



Designed for possibilities.  
Made for people.



## Adapting spaces: care homes and hospitals

Your guide to using  
Altro floors, walls and doors

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# Adapting spaces for a hygienic, safe and welcoming environment

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Your guide to using Altro floors, walls and doors to create the optimum environment as you reconfigure hospitals and care homes.

As staff, patients, residents and visitors adjust to life in a world dealing with Coronavirus, they need a safe environment: somewhere that feels as safe as home. And that safety includes both physical and mental wellbeing.

Cleaning and hygiene are top of mind. All users will need reassurance that your premises

are clean and well maintained. Your budgets may be tight and so you want reassurance too: that what you are about to invest in will offer you proven cleanability and hygiene, will maintain its appearance and performance for years and provide you with excellent long-term value.

We have put together a collection that offer you precisely all this!





# Take the worry out of adapting your spaces. Trust the guaranteed, proven solution for all this: The Altro solution

Install vinyl flooring combined with wall cladding and doors for a **total hygienic system** which is **proven** to be easy to clean and maintain.

## System overview

- Altro are a recommended supplier of vinyl and resin floors and floor accessories on the Department of Health's ProCure22 Framework for NHS and social care construction schemes in England. This follows our appointment in 2018 as a recommended supplier of wall and door systems, including the **Altro Whiterock** and **Altro Fortis** systems; this means their **hygienic credentials meet the strictest requirements** for infection control and critical care
- Altro are the only walls manufacturer on the P22 supplier list to have been awarded DSDC accreditation and we are the only walls and doors manufacturer to have HACCP approval for wall and floor products
- Hygienic floors, doors and walls systems with unrivalled **industry-leading guarantees** up to 20 years. We were established in 1919 and you know our guarantees will stand the test of time
- **Easy to clean** floors, doors and walls - **dirt sits on the surface rather than penetrating** the whole pile on the carpet, the substrate on a damaged painted wall, the grout or cracks on tiles
- **Steam cleanable** with high chemical resistance for disinfecting floors and walls (**tested with up to 1,312 chemicals** for proven performance)
- Altro floors, doors and walls have impervious, hard, level, non-porous surfaces with **no hiding places for microorganisms**, which can lead to the growth of viruses and bacteria
- **Proven effective** with detergents. No need to vacuum prior to wet cleaning (unlike carpet / carpet tiles) and the release of the contaminant is quicker
- Altro floors feature **Altro Easyclean Technology**

Altro have a number of partnerships with leading associations working with them to provide the ranges and colours needed in real world environments. Contact us to find out more.







# Do your current surfaces meet your hygiene requirements and give your staff, patients, residents and visitors the reassurance they need?

You may well currently have carpet or carpet tiles installed, paint on the walls and tiles both on your walls and floors. Let's take a close look at the hygienic properties of these surfaces and Altro alternatives.

## Carpet tiles / carpets

Are you managing or designing for a care home? Historically, this has been the domain of carpet and carpet tiles; but these materials are problematic with robust cleaning with chemicals.

### The problems with carpet tiles / carpet

- Carpet tiles / carpets are usually made of materials such as nylon polypropylene or organic porous materials including wool and jute; all of these are **highly absorbent** and are **designed to trap dust and dirt**, therefore make cleaning more difficult
- Some carpets / carpet tiles feature impervious PVC-backing to offer protection in care homes against incontinence. While this backing can help protect the subfloor from becoming contaminated from any spillages, it has the negative affect of meaning that the carpet / carpet tiles can **retain dampness**, requiring a **stringent cleaning process**
- Carpet tiles are frequently cleaned with a wet extraction unit and tend not to be impervious; the result is that the water from the wet clean can go through the carpet tile and its backing, reaching the subfloor and **affecting** not just the subfloor itself, but also the **adhesives and services underneath**, for example electrics and data cabling
- Some carpet tile manufacturers advise that pile soft carpet tiles / carpets can only be cleaned at up to 50°C max; **viruses are killed at 56°C** according to US National Library of Medicine
- Carpet tiles / carpets are designed to be vacuumed and not cleaned daily with the detergent required to kill viruses– **you cannot vacuum up bacteria and viruses**
- Having vacuumed, in order to kill any virus you need to **wet clean the carpet / carpet tiles with detergent daily at 56°C**. This daily process is required because the virus remains active for 24 hours on this surface. Cleaning therefore becomes more costly in terms of time and money, while requiring a long time, possibly several hours, to dry; this means your surface can remain damp for hours each day after cleaning, providing the potential for yet more ideal conditions for the growth of microorganisms, including bacteria and viruses
- Over-wetting, compared with recommended wetting amounts in the cleaning process, can cause carpet tiles to curl, be prone to fast **re-soiling**, the **growth of mildew** and the occurrence of odours
- **Detergents can stain carpet tiles / carpet** easily and need to penetrate properly to clean fully
- Cleaners who may be inexperienced with detergents may over-apply them, potentially leading to a residue remaining on the fibres attracting **fast re-soiling**
- Some carpet tiles can take **12-24 hours to dry fully** when steam cleaned, during which time they cannot be walked on; if you absolutely have to walk on them, then it is recommended that you wear plastic bags on your feet



Specific comparison of our system against carpets / carpet tiles

- **Acoustics – similar dB levels are available** to those offered by carpet tiles, which average at 17-18dB, so there's no need to compromise on in-room sound and transmission of noise. Minimise noise from footsteps by using Altro Cantata and Altro Wood adhesive-free floors which offer 14dB, Altro Ensemble or Altro Orchestra with 15dB or acoustic Altro Serenade with 19dB protection. Alternatively, you can combine the floor of your choice with impact sound reduction underlays Altro 1101 and Altro Everlay B, which offer sound reductions of 18dB and 20dB respectively
- **Comfort underfoot is now a key performance benefit** of many of our floors (particularly the ones named above) to rival levels afforded by carpet tiles
- You can **clean** Altro vinyl floors at **up to 60°C**; viruses are killed at 56°C – US National Library of Medicine. In order to get rid of viruses from hard surfaces, the ability to **spray, steam or power clean our products** is vital; no different detergent is needed, just your standard process, saving you considerable time and proving more hygienic
- As dirt sits on the surface of our flooring, rather than penetrating the pile of a carpet tile / carpet, you can **clean our floors faster** - with a wider range of products that are less likely to cause damage to the floor - and they dry faster for a speedy return to service
- Depending on the size of your area, there are **no / few joints** on our floors – most microorganisms are harboured in the joints of carpet tiles
- Tackifier / acrylic adhesives, as used in carpets / carpet tiles break down faster and can lead to the **growth of microorganisms** faster than the adhesives used with vinyl flooring
- Our vinyl floors are up to 4mm thick with guaranteed performance for up to 20 years; you will **not wear through them or damage them** when you follow our cleaning recommendations
- Our vinyl floors are impervious, when you wet clean **water will not penetrate** through the flooring to subfloor, potentially damaging the subfloor itself and any underlying electrics or data cabling etc
- Vinyl flooring is a proven, robust solution, **not affected by indentation** from furniture movement or rolling loads; carpet / carpet tiles, however, can suffer from damage to or flattening of the pile, making furniture reconfiguration less attractive and affecting the overall aesthetic ambience of the environment



# Painted walls

The chances are you have many painted corridors and spaces across all your buildings. Let's examine how paint performs where hygiene is critical.

