

## FeRFA ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDE



Working towards  
zero waste to landfill

### FERFA Guidance Note No. 10

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## FeRFA PUBLICATIONS

All the FeRFA publications listed below are freely downloadable from FeRFA's web site at [www.ferfa.org.uk](http://www.ferfa.org.uk).

- Guide to the Specification and Application of Synthetic Resin Flooring (RIBA CPD Approved)
- Guide to the Selection of Synthetic Resin Flooring
- Osmosis in Resin Flooring (TGN 01)
- Chemical Resistance of Resin flooring (TGN 02)
- Static Controlled Flooring (TGN 03)
- Guide to Installing Resin Flooring Systems onto Substrates with a high moisture content (TGN 04)
- Guide to Cleaning Resin Floors (TGN 05)
- Assessing the Slip Resistance of Resin Floors (TGN 06)
- Guide to Seamless Resin Terrazzo (TGN 07)
- Guide to Flowable Polymer Screeds as underlayments for resin floor finishes (TGN08)
- Guide to the selection of deck waterproofing and wearing surfaces for car parks (TGN09)
- FeRFA Environmental Guide (TGN10)
- Guide to preparing substrates to receive resin flooring and finishing of resin terrazzo systems (TGN11)
- 'Comfort' resin flooring systems (TGN12)
- Guide to Personal Protective Equipment for use with In Situ Resin Floors and Surface Preparation – also available in printed form as a pocket guide

## FeRFA

FeRFA, the Resin Flooring Association, represents the major product manufacturers, specialist contractors and surface preparation companies, raw material suppliers and specialist service providers within the UK Resin Flooring Industry. Established in 1969, FeRFA now represents over 90 UK based companies. The Association has established Codes of Practice for full members. It takes an active role in promoting resin flooring and in developing both national and international standards.

All FeRFA publications are freely downloadable from the website at [www.ferfa.org.uk](http://www.ferfa.org.uk)  
for further information, contact FeRFA at: PO Box 3716, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 9EU  
T: 07484 075254 W: [www.ferfa.org.uk](http://www.ferfa.org.uk)

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The UK's commitment to reduce carbon and other greenhouse gases is well publicised, and companies involved in the construction sector are being tasked on three areas:

- To de-carbonise their own business
- To provide people with buildings to allow them to lead a more energy efficient life
- To provide the infrastructure and the supply of clean energy and sustainable practices in other areas of the economy

Waste has been highlighted as a key area, where the construction industry currently creates over 100 million tonnes of waste per year, 10% of which consists of unused materials taken to site, and subsequently disposed of via landfill. To tackle the problem of waste, the construction industry is working with Defra, the Environment Agency and WRAP to significantly reduce waste to landfill.

## 2. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

As the UK body for the resin flooring and surface preparation industry, FeRFA is committed to the implementation of sustainable practices and has signed up to the WRAP Halving Waste to Landfill scheme ([www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)).

We recognise that our members activities have an impact on the environment in terms of the use of raw materials, emissions to air and water, and waste generation, and seek to minimise this as far as is reasonably practicable.

FeRFA requires its members to commit to:

- Continual improvement in their environmental performance
- Preventing pollution
- Compliance with all environmental legislation, regulations and codes of practice relevant to the industry sector in which it operates.

It is the policy of FeRFA and its members to:

- Make efficient use of natural resources by conserving energy and water, minimising waste and recycling where possible.
- Meet its duty of care requirements in relation to waste by ensuring the safe keeping, transportation and subsequent recovery or disposal of waste.
- Use recycled construction materials whenever these can be commercially justified.
- Keep transport use to a minimum and regularly service vehicles to maintain their efficiency.
- Work with suppliers to ensure they recognise and reduce the environmental impact of their products and transportation.

