



Designed for possibilities.
Made for people.



Floor + wall solutions for Education

How interior finishes can make an impact in learning environments

Your guide to floor and wall finishes that enhance the hygiene and durability of educational facilities.

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Flooring and wall cladding for education

Painting sunflowers, exploding a home-made volcano, the starring role in Hamlet; the dramas of growing up all take their toll on your floors and walls. But don't worry. We've thought of that. From nursery to university – we have the needs of crawling toddlers to towering graduates covered.

It's why we combine safety and hygiene with durability and resilience. As the needs of your learners evolve with time, yours will too. Our flooring and wall cladding provide flexible and robust solutions for changing functional requirements. And they're sustainable too, enabling you to create colorful, inspirational environments, stimulating young minds and contributing to an enjoyable learning center.

Designing for education

Schools have many different areas, all with diverse needs. From classrooms and corridors to faculty lounges and science labs, each area demands its own unique requirements but the need for lasting value is always there.

Altro is a perfect fit for these areas because our products offer:

- Long-term durability
- Reduced maintenance
- Impressive value
- Safety and hygiene
- On-trend color palettes



Altro Quartz Tile
Ocean CD



Altro Quartz Tile
Sand CD



How interior finishes can impact learning

Color and design

Ask a teacher what influences learning and you'll hear teaching methods, how students learn differently, outside influences and the school's curriculum. Chances are they won't mention classroom finishes, such as the color of the flooring.

Inherent in everything we do and see, color influences everyday life through our productivity, communication and emotion.

Emotions brought about by color can influence a student's work or study habits. Studies show a direct link between color and feelings, certain colors promoting positive and others negative. The right color helps denote a room's purpose - relaxation, studying, collaboration, test-taking and more.

When it comes to flooring color selection, there is no silver bullet. Looking at the effects of color and translating that into the learning space's purpose can serve as a guide on what colors fit where.

- Promote learning, while not overpowering students with neutrals, by using greens and blues as the base of classrooms and libraries.
- Add splashes of bright color to areas that demand attention (chalkboard, smart board) or should stand out (doorways, restrooms, stairwells).
- Incorporate bold colors within a neutral interior design by using it as accents and way-finding.
- Common areas should be more vibrant than classrooms and libraries. Additional color welcomes conversation and excitement.
- Welcome visitors by showing school spirit - incorporate school colors and/or logos in front entry.
- Young children thrive in environments designed with bright colors, so keep students' ages in mind. More color can be used with this demographic than older students - without worry of over-stimulation.



Inherent in everything we do and see, color influences everyday life through our productivity, communication and emotion.



Neutrals – Clean, pure, restful, and noninvasive.



Earth tones – Stability, approachable, warm, and soothing.



Red – Bold, releases adrenaline, elevates blood pressure and heart rate.



Pink – Soothing, affectionate, and happiness. Can stimulate energy.



Orange – Energy, warmth, and joy.



Yellow – Alertness and optimism. Can cause eye fatigue in large areas.



Green – Balance, restful, healing, and nature.



Turquoise – Refreshing, relaxing, and invigorating.



Blue – Calming, lowers blood pressure and heart rate.



Purple – Promotes creativity, spirituality, and perception.

Modern education ideals + sustainability



STEM's influence on classroom design

The best architects and designers of K-12 STEM (or STEAM) spaces today understand what real-life STEM programs entail. STEM classrooms must be adaptable, flexible, mobile and ergonomic. The same room can be a teaching lab, a team based learning classroom, a computer lab, a lecture classroom and/or a student project workshop.

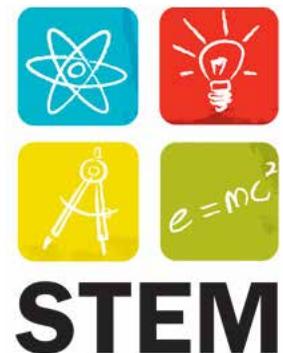
STEM classrooms are used for a changing learning curriculum, the spaces have to be adaptable, durable, easy to maintain and support many activities.

STEM's impact on flooring and wall cladding

- Durability to withstand moving furniture/caster wheels
- Resistance to chemicals and staining
- Low maintenance, easy to maintain products
- Impact resistant walls

"Prepare yourself for noisy, exuberant classrooms where multiple right answers abound and failure is regarded as a positive step toward discovery and successful solutions."