## The problems with paint

- **Paint is only microns thick** and therefore easily damaged. Plasterboard under paint tends to be weak and absorbent and **easily dented or damaged**, particularly below waist height where walls can be prone to knocks and scrapes, or subject to cracks from building movement. These damaged surfaces can harbour and provide **breeding grounds for microorganisms** more readily than undamaged, smooth surfaces, as they are more porous
- Emulsion paint is not designed to be wet cleaned; it can come away when cleaned with water, a process which is **exacerbated** when cleaned with the detergents required to keep an area hygienic. This results in patchiness, reducing the overall aesthetic appeal of an area and requiring further maintenance
- The World Health Organisation has proved that the Covid 19 virus will **live for 72 hours** on a hard surface, such as paint, therefore necessitating regular detergent cleaning, which can damage this type of surface



## Specific comparison of our system against paint

- Our wall cladding is 2.5mm thick, **guaranteed for up to 20 years**
- It is impact-resistant and impervious. **Altro Fortis** wall protection will **protect your wall** and substrate from bumps and scrapes
- Even though our wall cladding is a hard surface, it is easy to clean, even with detergent, **up to 60°C**
- The colour runs through the thickness of the product for **aesthetic durability**
- It is **fully bonded** and will protect the substrate, even when knocked or bumped into, giving nowhere for microorganisms to hide and breed, either on the surface or behind the sheet itself as there are no voids



Tiles

Do you choose tiles for spaces including wet environments? The tiles themselves and the grout do not support the need for hygiene and ease of maintenance as you might expect.

The problems with tiles

- Tiles are proven to **crack and shatter** more easily than Altro Whiterock hygienic wall cladding and their damaged surfaces can harbour and provide **breeding grounds for microorganisms** more readily than undamaged, smooth surfaces; furthermore, individual damaged tiles are extremely difficult to remove, perpetuating the problem
- Check out the damage resistance of Altro Whiterock compared with tiles here <https://www.altro.co.uk/Walls/Test-results-for-Altro-Whiterock-wall-cladding/Damage-resistant>
- Grout can become **porous** with age and harbour microorganisms, providing breeding grounds for bacteria and viruses
- Grout is **difficult to clean**, making it even harder to remove microorganisms. It can also **shrink** and cause gaps between tiles, providing perfect areas for microorganisms to multiply
- Grout and tiles can stain when cleaned with detergents
- Grout gets dirty and becomes **discoloured** from certain detergents, soiling and the build-up of body fats
- If grout is stained / discoloured, the **aesthetics are spoiled**. If an area of grout is replaced, it can look dramatically different from the rest. Equally, if a damaged tile is replaced, unless there is another from the same batch to replace it, there will be a visual colour difference



Specific comparison of our system against tiles

- Altro floors and walls are durable and hygienic, with **life expectancies of up to 25 years**. They provide seamless, impervious and impact-resistant surfaces, which provide low maintenance for life
- Altro Whiterock hygienic wall cladding has a **smooth, non-porous and easy to clean surface**, which comes in sheets to provide coverage from floor to ceiling. A fully bonded and watertight system, it gives microorganisms, bacteria and vermin **nowhere to hide**. It is simple to keep clean: it's easy to wipe, steam or power-wash clean; any risk of moisture and / or water ingress is avoided for the life of the product, so there's no need to worry about the risk of water damage. Combined with Altro doors and Altro floors it creates an impervious system that meets the hygienic requirements of even the most critical care environments
- There is **no grout** required with our wall and floor systems so you avoid all the maintenance problems associated with it
- For smaller areas such as washrooms, toilets and kitchens, Altro Whiterock Splashbacks are the **hygienic alternative**, available as kits in a range of sizes to suit most hand wash basins and vanity units, or custom sized for the perfect fit
- Giving you the flexibility to coordinate or contrast, you **don't have to compromise** on the design options afforded by tiles, as Altro Whiterock hygienic wall cladding and Altro Whiterock Splashbacks, as well as Altro vinyl, come in a vast array of colours and finishes complemented by colour-matched sealants and weldrods

# A simpler way to reconfigure spaces fast!

As you plan how to adapt your buildings or individual spaces, there is a straightforward way to take the worry out of rapid space reconfiguration – we’ve got just the solution you need to create a hygienic space in a quick and cost-effective way!

What sort of areas might you decide to adapt? Here are just a couple of examples, there are others further on in this guide

## Hospitals

- Open up waiting spaces to allow for social distancing
- Integrate a one way system by changing the layout
- Change the function of wards, eg children’s to adults’
- Alter spaces, such as outbuildings, to create more wards
- Redesign current wards to allow for more robust hygiene and cleaning requirements

## Care homes

- Open up spaces to allow for social distancing
- Integrate a one way system by changing the layout
- Create new visitor spaces to allow for safe visits
- Redesign bedrooms and ensuites to allow for more robust hygiene and cleaning requirements

## The right materials for rapid change

If you are altering a current or creating a new space, combine **adhesive-free flooring**, which is easy to remove post-use if you wish to change back the function of the space, **with hygienic wall cladding**, installed in those parts of the space with the highest touch point risk. The wall cladding looks good when combined with other wall materials and can easily suit any functionality should the space change function again.

## How to change your flooring fast!

If you want to alter your flooring to

- Change the functionality of an area
- Create flexible, multi-purpose spaces
- Change the colours / patterns to aid a one-way system
- Create zoning and boundaries
- Refresh the design for improved cleaning, hygiene and wellbeing

then here’s an easier way to do it...

## Use Altro adhesive-free flooring to save you up to 50% installation time and 35% costs

Closing a busy space for a lengthy period is not an option, so by installing an adhesive-free floor the work can be completed quickly so that traffic flow is uninterrupted.

## Here’s the process

- Remove your existing flooring, such as carpet tiles or old lino / vinyl
- Ensure the floor is free of any remaining debris
- Install an Altro adhesive-free floor direct over the substrate without any need to use a levelling compound, damp-proof membrane or adhesive – saving you up to 50% installation time and up to 35% costs (see opposite)
- Weld and walk on the same day
- No need for wet trades
- Minimal disruption for you, get everyone back working faster

## What if you want to keep your existing flooring?

If you have recently installed new flooring which you don’t want to remove or alter, you can lay adhesive-free flooring over it and keep it there while social distancing measures are required, for example; then remove it without damaging your original floor when you wish to.

A customer of ours in Denmark has recently overlaid their lino flooring with Altro Cantata, as they believed the lino would not stand up to the new volume of hand sanitiser being spilled on it. The reasons for overlaying your floor with adhesive-free flooring may be many, but you’ll end up with one successful result!