## 3. RESIN FLOORING – A SUSTAINABLE CHOICE

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a tool which is used to assess the potential environmental impact of a product or system at all stages in their life cycle. The relative contributions to the life cycle costs will depend on the anticipated working life of the floor after installation. Synthetic resin flooring is extremely tough and durable and can have a life expectancy in excess of 20 years when specified and installed correctly. In such cases the major share of the life cycle costs will be for regular cleaning and maintenance, which would apply for all types of flooring, but be less for resin flooring because of their superior performance characteristics. In addition they can generally be refurbished by overcoating with a lower thickness than applied originally.

Unlike other types of flooring, Resin floors are created in situ to fit perfectly into intricate spaces that would be very difficult with preformed systems, and as such minimal material waste is created on site. Estimating allows the contractor to determine the amount of materials likely to be required on any given job, and as materials are generally supplied in relatively small units, provided these are unopened/unmixed, they can be used on other projects.

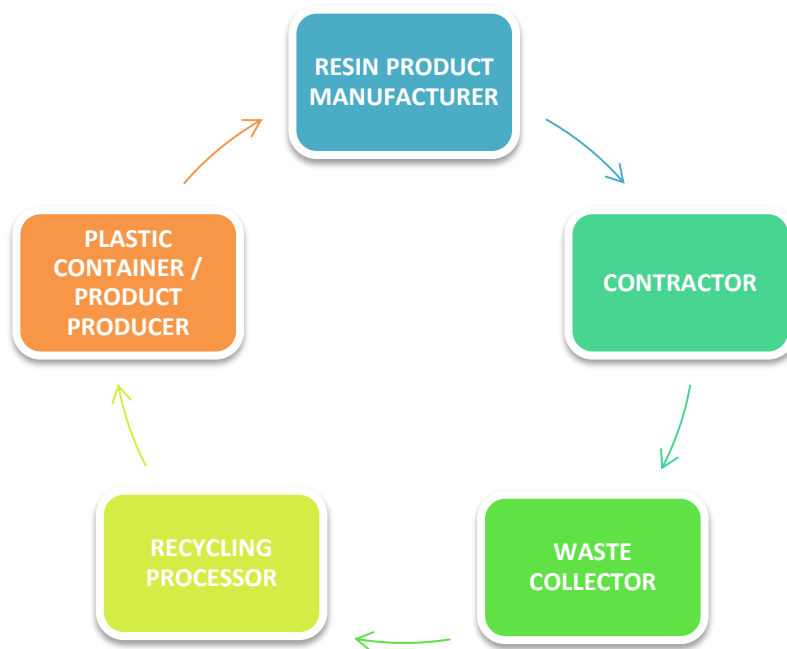
On very large projects resin flooring components are supplied in IBCs and proportioned by weight on site, again resulting in minimal wastage.

#### 4. WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING IN THE RESIN FLOORING INDUSTRY

The major waste stream for the resin flooring industry has been identified as packaging waste. Resin flooring materials are packaged in both plastic and metal containers, which are disposed of in designated skips and historically sent to landfill.

Working with WRAP and The Flooring Efficiency Partnership, FeRFA has adopted a resource efficiency plan which includes the following commitments:

- To increase the level of waste packaging being recycled within the resin flooring industry
- To reduce year on year the level of all waste streams being sent to landfill
- Actively promote the use of recycled materials.
- Raise awareness of environmental issues and provide guidance and training to increase knowledge and share best practice.
- To achieve the above, FeRFA has introduced a recycling and waste management scheme, whereby waste packaging (hazardous and non hazardous) is collected, decontaminated and reprocessed for future use, with up to 100% of waste being recycled.



#### 5. OTHER RELEVANT BODIES

##### ENVIROWISE

<http://envirowise.wrap.org.uk/> / free telephone helpline: 0800 585 794

##### LOW CARBON CONSTRUCTION

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/constructionigt>

##### NET-REGS – Site Waste Management Plans (SWMPs)

[www.netregs-swmp.co.uk](http://www.netregs-swmp.co.uk)

##### WRAP

[www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk) / 0808 100 2040