

21st June 2024

Spectacular success for Gerflor's new Taraflex® SL sports flooring at Honiton Leisure Centre.

Honiton Leisure Centre provides the local community with a raft of facilities that bolster both health and fitness through sports and exercise. When their thirty-five-year-old Granwood floor needed replacing with a more sustainable eco-flooring solution, they turned to international flooring specialist Gerflor to supply 700m² of their new Taraflex® Performance SL (Sustainable Loose lay) sports vinyl flooring in 'Light Cherry'. This innovative and revolutionary solution would substantially reduce the cost of a new replacement floor and was the natural choice for this hardworking space. Taraflex® Performance SL is a fast-track indoor vinyl that can be installed in a fraction of time with no need for adhesives.

Honiton Leisure Centre in East Devon is owned by East Devon District Council and operated by LED Community Leisure Ltd. LED operated facilities enjoy over one million visitors a year and have around 10,000 members. At Honiton Leisure Centre visitors can take their pick from a 25-metre pool, a large multi-purpose gym, badminton and squash courts, a dance studio, five-a-side football, and an outdoor tennis court.

East Devon Council and LED (Leisure East Devon) had previously teamed up with Gerflor, for a successful sports hall refurbishment project using Taraflex® in Axminster. With such a transformation greatly benefitting the local community, East Devon Council wanted to replicate this success at the Honiton site, showing their eagerness to enhance facilities for residents there too.

Rob Walker, Gerflor Area Sales Manager for the Southwest, and Channel Islands discussed the project highlighting that, "The sub-floor at Honiton was an old Granwood sports floor that provided minimal protection for users and was increasingly costly to maintain. East Devon Council and LED (Leisure East Devon) have used our Olympic pedigree Taraflex® sports vinyl products before at other sites, this refurbishment gave us the opportunity to build upon this history and present our new Taraflex® Performance SL as a sustainable and economical alternative for the refurbishment that would significantly reducing the overall cost of the replacement considerably. The client originally had thought that the Granwood floor would have to be mechanically removed and then the subfloor would require extensive levelling. However, the new Taraflex® Performance SL surface was simply laid on top of the existing floor, which not only delivered a considerable cost saving, but it also ensured the installation was much faster with less downtime for the facility."

Commenting on the project Simon Allchurch, Consultant Building Surveyor with East Devon District Council said, "The existing Granwood Floor in the Honiton sports hall was over thirty-five years old and reaching the end of its useful life. We based our specification decision on previous Taraflex® use at our Axminster Leisure Centre sports hall and at our Ottery Leisure Centre's dance studio." Simon Allchurch also said, "The Gerflor Taraflex® Performance SL sports flooring is exceeding our expectations by a long way on both performance and durability."

Adding further comment to the project Chris Duchenski, Leisure Manager at Honiton Leisure Centre said, "The previous floor was the original when the centre was built over thirty-five years ago. Despite regular maintenance, this original floor was looking dated, old, and tired." Chris Duchenski further said, "Taraflex® was specified because the quality and the feedback we have had from other customers who have used this floor or have it within their centres has been nothing short of excellent."

With Compliments:
Gemma Beech
The Studio 4
Grosvenor House
Central Park
Telford
TF2 9TW
Tel: 01952 234 005
Email: pr@thestudio4.co.uk

Issued on behalf of:
Navjot Dhillon
Gerflor Flooring UK Limited
Park Green
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK11 7LZ
Tel: 01625 428 922
Email: contractuk@gerflor.com

On performance and customer satisfaction Chris Duchenski further added, “We have had exceptional feedback from many of our Centre users, some of which include the badminton players, five-a-side, netball, basketball and pickleball teams. We recently held a gymnastics competition, who informed us of the quality and the huge improvement the new Taraflex® sports floor has delivered in terms of safety, comfort, and performance.”

The need to install the specified Taraflex® Performance SL flooring to the very highest standards, would be a crucial element in delivering a high-quality final outcome for the centre and would be the responsibility of Exeter-based Unicraft Flooring Contractors Ltd. Established in 1972, and formerly known as Unicraft Furnishing & Joinery Works Ltd, this family run business now in its second generation, carry out all types of floorcovering installation including carpets, carpet tiles, safety flooring for commercial and industrial installations including wet rooms, linoleum, timber, laminates, antistatic for laboratory and clean rooms.

Simon Yeo, Managing Director Unicraft Flooring Contractors Ltd commented, “The tender for the project came via East Devon District Council and was a specification directly decided between Gerflor and East Devon District Council. We had two to four fitters on the installation at any one time, which took a week and a half to complete. Gerflor’s Taraflex® Performance SL sports flooring was extremely easy and fast to lay and it is really delivering on the high expectations set. We were extremely impressed with the reduced downtime on site with 25% reduction in installation time when compared to typical adhered installations.”