## We have three adhesive-free ranges to choose from

- **Altro Cantata™** – smooth floor, newly refreshed range
- **Altro Wood™ adhesive-free** – biophilic safety floor
- **Altro XpressLay™** – safety floor

## Want to know more? Adhesive-free technology in a nutshell...

- **Halves installation time, minimises downtime** - depending on substrate condition: a 200m<sup>2</sup> corridor can be laid in two days compared with four days with an adhered floor covering, with an approximate 35% cost saving
- Up to **14db impact sound reduction** and **comfort underfoot**
- With **15-year life expectancy and 10-year guarantee** you needn’t fear that an adhesive-free product will let you down
- **Helps you meet sustainability goals** – environmental credentials: sustainable option - 100% recyclable post-consumer

- **Sustainable wellbeing** – easy to clean, hygienic solution
- **Easy maintenance** - an adhesive-free floor is a great problem-solver. Subfloors will stay clean from adhesive; and easy access to the subfloors for maintenance or repairs means less damage to floors and walls
- **No adhesive- associated odours**, which is vital in a hospital or care home, with areas which cannot be closed; therefore, keeping disruption and distress to users to a minimum
- **Save money** – save costs on disposal by diverting your waste from landfill or recycling the floor and reusing it somewhere else
- Provides the same **low residual indentation** as adhered flooring
- Can be used for **kit-cutting to aid wayfinding and navigation** in the same way as adhered flooring

See what Anna Carrier at The Lawns Care Home has to say about her adhesive-free installation

<https://youtu.be/XIOLSauZnB4>



# Cleaning and hygiene

“After taking the brief from the client confirming a bright and contemporary feel was required coupled with the need to have hygienic and easy clean surfaces, it became obvious that the combination of Altro Whiterock White hygienic wall cladding and Altro safety flooring would exactly meet the specification.”

Nigel Wright, Complete Interiors

## The challenge for care homes – maintaining hygiene

Picture the scene – elderly residents walking down the corridor, manoeuvring round the dining table, getting in and out of bed. What do they do? They bump into the walls and doors. And as everyone moves around the care home, they spill things on the floor. As you have seen on page 7, carpet tiles and carpet do not support the easy maintenance of hygiene – nor do painted walls!

Regular disinfecting is vital; meaning more rigorous and frequent cleaning with stronger chemicals, which won't stain surfaces, is required and surfaces which tolerate these demands are requisite.

## The challenge for hospitals – maintaining hygiene

A hospital never rests, people and equipment are forever on the go; so the need to clean and maintain hygiene is constant. Wheelchairs, beds and trolleys are manoeuvred - bumping into walls and doors as they go - thousands of feet pace the corridors, bringing the outside in. Maintaining hygiene is about more than being easy-to-clean; resilient surfaces are paramount in the fight against infection. to perform for up to 20 years

## We have the perfect solution in our hygienic system

As you specify materials to support your requirements for hygiene, remember

- You can scrub Altro Whiterock and Altro Fortis walls and doors thousands of times without damaging them
- Altro Fortis Titanium - dense, impervious wall protection. Easy-to-clean surface, ideal solution where food may splatter on the walls. The texture of the sheet is more subtle than the majority of wall protection products, which are more aggressively textured and therefore do not offer the same hygienic protection and ease of cleaning

- You can steam clean Altro floors thousands of times without damaging them
- They will not fail, the surface will not get compromised, they are designed to work together, with our walls, as a hygienic system - guaranteed

## Designed for integrated hygiene and ease of cleaning

Altro Whiterock walls and doors, combined with Altro safety or Altro smooth floors, create an impervious and easy to clean system that meets the hygienic requirements of even the most critical care environments— yet they also provide an extensive colour palette to make a welcoming and aesthetically pleasing environment whether your goals are to sooth or stimulate.

Altro walls are impervious and easy to clean making it possible to prevent the build-up of mould, bacteria, fungi and viruses. Altro Whiterock hygienic walls and Altro Fortis wall protection are both impact-resistant and prevent damage that can lead to the growth of bacteria, viruses and mould.

For internal rooms with a low chance of spills from water, Altro Operetta, Altro Orchestra and Altro Serenade flooring provide an easy to clean surface, and include comfort and acoustic options. With up to 40 colour choices, they provide an aesthetically pleasing environment that is also comfortable underfoot. Altro safety floors can be used for areas prone to spills of water. Altro Stronghold 30 in kitchens and Altro Aquarius and Altro Pisces in bathrooms reduce the chance of a slip from water or contaminants to one in a million to make all users feel safe and staff confident as they are providing support.



**What about welds?** A good weld is as strong as any part of the flooring and won't compromise hygiene! Welds' failing can be an issue if they are not installed correctly. If you install adhesive-free flooring, the installation process can be up to 50% faster, so you don't have to rush your weld. We have lots of guidance on welding, including "how to" videos or call us if you have any concerns.

<https://www.altro.co.uk/Support/Videos>  
We have cleaning guides and information available here <https://www.altro.co.uk/Support/Cleaning>.

"I think the floors are super easy to clean. I have worked in many kitchens in my career, and this is the first time I've worked on a floor that is so easy to clean. With a tiled floor, I often experienced having to scrub for half an hour to get the floor clean."

Søren Schwarz, Canteen Manager, Siemens, Sønderborg, Sweden



## Low residual indentation

When you're moving furniture to reconfigure and create a flexible space, or simply moving around wheelchairs, trolleys or hospital beds, flooring which provides low residual indentation is a must.

Vinyl offers no resistance to rolling loads. Vinyl flooring is a proven, robust solution, **not affected by indentation** from furniture movement or rolling

loads; therefore, your space will retain its structure and maintain the overall aesthetic ambience of the environment. **That's true for our adhesive-free and our adhered flooring ranges!** Altro Cantata and Altro Wood adhesive-free have a compressed backing that means no drag but optimum hygiene.



## Wayfinding and navigation

You've probably put good wayfinding and navigation principles on your agenda for the re-design of your environments, to allow for efficient route finding and one-way traffic and minimise the chances of people getting lost and spending more time than necessary in your buildings.

As you consider how to achieve this, it is good to bear in mind the advantages that our products offer over some other materials. If you use **printed overlays** for wayfinding and navigation, you may find they **are damaged when cleaning**; what's more they are often **not heat-resistant** and can't be disinfected as part of a rigorous cleaning regime. The same is not true with our products, which can be **steam cleaned at up to 60°C** and which offer a more **permanent solution** to wayfinding and navigation via our kit cutting service or custom walls printing.

