

Reuse Case Study

Background:

Spruce Carpets, based in Glasgow and operating now for 8 years, is a socially responsible enterprise which diverts floor coverings from landfill whilst providing good quality floor coverings at affordable cost to low income families and training and personal development opportunities to individuals distanced from the world of work through its volunteer programme.

Innovation in Reuse:

Spruce provides carpet tile uplift and reuse/recycling services to a number of commercial contractors, as well as being the only Scottish agent for the InterfaceFLOR Reuse programme which also diverts tiles from landfill. For example, Spruce Carpets worked with carpet manufacturer Mohawk to ensure that 7,000m² (30 tonnes) were diverted from landfill. The complete tiles were lifted, palletised and shrink-wrapped to provide load stability and protection during transit.

These tiles were then reused in a variety of local businesses in Scotland including offices, warehouses and shops, as well as being snapped up by householders from their retail outlet.

Carpet tiles with a durable nylon pile are an ideal product for refurbishment and re-use since their flexibility and rugged construction lends itself to a second life. The durability of carpet tiles is significantly higher than their actual life on the floor, which is why a reuse network is encouraged by Carpet Recycling UK. Reuse has the capability of providing the lowest carbon footprint option.

Mohawk International are keen to support Spruce in the community work opportunities created by tile refurbishment and expect this partnership to lead to growth in carpet tile diversion from landfill.



Comments:

Alex Weir from Spruce Carpets comments: "Spruce Carpets are keen to work with any partners who share our ambition to increase carpet tile (and other floor coverings) diversion from landfill. As well as the obvious environmental benefits of our work, the reusable floor coverings provide a source of vital commercial income to fund our charitable activities."

Jackie Taylor from Mohawk agrees: "Mohawk strive to minimise the Environmental Impact of any product we produce and this is a recovery route we are keen to pursue in the UK."