

# FAQs

## Frequently asked questions

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
What is PVC	See PVC part in this booklet
Is PVC dangerous	This is a very emotional matter, object of a lot of controversies.it is like saying sea water is dangerous because it contains a chlorinated component (salt). But, Because of strong anti-vinyl lobbies, a PVC fear has been developed and spread all over. It originates in the 1 <sup>st</sup> development of this polymer when in VCM shape. The PVC used in our flooring industry does not contain any free VCM so the raw material we use is inert and stable ( for more see PVC-VCM & chlorine part in this booklet)
Dioxins are only from PVC	No, again a very partial statement -See part Dioxin-PVC in booklet
Is PVC carcinogenic	Tarkett PVC is very safe and does not contain any carcinogenic elements ( see safety data in this booklet)
Emissions from PVC Floors are dangerous	Our PVC floors are low emissive products and emit no more than floorings recognised as « natural ». Ask for emission test reports
PVC is polluting	After a complete Life Cycle Analysis, PVC Floorings demonstrate a favourable environmental outcome. PVC is a recyclable material and Tarkett is one of the 1 <sup>st</sup> PVC manufacturers to recycle PVC and investigating for further recycling of post-consumer goods. See recycling part of this booklet
Phtalates from PVC are dangerous	Many phtalates have an impact on health and environment and only a few are known to be dangerous. Tarkett has prohibited the use of listed toxic DEHP and DBP in its PVC Floorings since several years. See phtalates part in this booklet.
Is Bitumen tile backing better than PVC backing	PVC has a better stability and mechanical resistance than bitumen, but bitumen is cheaper.Considering global environment matters, bitumen is not recognized as better than PVC
Are Rubber Floorings better than PVC Floorings	Both are synthetic materials with different properties for each, it is more a question of taste and choice, but a major advantage of PVC Floorings is the PUR treatment for much easier maintenance, + facility of joint welding ( imperviousness). See internal Rubber Booklet

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Chlorine is bad and dangerous	Chlorine as such is everywhere in nature, it is not possible to suppress chlorine, which is essential for all living organism. We need it to make water drinkable and 85 % of all life saving medical drugs contain chlorine. Chlorine gas becomes toxic above a certain level. See chlorine part in this booklet
What are the key benefits of using PVC	Versatility, cost effectiveness, good mechanical properties, easy maintenance, unlimited design possibilities, safety, recyclability and much more
PVC should be banned	The response can only be emotional and subjective; it is the choice of each individual but it would make life more difficult if this was the case. The controversy is developed by lobbies using part of studies or interpretations of reports. But many more recent studies have demonstrated its good environmental performances. ( see next question and <a href="http://www.vinyl2010.org">www.vinyl2010.org</a> )
Can PVC be replaced	Yes in some usage but not all of them and at different costs (higher) and benefits ( less numerous and sometimes of lower quality). Replacement materials have not even be evaluated in terms of environmental impacts!
Is Textile a source of allergy	No, textile itself will not generate allergies. Allergy comes from the dust mites rejects that can be located in the textile floor but also in beds. If the floor is regularly maintained, and air refreshed, dust mites will not develop on the floor.
Do PVC Floorings create asthma and allergic symptoms in children	Some reports have stated this but it is only hypothesis and no medical evidence have been proven. More than 50 years of experience have not shown any health reaction
Textile is not hygienic	Synthetic textiles do not develop spontaneous generations of microbes. All are brought in from outside, that adequate cleaning will settle
What are the key benefits of using Textile	Comfort, warmth, acoustics, aesthetics, safety, cost effectiveness,
Linoleum is more natural than PVC Floorings	Yes, linoleum is made from natural raw materials with almost the same recipe as was manufactured some 150 years ago, before plastic chemistry.