There are different ways you can choose to achieve effective wayfinding and navigation

- Use colours to indicate routes and reinforce new one-way systems around the building
- Complement or contrast colours on our walls, doors and floors to aid navigation
- Custom print your image or communications on walls with **Altro Whiterock Digiclad**
- Use our kit cutting service in floors for aesthetics or wayfinding / navigation



Signage

Signage is another key consideration. Communications can be printed directly into our hygienic wall cladding,

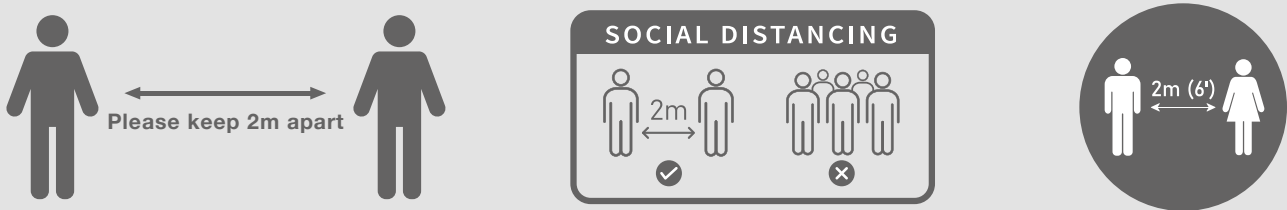
**Altro WhiteRock Digiclad**, featuring a hard coated protective layer to ensure no compromise in performance, or incorporated into flooring with our kit-cutting service.

Typical messages you might want to include are

- One-way system in operation
- Queue in this direction
- Respect social distancing
- Wash your hands
- Please use the complimentary hand sanitiser
- Please wear a mask in this area



Examples of social distance signage



Examples of one way signage



Examples of washing your hands signage



Zones and bespoke areas for staff / residents

You can select the different colours and patterns within our ranges to create zones, boundaries, staff or resident areas within open spaces to

- Reinforce social distancing
- Create safe areas away from the main flow of traffic



# Biophilia

We have an attachment to nature as our body is synced to the natural environment around us. It's called biophilia. It means we are more likely to resonate with colours which are linked to nature. This can even help with psychological recuperation. Many of the shades we offer are deliberately drawn from nature, with **Altro Pisces**, our specialist safety floor for wet environments, and all the ranges in the **Altro Wood collection** being great examples of this. As well as using shades of **Altro Whiterock Satins** or **Altro Whiterock Chameleon**, to create a more natural feeling, **Altro Whiterock Digiclad** is

often used to display photographic images of nature. This can have a huge impact on how we view the space around us, for example, turning spaces into somewhere calmer and less anxiety-inducing. Many of our most popular shades are natural ones: woods, greens, blues, floral shades. Use our Space visualiser or Insta-space software to picture your space in biophilic hues and see what a difference they make. By using these shades you can make the spaces areas where people want to work, while contributing to wellbeing.



# Acoustics

Noise levels from people and noise pollution from equipment and devices reverberate over sound-reflecting hard surfaces, extend over distances and linger; consequently, they can have a serious impact on the wellbeing of residents, patients, staff and visitors in all environments. Designs that have good acoustics, along with natural light and ventilation, help create a positive, therapeutic atmosphere, contributing to sleep and patient recovery. A positive sound environment occurs naturally outdoors; our ears are tuned to the natural environment, and the sky absorbs noise. We need to create the same indoors, absorbing or diffusing noise to help support a stress-free environment. Our 19dB vinyl acoustic floor, Altro **Serenade**, contributes to the impact sound reduction of noise in buildings by

- Reducing impact sound transmission
- Increasing sound absorption
- Reducing sound reflection

Where noise reduction is needed to reduce in-room sound and transmission of noise you can also consider

- **Altro Cantata**, **Altro Wood Comfort** and **Altro Wood adhesive-free** floors which offer 14dB
- **Altro Ensemble** and **Altro Orchestra** which offer 15dB (and comfort underfoot while maintaining the highest Commercial classification of use)

If this isn't enough, don't forget that you can combine the floor of your choice with impact sound reduction underlays. **Altro 1101** and **Altro Everlay B** offer sound reductions of 18dB and 20dB respectively. To learn more about our solutions and acoustics, ask your Altro Consultant about attending our CPD Designing for wellbeing: effective sound reduction.



Comfort underfoot

Many hard-working staff spend the whole day on their feet. Nurses and carers can work 12 hour shifts, walking 4-5 miles per shift. We understand how this can affect a person's level of comfort and ultimately may cause musculoskeletal problems. It has been reported that a more comfortable, ergonomic flooring material can contribute to reduced chronic pain, including that from musculoskeletal conditions and improve productivity, as well as the quality of care for the patient.

The NHS in England spends £5 billion each year on treating musculoskeletal conditions!

We feel passionately that floor surfaces need to provide comfort underfoot while maintaining ease of movement.

Our floors provide the required level of comfort without the drawback of residual indentation and rolling load resistance, which can be a problem with softer floors to such an extent that you can't easily move around heavy equipment such as wheelchairs, beds and trolleys. The following floors are designed provide comfort and low residual indentation

- 3.9mm **Altro Serenade** is a great solution for well used spaces that still need to look good and welcoming
- 2.6mm **Altro Orchestra** is available in 40 colours and designs varying from calming neutrals reflecting tones of nature, to vibrant shades for design flexibility
- **Altro Wood Comfort** is also 2.85mm and offers great biophilic aesthetics
- **Altro Cantata** and **Altro Wood adhesive-free**, both 2.4mm thick, also provide comfort underfoot with adhesive-free technology – great for rapid space re-configuration

To help you choose the right floors and walls for each area don't forget to refer to the Altro Product Selector for guidance in an instant or book yourself onto our CPD Designing for wellbeing: sound reduction.

WELL accreditation

Although individual products cannot gain WELL accreditation, Altro's floors, walls and doors can contribute to a Gold, Silver or Bronze WELL rating for the building, as they include relevant features such as biophilia, sustainability, comfort, low VOCs etc. Please ask your Altro Consultant for more information.



Light Reflectance Values (LRVs)

Every material we offer has an LRV clearly marked out of 100 points, so you can easily meet your requirements for a 30 point differential between adjacent surfaces such as floors and walls, without compromising on your design.

We include many colours in our ranges with varying LRVs to give you options: select similar LRVs where you wish to encourage movement, eg from a bedroom to an ensuite, or choose contrasting LRVs to keep those with dementia away from staff areas.

Some product suggestions you may wish to adopt as you reconfigure spaces...

The HBN offers guidance on providing the correct levels of light for people facing dementia and visual challenges. In our experience natural daylight is preferable, after all we all feel better in a light, airy atmosphere. Using lighter shades of our floors or walls such as Altro Wood Bleached Oak or Altro Whiterock Satins Orchard can support this and are a great alternative to plain white, which looks clinical.

Harsh lighting and some LED lights can create false impressions about the environment such as the perception that the flooring is wet when it isn't, resulting in uncertainty and possibly falls. Choosing sparkle-free flooring helps avoid this: we offer a wide range of sparkle-free options across our product portfolio. Please speak to your Altro consultant if you need guidance.



# Designing for different spaces

## Care homes and hospitals

### One way systems – the challenge of rerouting people

If you are designing to create a one-way system through your buildings, there are some practical considerations you may wish to take into account.

