

# Best practice guide for reuse / recycling of commercial carpet waste

A guide for architects, manufacturers, distributors, flooring contractors, retailers, facilities managers, fit-out & refurbishment and demolition companies.

This guide aims to help with what to consider when commercial textile flooring is being uplifted, and how to handle it for best reusable value. The guide will also help on specification of sustainable textile flooring products.

Due to the nature of its installation and purpose, commercial carpet is a durable flooring product. A high proportion of commercial flooring is carpet tiles which are often replaced before the end of their useful life due to changes in use of properties, end of tenancies, or even speculative fit-outs.

Reuse of carpet tiles is only a small proportion of the volume of textile flooring waste diverted from landfill annually but is growing in popularity. Carpet tiles handled for reuse come from surplus stocks or graded reclaimed supply. Often tiles can be new or nearly new and there is plenty of life and value left in them. Individuals, charities, housing associations and businesses recognise the benefit of fitting repurposed carpet tiles to save on cost and resources.

## Prolonging the life of commercial flooring

To reduce the use of new materials and save on resources and costs, investing in the cleaning/ maintenance of commercial flooring is key. Rotation rather than replacement of the entire floor can save on costs and resources. Certain sections or areas of flooring may never be walked on, soiled or worn.



## What to consider when handling reuse and recycling of uplifted commercial tiles for best end value.

**Connect** with Carpet Recycling UK and its members in advance of new projects.

**Consider** what will happen to the previous flooring at planning stage to factor in any related costs/logistics.

**Area** of flooring to be uplifted to be provided.

**Condition** of flooring, is it stuck down or can it be easily lifted?

**Specification** of flooring if available can be useful for recyclers when selling the tiles.

**Access/Photos** Providing early access to the project for the recycler will help ensure that the quality and grading is fully understood and can help avoid any damage to the flooring through strip out.

**Timing** is key - to avoid contamination, removal and storage is preferred before removal of any plasterwork, ceiling and partitions.

**Storage** of carpet tiles must be inside to prevent moisture ingress.

**Handling** of tiles must be with care as for new tiles to maintain their quality and stop corners being broken. A wheeled skate can help with removal to the collection area. Our members recommend [Evo Supplies](#).

**Stacking** of carpet tiles in four columns onto standard pallets is suggested. A contractor can count out one stack of 125 tiles (ie. 500 tiles on a full pallet). All the pallets will then be equal height and a sensible weight (500 – 600kg), making them easier to manoeuvre onto a tail lift if there are no forklifts on site.

**Wrapping** shrink wrap pallets from the ground up, including the corners of the pallet at ground level and wrapping round the carpet to the top of the piles. Pallet wrap should not be pulled too tightly to protect the tile corners.

**Access** for carpet tiles must be to an indoor area, close to a suitable loading point with proper goods access. This is important in office blocks which may not have a loading area to avoid damage to premises/equipment.

**Punctuality** Goods must be ready at the appointed collection time to avoid surplus costs to the recycler.

**Dispose** If handling for reuse, dispose of perimeter cuts and any damaged tiles, to enable even pallets and avoid unnecessary cost.

If in doubt, contact Carpet Recycling UK on [info@carpetrecyclinguk.com](mailto:info@carpetrecyclinguk.com) to discuss your project.



*Example of wrapped tiles to maintain their quality*

Carpet Recycling UK has a network of member reuse and recycling companies across the UK. We want to help companies to consider reuse before recycling if possible.



### Not suitable for reuse?

Used carpet and textile flooring may not be suitable for reuse. For the latest full directory of reuse and member recyclers, go to [Find a Recycler - Carpet Recycling UK.](#)

### ReStart by Tarkett DESSO - Recycling post-use carpet tiles across the UK

For collection and recycling of post-use carpet tiles, consider working with Tarkett DESSO ReStart. Tarkett DESSO can arrange for collection of any manufacturers' carpet tiles, as long as they are not PVC backed. Tiles must be palletised and shrink-wrapped, the same as the conditions set out for re-use, as above. These can be full tiles or perimeter cuts. One Carpet Recycling UK member spoke about the collection service and how it works, you can read the piece here [Mayfield Floors working with Tarkett on carpet tile take back - Carpet Recycling UK.](#)

### Do you want to specify sustainable products?

Carpet Recycling UK core funders are the carpet and carpet tile manufacturers shown in the footer of this guide. They are taking voluntary producer responsibility and many of them already offer or are developing sustainable products and will help with solutions for the reuse and recycling of their products. Request products which are designed for recycling and include recycled content. Contact Carpet Recycling UK if you would like details or an introduction.

### Contact Carpet Recycling UK

Carpet Recycling UK is a not for profit organisation funded by companies across the supply chain to develop more sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions for carpet waste. Our ability to network with our members and wider network helps to provide you with the most feasible solutions to send your waste up the waste hierarchy and prevent waste being sent to landfill. Please visit our website for more information.

[www.carpetrecyclinguk.com](http://www.carpetrecyclinguk.com)

# Join Carpet Recycling UK to help make the UK carpet sector more sustainable!

With the help of Carpet Recycling UK, our members and wider network diverted 277,490 tonnes of waste carpet and textile flooring from landfill in 2019, approximately 65% of the total carpet waste arising in the UK. How can you help to increase this?

- C** Carpet Recycling UK is a not-for-profit membership association set up in 2008.
- A** We are an **association** of 110 member companies from across the carpet supply chain.
- R** We **respond** and advise on best practice for reuse and recycling of commercial carpet waste.
- P** We **provide** support and advice to flooring manufacturers, contractors and retailers.
- E** Members are **encouraged** to demonstrate their progress by entering our awards.
- T** **Tonnages** diverted from landfill are independently verified and reported regularly.
- W** **Waste** carpet and carpet tiles can be used again, ask us how our members can help.
- A** We **assess** companies' waste to find the most feasible and best recycling options.
- S** We demonstrate and promote **sustainability in design for recycling**.
- T** **Tell** us your story so that we can help you!
- E** Talk to us at our **events** – join our network!

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