Anne Jolly, STEM by Design



science • technology
engineering • math

Children are the

most at risk



Indoor air quality

The importance of good indoor air quality cannot be stressed enough. We spend as much as 85-90% of our days indoors, where the concentration of VOCs and other pollutants is many times worse than outdoors.

This is more important for children because they have higher metabolisms than adults and are more susceptible to the effects of indoor pollutants. These also can interfere with learning and have a greater, long lasting effect on kids.

This is why it is important that only low VOC emitting flooring, wall cladding, and adhesives be used. Products that comply with FloorScore or the CA 01350 standard for low VOC emitting materials are recommended.

Maintenance should be considered as well. Products that require routine toxic sealers and polishes will off-gas after each time they are maintained.

Important considerations

- Use only flooring with FloorScore or CA 01350 certification
- Avoid products that require heavy polish and wax
- Use solvent-free, low VOC adhesives or adhesive-free flooring
- Clean and maintain flooring with low VOC cleaners



“ (Children) are spending as much as **three years** during the most developmental parts of their lives in schools, exposed to **chemicals**. ”

AQT: A better alternative

Vinyl Composition Tile (VCT) attempts to lure you in with low installation cost, but don't take the bait. Constant maintenance over VCT's useful life can cause your total costs in under five years to be more than an Altro product's in 10.

When choosing flooring, cost to buy and initial installation are important. However, if you don't add maintenance costs over time to the equation, you'll end up spending much more throughout the product's life.

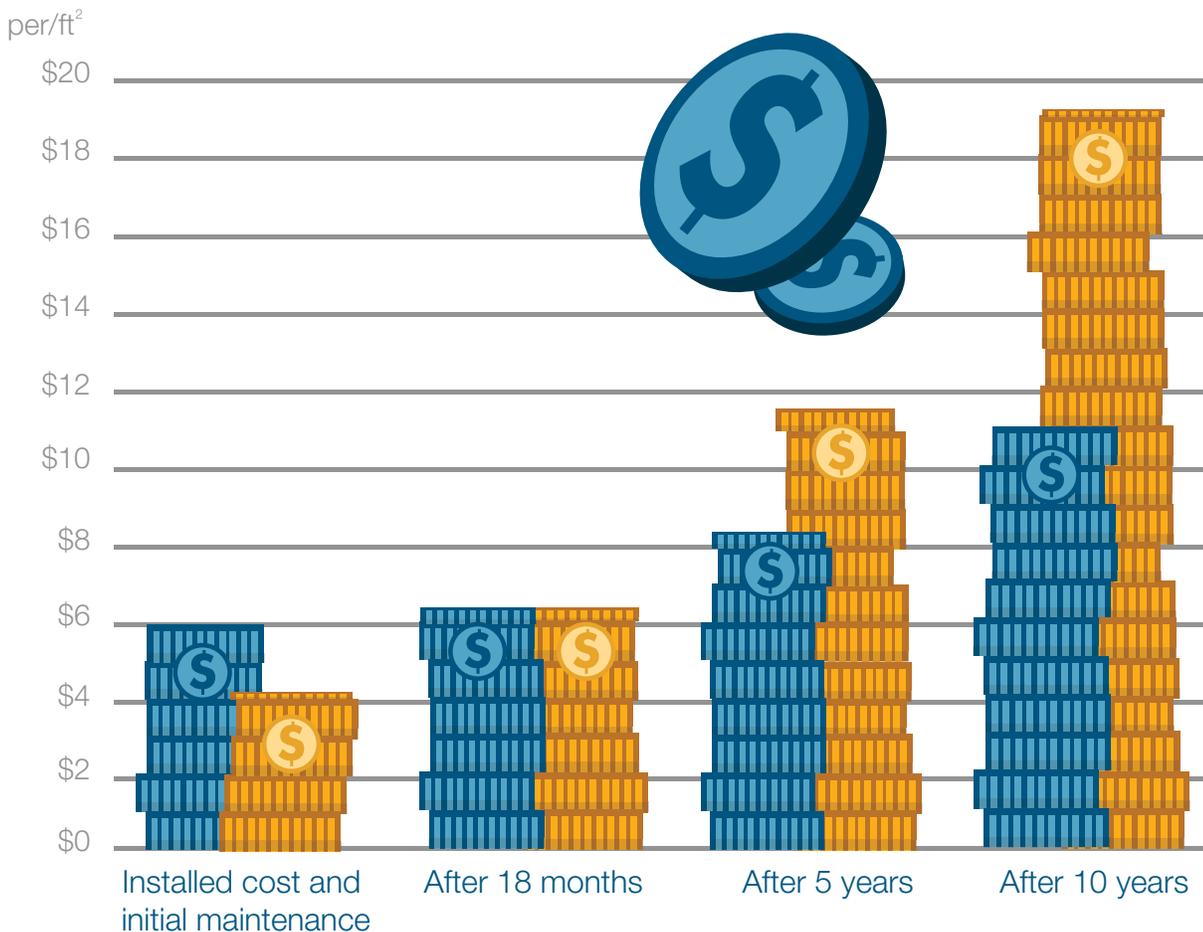
That is why VCT is cheap to buy, yet expensive to own.