### Building alterations

You may need to upgrade or reconfigure a previously little-used outbuilding, knock down a wall or increase footfall in your current main corridors. Some areas may, therefore, become more heavily trafficked, needing a materials update.

Adhesive-free flooring provides the fastest and most cost-effective way of updating a space flexibly, combine it with hygienic wall cladding and doors, for a total hygienic and resilient solution.

Specify and install **hygienic, seamless and easy-to-clean / disinfect** solutions, which are designed to work together as an integrated system comprising flooring, wall cladding and doorsets.

### Designing a one-way system

Use the flooring, walling and door system to indicate a one-way system through the corridor network by

- Changing the colour or pattern of the flooring to indicate a one-way directional flow
- Indicate the directional flow in the flooring via signage utilising our kit cutting service
- Use the wall cladding for signage / communications to remind people to follow a certain directional path

### Floors

Slip-resistant and smooth adhesive-free flooring options are available to fulfil the results of your risk assessment

- **Altro Wood adhesive-free™** – 12 biophilic designs, 14dB impact sound reduction, adhesive-free installation for minimum downtime and cost savings. Slip-resistant floor
- **Altro Cantata™** – refreshed range. 17 designs, 14dB impact sound reduction, adhesive-free installation for minimum downtime and cost savings. Smooth floor
- All above floors feature plain matt finish, DSDC approved for those with visual impairment

### Walls

Maintain the integrity of walls in high traffic areas, by protecting them from bumps and scrapes and potential damage which could lead to the growth of microorganisms

- **Altro Fortis Titanium™** – dense, impervious wall protection. Resistant to bumps. Lightly textured yet easily cleanable surface, camouflages scuffs, keeping the wall area looking better for longer
- **Altro Whiterock Digiclad™** – print your own serene image as feature wall to enhance wellbeing or use to communicate instructions. Available with hard coat protection

### Doors

The furniture on all our **doorsets** is hygienic and easy-to-clean; vital as door handles can harbour microorganisms

- **Altro Fortis™ doorsets** – options matching **Altro Fortis Titanium** available
- **Kickplates** and **pushplates** available to match





Care homes and hospitals

Corridors – further design challenges, once you’ve sorted out your one-way system

- You could also consider using your floors and walls to indicate safe social distancing by either
- Changing the colour or pattern of the flooring, or the weldrod at appropriate intervals
  - Indicating social distancing requirements in the flooring via signage utilising our kit cutting service
  - Using the wall cladding for signage / communications to remind people to respect social distancing

Designing for hand sanitiser stations

These are not kind on carpets. They are problem-free with our flooring; hand sanitiser can be left on our flooring and not cause erosion. Vinyl is resistant to alcohol as well as 1,312 chemicals. The same is not true of carpet tiles or even linoleum. Select a slip-resistant vinyl to go under hand sanitiser stations for optimum safety.

Hospital corridors - Designing a more hygienic alternative to bump rails

Beds, wheelchairs and trolleys can bump into walls, damaging painted surfaces.

You may currently have bump rails installed. These present hygiene challenges of their own: with more edges, ridges, nooks and crannies they are harder to clean and maintain.

**A more hygienic solution** is to install an **Altro Fortis** wall cladding sheet, horizontally, across that part of the wall which receives the most knocks. In areas where patients may bump into the wall as they seek extra stability, you can protect the whole wall with a floor to ceiling installation.

- **Altro Fortis Titanium** - dense, impervious wall protection. Resistant to bumps. Lightly textured yet easily cleanable surface, camouflages scuffs, keeping the wall area looking better for longer. Available in a choice of colours to blend in with existing decor



## Care homes and hospitals

### Communal / waiting / reception areas – the challenge of keeping people safely apart

Another key concern to resolve is how you keep people safely apart as they come together. Again we have some solutions you may decide to implement.

Specify and install **hygienic, seamless and easy-to-clean / disinfect** solutions, which are designed to work together as an integrated system comprising flooring, wall cladding and doorsets.

#### Counter areas

Reception desks pose a particular challenge in that people gravitate towards them as a focal point; whether on foot, in wheelchairs or with walking aids, counter areas can be prone to damage from heavy traffic. You can protect them, in the same way as you do your

walls, from the bumps and scrapes which could lead to the growth of microorganisms, by cladding them with Altro Fortis Titanium or Altro Whiterock wall designs, depending on your preference and design scheme.



#### Floors

Use the flooring to indicate **directional flow** to and from the reception desk by changing the colour or pattern of the flooring in two distinct pathways up to and away from the reception desk.

Use the flooring to create safe, **demarcated waiting or communal zones** by changing the colour or pattern of the flooring to indicate a separate area.

Use the flooring to indicate **appropriate gaps to maintain social distancing by** changing the colour or pattern of the flooring or weldrod, or via signage utilising our kit cutting service.

The low residual indentation of our floor ranges allows you to reconfigure your areas as you need to; you can move about your furniture without compromising on aesthetics or the performance of the flooring

- **Altro Wood adhesive-free** – 12 biophilic designs, ideal in areas where people spend several hours, 14dB impact sound reduction and comfort underfoot, adhesive-free installation for minimum downtime and cost savings. Slip-resistant floor
- **Altro Ensemble** – luxury vinyl tiles, great for directional flow; providing endless modular design possibilities
- **Altro Orchestra** – 40 inspirational colours and designs to choose from. Plain matt finish
- All above floors DSDC approved for those with visual impairment

#### Walls

Use the wall cladding for signage / communications to remind people to respect social distancing.

Maintain the integrity of walls in high traffic areas, by protecting them from bumps and scrapes and potential damage which could lead to the growth of microorganisms

- **Altro Fortis Titanium** – dense, impervious wall protection. Resistant to bumps. Lightly textured yet easily cleanable surface, camouflages scuffs, keeping the wall area looking better for longer
- **Altro Whiterock Digiclad** – print your own serene image as feature wall to enhance wellbeing or use to communicate instructions. Available with hard coat protection
- **Altro Whiterock™ wall designs** – new designer range including biophilic options
- **Altro Whiterock Satins™** – 27 shades in satin finish to choose from

#### Doors

The furniture on all our **doorsets** is hygienic and easy-to-clean; vital as door handles can harbour microorganisms

- **Altro Fortis™ doorsets** – options matching **Altro Fortis Titanium** available
- **Altro Whiterock™ hygienic doorsets** – options matching **Altro Whiterock Satins** available
- **Kickplates** and **pushplates** available to match



## Care homes

### Visitor spaces and lounges

Coming together has rarely been in such focus nor taken on such importance. As seeing friends and family increases wellbeing and reduces anxiety, it's vital to create welcoming spaces where loved ones can meet.

These visitor spaces must be areas where hygiene, cleanliness and government guidelines can be easily adhered to. Consideration should be given to surfaces which are cleanable, hygienic, safe, robust and chemically-resistant, but also, warm, familiar, comfortable and attractive.

