

# RECOVINYL

news

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WELCOME to the latest edition of the Recovynyl newsletter. In this issue, find out about the new WRAP-funded PVC Flooring recycling trial and read about Melba-Swintex, a Recovynyl Recycler keen to increase its capacity for recycling flooring.

## AXION LAUNCHES FLOORING RECYCLING SCHEME

Pioneering trials aimed at demonstrating the sustainability and recyclability of PVC flexible flooring are to be launched this month.

Axion Recycling is conducting the six-month trials, with funding from WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme), which aim to collect and recycle substantial tonnages of post-installation offcuts and uplifted (end-of-life) flooring.

Axion is working with three leading flexible flooring manufacturers who have agreed to trial the production of new flooring products with recycled content. It is also liaising with a network of installers throughout the country who will collect old flooring and offcuts for recycling.

Jane Gardner, Project Co-ordinator, Axion Recycling explains: "We shall be visiting installers working on major floor projects, whether it's a big department store, hospital or school, to set up the best options for sustainable collection systems.

"Depending on where they're based and local collection facilities, these will either be bulk bags or cages to store the offcuts and old flooring material before it is sent for recycling."

According to Jane, the scheme has the potential to divert tonnes of valuable and recyclable material from landfill and turn it back into new products, thus saving the environment as well as valuable raw materials.

She adds: "Ultimately, we hope the trials will result in a sustainable, nationwide collection system for waste flexible flooring that will provide a consistent stream of material for manufacturers to re-use in a commercially viable product."

Tarkett-Marley Floors Ltd is taking part in the scheme. Pete Thomas, Environment & Quality Manager at Tarkett-Marley comments: "We are delighted to be members of this project and are committed to increasing both the amount of vinyl flooring which is recovered for recycling and the amount that is actually incorporated back into new floorings."



Installers wishing to take part in the scheme can contact Axion Recycling on 0161 426 7731 for more information or visit the website at [www.axionrecycling.com](http://www.axionrecycling.com).

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## Recycler Focus: Melba Swintex.

Melba Swintex produces traffic management equipment, such as traffic cones, barriers and temporary road signs at its site in Bury, Greater Manchester. With an annual turnover in excess of £17 million, its 120 strong workforce use recycled PVC material in the manufacture of its products. The company uses 1000 tonnes per month of recycled material – mainly PVC flooring and roofing, and recycled PVC from the automotive industry, typically derived from end-of-life vehicles.



Earlier this year Melba Products Limited and Swintex Limited amalgamated to form a new company Melba Swintex. Joining forces with Swintex has allowed Melba to significantly increase its customer base and double its annual turnover. As Dave Clegg, Director, comments:

“the merger of Melba with Swintex made commercial sense. Both companies produced similar products and it has proved to be an excellent opportunity to grow the business”

Commenting on the Recovynl scheme, Dave Clegg adds:

“ We have been recycling PVC for over 20 years and so membership of the scheme built on that existing activity. Membership of the scheme has been beneficial, increasing the volume of material we process. David Wiles has been particularly helpful in introducing us to some useful contacts and enabling us to put successful deals together.”



Melba Swintex is ready and willing to take PVC flooring for recycling. The company currently has an arrangement with Bonarfloors, Derby – a company who strive to achieve ‘closed loop’ recycling of their flooring. Any

excess material that they are unable to process themselves is sent to Melba Swintex for processing – usually around 20 tonnes per month. Dave Clegg is keen to expand this area of the business but currently there is an issue with the collection of the material. As Dave comments:

“We can collect flooring but it needs to be a significant volume in order to make it financially viable. What is really needed is some kind of scheme whereby the installers collect the post-use flooring and take it to some centralised depot - half a dozen places that installers can take the material and then we can collect it. The whole thing needs to be done on an industrial scale”



Melba Swintex have contacts with several companies who make PVC-backed carpet tiles and recycle the PVC from the manufacturing and installation waste. The company recently secured a contract with the Resilient Flooring Association to recycle resilient flooring materials. As he explained, industrial flooring contains abrasive material to make it both long-lasting and to give it anti-slip properties. This abrasive material causes problems when the flooring is shredded, granulated or extruded because the abrasive nature of it wears away the machinery. Altro Flooring, Tarkett Marley Flooring and Polyfloor have entered into an agreement to finance the process to harden the screw and barrel of Melba Swintex’s extruders, enabling the company to process industrial flooring. When this service gets off the ground it will be unique and will allow Melba Swintex to significantly increase the volume of PVC flooring it processes.

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