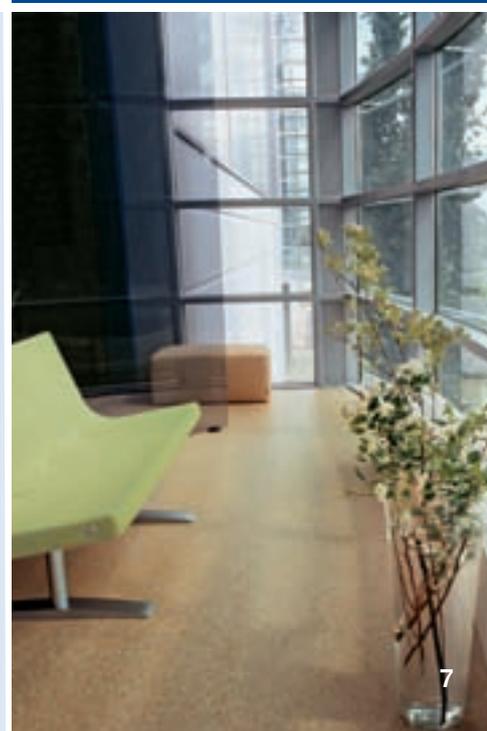
Product EN 14565 PVC and plasticiser-free resilient flooring for public premises

Collection	LifeLine tile	LifeLine CS sheet flooring	LifeLine LT luxury tile
Tile size EN 427/ Sheet width	50 x 50 cm	145 cm	914.4 x 101.6 mm
Thickness EN 428	2.0 mm	2.0 mm	2.0 mm
Colours	25	48	12

LifeLine welding rods and skirtings are also available within the product family.

ISO 14001
Environmental
Management
System
Certified by DNV

ISO 9001
Quality
Management
System
Certified by DNV





Upofloor Oy, part of the Karelia Upofloor Corporation, is Finland's leading manufacturer of floorings for public premises. Upofloor (formerly Nokia Oy Floor Coverings) started manufacturing and marketing floorings in 1955 in Nokia, pioneering the flooring business in Finland, and has ever since developed floorings and their properties, with a particular focus on wear resistance and ease of maintenance. The PVC and plasticiser-free LifeLine product family is an Upofloor innovation that saw the light of day in 2004. LifeLine takes the concept of flooring to a new, environmentally conscious level: it meets the most challenging of requirements while providing a responsible choice that promotes the well-being of people and the environment.

UPOFLOOR

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