As people get up and down and where chairs can bump and scrape the walls, you may want to pay particular attention to maintaining the integrity of your walls, by protecting them with our hygienic wall protection, Altro Fortis Titanium.

You may also wish to implement some social distancing design principles.

For product recommendations see **Communal / waiting / reception areas**



# Care homes and hospitals

## Canteens / dining areas

As you face the challenge of creating attractive areas that stimulate the appetite, yet are easy-to-clean and maintain hygiene, you may decide to implement some of these suggestions

### Floors

Use the flooring to indicate **social distancing** between diners by changing the colour or pattern of the flooring or the weldrod around seating and tables.

Use the flooring to indicate **a one-way pathway** through the area to reduce face-to-face interactions by changing the colour or pattern of the flooring or incorporating signage using our kit cutting service to indicate directional flow.

The low residual indentation of our floor ranges allows you to reconfigure your canteens or dining areas, as you need to; you can move about your tables and chairs without compromising on aesthetics or the performance of the flooring

- **Altro Wood adhesive-free™** – wide range of realistic designs, plank sizes and shades, biophilic solution, 14dB impact sound reduction and comfort underfoot, adhesive-free installation for minimum downtime and cost savings. Slip-resistant floor

### Walls

Maintain the integrity of walls in high traffic areas, by **protecting them from bumps and scrapes** and potential damage which could lead to the growth of microorganisms

- **Altro Fortis Titanium** – dense, impervious wall protection. Resistant to bumps. Lightly textured surface, camouflages scuffs, keeping the wall area looking better for longer. Ideal where chairs might bump into walls. Easy-to-clean surface, ideal solution where food may splatter on the walls. The texture of the sheet is more subtle than the majority of wall protection products which are more aggressively textured and therefore do not offer the same hygienic protection and ease of cleaning
- **Altro Whiterock Digiclad** – create a feature space by printing local or personal history as a feature wall to enhance wellbeing or use to communicate instructions. Available with hard coat protection and printed onto an Altro Fortis Titanium sheet, so you don't need to change from a textured to smooth finish if you don't want to. Both finishes are easy to clean, hygienic and durable

### Doors

The furniture on all our **doorsets** is hygienic and easy-to-clean; vital as door handles can harbour microorganisms

- **Altro Fortis doorsets** – options matching **Altro Fortis Titanium** available
- **Kickplates** and **pushplates** available to match

Specify and install hygienic, seamless and easy-to-clean / disinfect solutions, which are designed to work together as an integrated system comprising flooring, wall cladding and doorsets.





## Care homes and hospitals

### Kitchens

Now is the time to review your kitchen surfaces to make sure they give you the level of hygiene you need, coupled with safety for all users.

From a small care home kitchen to a large hospital one, all kitchens have to deal with contaminants. Our specialist safety floor and hygienic wall sheet system provides an impervious, easy to clean and safe solution for kitchen environments that is Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) approved and meets HSE standards. Our system doesn't just protect the people who use it; it also protects the environment and those responsible for the health and safety of employees and visitors.

### HACCP approval

You can't afford to take any chances when it comes to hygiene and food safety. You can keep your food production safe with our hygienic surfaces. Altro Whiterock and Altro Stronghold 30 are HACCP approved. This approval with the internationally-recognised and recommended system of food safety management means ongoing peace of mind for you.

"Altro products are one of the few worldwide flooring and walling products to have achieved HACCP International certification for non-food services and supplies, which means that they have been assessed by a third party and found to be satisfactory and hygienic for use in a food environment."

**Richard Mallett**, European Director  
of HACCP International

### Floors

- **Altro Stronghold™ 30** – keeps staff safe, with our highest slip-resistant rating of (PTV >55, R12) even with common kitchen contaminants such as grease, oil and flour, reducing your chance of a slip to one in a million for the lifetime of the floor. With 3mm comfort underfoot and 10dB impact sound insulation, it makes busy and noisy kitchen environments more comfortable for staff. Altro Stronghold 30 can withstand temperatures from -30°C to +60°C so you can use it throughout the kitchen, including in freezers and it comes with a wide colour choice

### Walls

- **Altro Whiterock** wall sheets are grout-free and can be welded to provide a smooth, joint-free surface. Installed with moisture-tolerant adhesive AltroFix W139, there will be no gaps between wall and sheet, giving bacteria, mould and vermin nowhere to hide

### Doors

There are fewer joints on our hygienic doorsets than on standard commercial doors, as they consist of a thermoformed, integrated unit; making cleaning and maintaining hygiene easier.

The furniture on all our doorsets is hygienic and easy-to-clean; vital as door handles can harbour microorganisms

- **Altro Whiterock hygienic doorsets** – available in colours and finishes to co-ordinate with your walls

### Fire certification for where it matters

We have up-to-date BS 476 and EN 13501-1 fire certificates for our products. Altro Whiterock has fire resistance to Class 0, and Altro Whiterock doorsets to FD60. We test our complete solution, including adhesives, in-situ to make sure they keep you safe in real working conditions.





## Care homes and assisted-living

### Kitchenettes / tea points

There are some easy steps you may choose to follow to reconfigure the space to promote safety, hygiene and social distancing.

### Floors

Change the colour of the flooring to indicate an area where only one person may enter at any time

- **Altro Wood adhesive-free** – 12 biophilic designs, 14dB impact sound reduction and comfort underfoot, adhesive-free installation for minimum downtime and cost savings. Slip-resistant floor.

### Walls

Replace tiles above the worktop, behind the sink and on the walls with a hygienic and durable alternative

- **Altro Whiterock Splashbacks™** – available as kits in a range of sizes or custom-sized for the perfect fit. Hygienic alternative to tiles. Choose from **Altro Whiterock Satins** or **Altro Whiterock Chameleon** sheets, enabling you to co-ordinate or contrast with the rest of the space
- Replace tiles on walls to co-ordinate with your splashback using **Altro Whiterock Satins** or **Altro Whiterock Chameleon** sheets



## Hospitals

### Toilet blocks

You may decide to modify the room to promote enhanced hygiene with some of the measures below.

Specify and install **hygienic, seamless and easy-to-clean / disinfect** solutions, which are designed to work together as an integrated system comprising flooring, wall cladding and doorsets.

### Floors

- **Altro XpressLay™** – Adhesive-free general purpose safety for where: downtime is an issue and speed of installation critical; avoiding adhesive odours is beneficial to wellbeing; easy access to subfloors useful; uplifting / recycling floor at end of life key. It comes with a wide choice of 30 finishes to choose from

### Walls

- Replace tiles above the sink and on the walls with **Altro Whiterock Satins** for a hygienic solution, 27 shades in satin finish to choose from, ideal product to complement **Altro Whiterock Digiclad** feature wall
- Use **Altro Whiterock Digiclad** to communicate instructions, such as “Wash your hands” and to enhance aesthetics by printing your own serene image as feature wall to enhance wellbeing

### Doors

The furniture on all our **doorsets** is hygienic and easy-to-clean; vital as door handles can harbour microorganisms

- **Altro Whiterock hygienic doorsets** – options matching **Altro Whiterock Satins** available

# Hospitals

## Wards

You may decide to alter spaces, such as outbuildings, to create more wards, to change function from a children’s to an adults’ ward, or redesign current wards to allow for more robust hygiene and cleaning requirements.