Rob Walker concluded, “The customer is extremely pleased with the final result, as the world class finish in the hall is the same as Axminster. In fact, you would never know that the product is loose-lay. It really is a remarkable product. The client has now repeated the order for Taraflex® Performance SL sports flooring for another identical facility in Sidmouth, again to be laid over another existing Granwood floor and we fully anticipate this new project to be completed this summer. We have also supplied our revolutionary Bateco sport protection product at Honiton, it will be utilised when the school have exams and also to protect the Taraflex® sports floor when trampolines are used.”

Simon Yeo said in conclusion, “We would certainly want to work with Gerflor and its Taraflex® Performance SL sports flooring products again and as an installer we are extremely pleased with the end result. We would definitely, if given the opportunity, select Gerflor’s Taraflex sports floorings for future projects.”

Chris Duchenski ended by saying, “We would definitely specify Gerflor’s Taraflex vinyl floorings again. Everybody who uses the new Gerflor sports floor is incredibly delighted with its performance, both in terms of its cushioning properties for safety and incredible ball bounce for team sports. Also, the contractors who completed and installed the floor in a very short space of time, made it a hassle-free project for us all.”

Taraflex® SL is a new member to the Taraflex® Olympic pedigree sports flooring family, a sustainable choice down to its unique sustainable attributes including its product construction, recycled content, ease with which it can be reused and recycled at end of life, as well as reduced cleaning and maintenance requirements for the lifetime of the floor. The Taraflex® range of products continue to be a popular choice for Community Centres, Sports, and Leisure facilities, as well as Education Sports Halls across the UK, Republic of Ireland and worldwide. Taraflex® is the Name Under the Game... It’s where Champions Begin, Learn, Train, and Play.

Product overview of Taraflex® Performance SL Sports Vinyl Flooring

Gerflor introduces the innovative Taraflex® Performance SL sports flooring, revolutionising the industry with its glue-free installation, even on damp subfloors.

With Compliments:
Gemma Beech
The Studio 4
Grosvenor House
Central Park
Telford
TF2 9TW
Tel: 01952 234 005
Email: pr@thestudio4.co.uk

Issued on behalf of:
Navjot Dhillon
Gerflor Flooring UK Limited
Park Green
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK11 7LZ
Tel: 01625 428 922
Email: contractuk@gerflor.com

Environmental Commitment

Taraflex® Performance SL combines sustainability with high-quality standards. Its adhesive-free installation eliminates the need for glues, improving indoor air quality and laying comfort while reducing installation time. The flooring's P2 category ensures safety and performance, making it ideal for clubs, competitions, and educational facilities.

Sustainable Design

Crafted with eco-friendly materials, Taraflex® SL features textile fibres made from recycled plastic bottles. Easy to install and remove with Tarafix® SL holding strips, it can be reused or recycled. Manufactured in Europe with a low CO2 footprint, it meets stringent environmental standards, including 100% REACH compliance and formaldehyde-free composition.

Unmatched Quality and Performance

Taraflex® SL delivers superior quality and performance, comparable to traditionally adhered Taraflex® flooring. Its reinforced textile backing and Tarafix® SL strips ensure exceptional durability and dimensional stability, avoiding common issues like inflations and extra thickness.

Time-Saving Benefits

With a 25% reduction in installation time compared to adhered installations, Taraflex® SL saves time and ensures high-quality performance durability. At the end of its lifecycle, the flooring can be reused or recycled, preserving the slab for future use.

Versatile Application

With a legacy of use in every Olympic Games since 1976, Taraflex® is trusted by national and international governing bodies for its world-class quality. Ideal for new builds and refurbishments, it offers exceptional durability and cost-effectiveness for various sports and leisure applications.

Hygienic and Safe

Treated with ProtecSol®, Taraflex® ensures easy maintenance, anti-friction burn, and optimal slide/grip. Bacteriostatic and fungistatic treatment enhances hygiene, making it suitable for all ages and abilities.

Taraflex® sports flooring has a long-standing legacy, having been fitted at every Olympic Games since 1976. Recognised and approved by numerous National and International governing bodies as a world-class indoor sports surface, it is also extensively utilised within the education, community, leisure, health, and fitness sectors.

Ideal for both new build projects and refurbishments, Taraflex® boasts exceptional durability and cost-effectiveness in maintenance. Over six million children benefit from Taraflex® sports flooring every day, enjoying its versatility for various multi-specialist sports and leisure applications.

With a complete range of shock absorption P1/P2/P3, Taraflex® sports floors from Gerflor, deliver the right solution every time whether it is for exercise or play for all ages and ability.

It's noteworthy that Gerflor offers a diverse range of sports flooring solutions beyond the Taraflex range. With first-class leading sub-constructions for increased shock absorption or linoleum playing surfaces such as the DLW Sports range, there is no facility that cannot be improved with the introduction of a sports surface from Gerflor.

Learn more about Gerflor solutions, ask for a free sample or contact us to speak to a specialist today by calling 01625 428 922, emailing contractuk@gerflor.com, or visiting gerflor.co.uk for the latest innovations.

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Cheshire
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