## Materials tips for creating a temporary ward

If you are creating a temporary ward, there is no need to compromise on the flexibility of the space: combine adhesive-free flooring, which is easy to remove post-use if you wish to change back the function of the space, with hygienic wall cladding, installed in those parts of the space with the highest touch point risk. The wall cladding looks good when combined with other wall materials and can easily suit any functionality should the space cease to serve as a ward.

## Materials to promote hygiene and aid social distancing in wards

Specify and install **hygienic, seamless and easy-to-clean / disinfect** solutions, which are designed to work together as an integrated system comprising flooring, wall cladding and doorsets.

## Walls and doors

Before embarking on any changes we always recommend that you carry out a risk assessment to identify your most at risk spaces, with a **particular focus on your touch points**.

Based on this, you may decide to implement some of the options below.



## Floors

Traffic flow and social distancing may require some reconfiguring in wards. If you require changes, flooring can help.

Create clear **demarcation zones** around beds by varying the colour or pattern of the flooring to aid social distancing by indicating a separate area.

Minimise the frequency of two-way traffic by creating clear pathways to **aid the flow of people**: change the colour or pattern of the flooring in two distinct pathways or use signage in the floor utilising our kit cutting service.

The low residual indentation of our floor ranges allows you to **reconfigure your areas** as you need to; you can move about your furniture without compromising on aesthetics or the performance of the flooring

- **Altro Wood adhesive-free** – 12 biophilic designs, ideal in areas where people spend several hours, 14dB impact sound reduction and comfort underfoot, adhesive-free installation for minimum downtime and cost savings. Slip-resistant floor
- **Altro Cantata** – refreshed range. 17 designs, 14dB impact sound reduction, adhesive-free installation for minimum downtime and cost savings. Smooth floor

## Walls

If you have painted walls, add hygienic wall cladding to dado height.

**Thermoform hygienic wall cladding on your most as risk touch points:** around window reveals, wall-mounted equipment, doorframes / doors.

Use the wall cladding for signage / communications to remind people to respect social distancing

- **Altro Whiterock Digiclad** – print your own serene image as feature wall to enhance wellbeing or use to communicate instructions. Available with hard coat protection
- **Altro Whiterock wall designs** – new designer range including biophilic options Available with hard coat protection
- **Altro Whiterock Satins** – 27 shades in satin finish to choose from

## Doors

**Achieve optimum functionality and flexibility with our hygienic doorsets:** you can choose Altro Whiterock for hygiene on the ward side of the door and Altro Fortis for bump protection on the corridor side of the same door.

The furniture on all our doorsets is hygienic and easy-to-clean; vital as door handles can harbour microorganisms

- **Altro Whiterock hygienic doorsets** – options matching Altro Whiterock Satins available
- **Altro Fortis doorsets** – options matching **Altro Fortis Titanium** available
- **Kickplates** and **pushplates** available to match



# Care homes

## Bedrooms

Traditionally these have been the domain of carpet and carpet tiles with paint on the wall. If you decide on a more hygienic and durable alternative, here are some suggestions.

Specify and install **hygienic, seamless and easy-to-clean / disinfect** solutions, which are designed to work together as an integrated system comprising flooring, wall cladding and doorsets.

## Floors

Achieve low residual indentation, comfort underfoot and 14dB impact sound reduction

- **Altro Wood adhesive-free** – 12 biophilic designs, adhesive-free installation for minimum downtime and cost savings. Slip-resistant floor

## Walls and doors

**Focus on your touch points** and consider the area around the bed, which can be leaned on for extra support or bumped into with stability supports and other equipment.

## Walls

Add hygienic wall cladding around the bed and windows.

Thermoform hygienic wall cladding on your most as risk touch points: around window reveals, wall-mounted equipment, doorframes / doors

- **Altro Fortis Titanium** – dense, impervious, hygienic wall protection. Resistant to bumps. Lightly textured yet easily cleanable surface, camouflages scuffs, keeping the wall area looking better for longer

## Doors

The furniture on all our doorsets is hygienic and easy-to-clean; vital as door handles can harbour microorganisms

- **Altro Whiterock hygienic doorsets** – in wood-look Altro Whiterock wall designs for biophilia
- **Kickplates** and **pushplates** available to match





## Care homes, hospitals and assisted living

### Ensuites / wet room / assisted living bathrooms

In bathroom environments it is important that the users feel safe and comfortable. Carers, nurses and patients need to feel safe as they come together; in shoes and bare feet, working with hoists and other equipment, surrounded by contaminants such as soap and shampoo on the floor - the challenges in these environments are huge. Safety and hygiene are critical.

#### Safety first

Slips and falls aren't the only consideration in wet environments. Indoor humidity and poor cleaning can lead to a build-up of bacteria and mould, which can impact health as well as the appearance of the rooms. You can use our safety floors and hygienic wall solutions for wet environments to create easy-to-maintain and safe surroundings.

"The combination of Altro Pisces flooring range with the ever popular Altro Whiterock provided an easy to clean, slip-resistant solution which looks great."

**Andy Seddon**, Commercial Director, Lan Services Ltd, UK

### Keep bugs at bay

Wet environments can hide a multitude of bacteria owing to the moist environment. The World Health Organisation (WHO) states that persistent dampness and microbial growth on interior surfaces and in building structures should be avoided or minimised as they may lead to adverse health effects.

To ensure a clean, healthy environment for all users install floor, door and wall systems that are easy-to-clean. Having a system that does not give bacteria anywhere to hide is a priority; Altro Whiterock is a fully bonded wall system: with sealed edges, abutments and joining and, together with Altro Whiterock hygienic doorsets and Altro safety flooring, you can be sure bugs are kept at bay.

"The feedback from residents and staff has been extremely positive, most of the comments are: 'The bathroom looks really good and is much easier to clean.' We are happy that we have chosen Altro and highly recommend it!"

**Elisabete Neto**, Business Administration Manager, Bonney Healthcare Group

### Floors

Keep all users safe underfoot with hygienic flooring

- **Altro Pisces™** – domestic-look specialist flooring for a "home from home", warm feel in wet environments; designed for shoe and bare foot use. Keeps you safe with common contaminants such as shampoo and conditioner

### Doors

There are fewer joints on our hygienic doorsets than on standard commercial doors, as they consist of a thermoformed, integrated unit; making cleaning and maintaining hygiene easier.

The furniture on all our doorsets is hygienic and easy-to-clean; vital as door handles can harbour microorganisms

- **Altro Whiterock hygienic doorsets** – in co-ordinating **Altro Whiterock Satins**
- **Kickplates** and **pushplates** available to match

### Walls

For a quick fix, you can overclad tiles with our hygienic wall cladding sheets; they are fully bonded for no gaps and voids, providing optimum hygiene. As the sheets are fully bonded, they provide impact resistance, which is of particular value in areas which may include hoists to help with bathing, or other equipment.

Thermoform hygienic wall cladding for total impermeability in your space around window reveals, wall-mounted equipment, doorframes / doors

- **Altro Whiterock wall designs** – natural wood, metal, stone and linen designs on an Altro Whiterock hygienic wall sheet, creating a biophilic focal point, without compromising on durability. Now weldable for complete hygienic solution
- **Altro Whiterock Satins** – 27 shades in satin finish to choose from, ideal product to complement Altro Whiterock wall designs



# Long-term value; how Altro offer peace of mind for your investment

The Altro Assurance of Customer Satisfaction is a unique expression of our commitment to you. We strive to be a high performance floor, wall and door manufacturer and supplier, in all aspects of supply, service and support. In Altro, you'll find a partner who will add value from concept to completion.

## We've got the right product for you – one you can rely on!

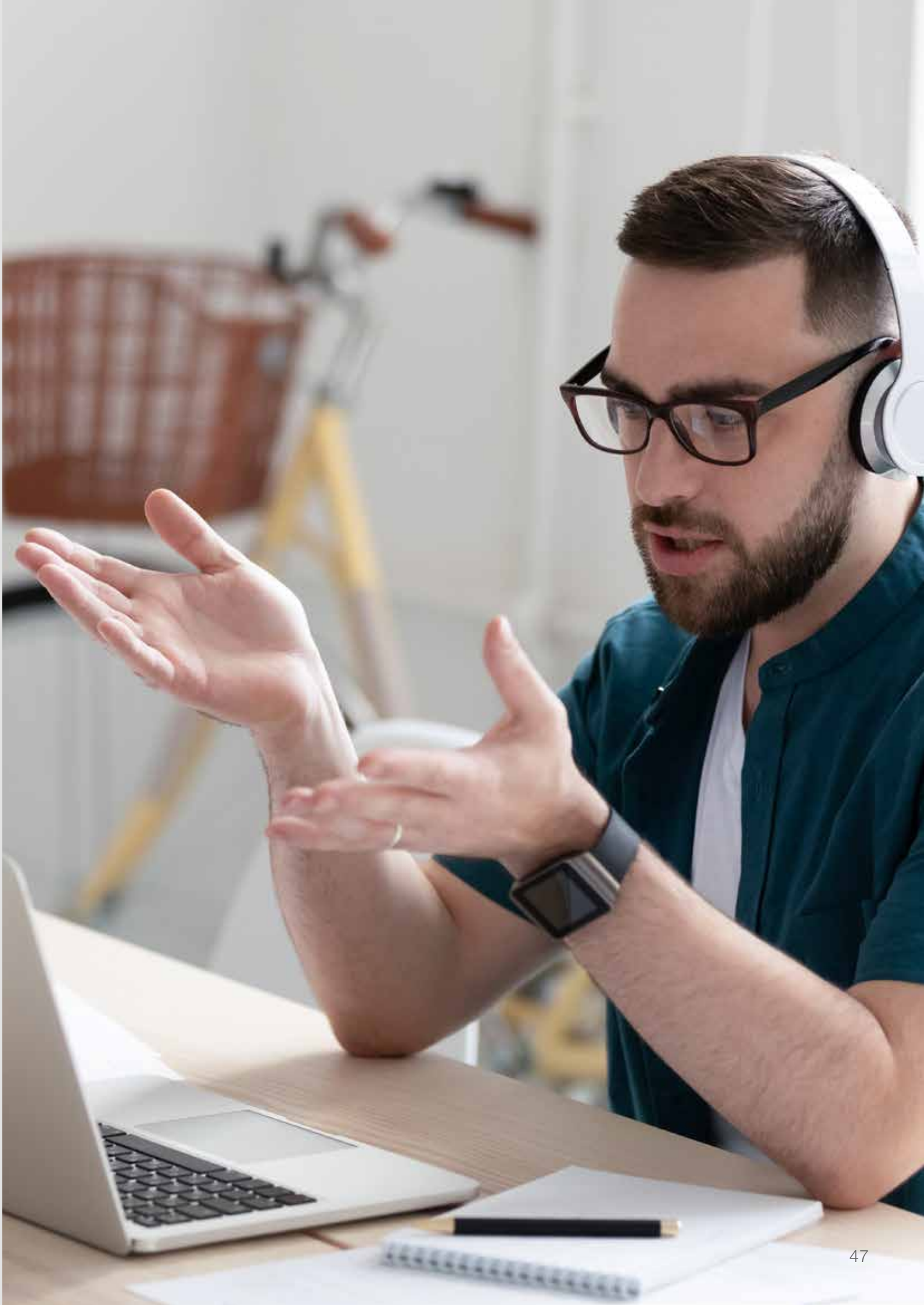
- **Fit-for-purpose** products – designed, tested and proven for years before bringing our products to market
- Developed with customers to **meet real world needs**
- Industry-leading **guarantees up to 20 years** – in business since 1919 so you know our guarantees have proven themselves over time
- **Whole building solutions** including your most demanding hygienic areas eg wet environments and large kitchens
- All Altro floor, door and wall products comply with **Approved Document B of the Building Regulations** – Fire Safety
- Lifetime guaranteed slip resistance '1 in a million' on our slip-resistant floors
- Adhesive-free options available in a smooth and slip-resistant floor – saving time, money, without compromising on performance, hygiene or guarantees

## We're famous for our service – what does that mean for you?

- You can rely on our technical support before you install, during installation and for the life of the product. The team boasts field-based, recognised industry experts offering information and solutions on different installation techniques
- Design support through our specification team, Altro Product selector, Space visualiser and Insta-space photo software
- Technical specification writing – including detail diagrams and installation guides
- Cleaning and maintenance support – cleaning kits, cleaning guides, approved cleaning systems and methods
- Site visits (respecting social distancing), technical information and guidance, best installation practice and industry-leading after sales support
- Trial areas including our in-house Design Possibility Studio
- Training including CPDs and Lunch and Learns

## Support and guidance for life

- Highly trained Altro consultants, available on the phone or via video call
- Deal with one person, saving you time and hassle
- Technical, product and market knowledge
- Expert guidance on specifying, installing and maintaining our products
- Reference sites, testimonials and case studies
- Complimentary and no obligation project management
- Specification / NBS writing
- Cleaning demonstrations
- Customer care centres for help before, during and after installation
- Request samples by phone, email or online
- Same day samples despatch and special delivery available
- Immediate product availability

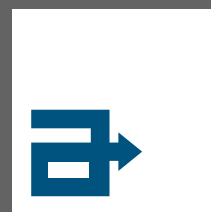


## Samples

If colour choice is critical, please  
request a sample of the material

☎ 01462 707600

✉ [samples@altro.co.uk](mailto:samples@altro.co.uk)




# altro

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