Hassle free benefits of Altro Quartz Tile

- 7 times more durable than VCT
- Low maintenance
- No finish required
- Occupancy ready
- Faster installation than VCT
- 15 year warranty
- Higher vinyl content



AQT vs. VCT



Installing Altro Quartz Tile over traditional VCT can save \$8.75/ft² over a 10 year life cycle. **A total dollar savings of \$9,750***



AQT doesn't require constant stripping and waxing like VCT, resulting in thousands of dollars saved in maintenance costs.

Designing for different environments



K-12

When designing the perfect space in K-12, you must create an environment that will inspire students to learn and keep them safe and comfortable, all within shrinking budget demands. It's a challenging job.

Physical environments have a strong influence on learning and behavior, and flooring makes an indispensable contribution to the quality of any space.

Few buildings get such tough treatment as those used in public education. Flooring must be attractive as well as practical, hard-wearing and cost-effective.

Altro floor coverings meet all these criteria – and several more. From preschool to high school, our solutions help to create better learning and working environments. They're attractive, safe and environmentally compatible, and they last for generations.



Colleges and universities

The world of higher education is changing. Undergraduate enrollment is continuing to grow and tuitions are increasing. Higher education has become a business and students are its customers.

With intense competition for the best professors and students, colleges and universities have found that facility design can be a major factor in recruiting the best and brightest minds. This has caused a shift away from traditional materials and design to a more modern, sophisticated look.

With a multitude of different area types, colleges and universities require a variety of flooring products to suit the diverse needs of their facility. They require attractive, durable, low maintenance flooring solutions for common areas, classrooms and student housing yet need robust slip resistance in wet environments, kitchens and heavy industrial areas. This is where Altro can deliver more than the competition. Our large portfolio of flooring products covers all of these areas and more.

Adhesive-free solutions



In 2010, Altro invented the world's first adhesive-free slip-resistant floor, Altro XpressLay. Today, with the smooth additions of Altro Cantata and Altro Wood adhesive-free our new product offerings are simply revolutionary.

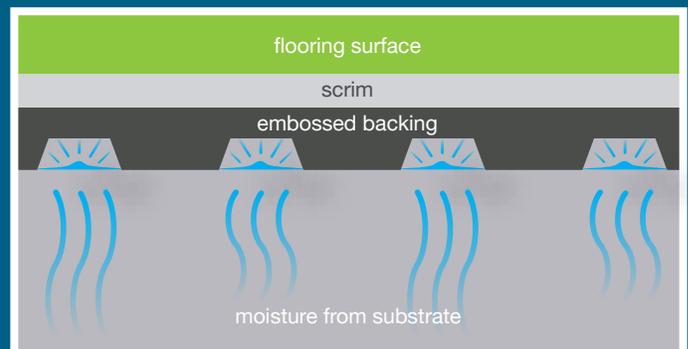
Why adhesive-free?

- ✓ Smooth and slip-resistant options
- ✓ Classic, modern and wood-look visuals
- ✓ Installs over existing flooring, avoiding potentially costly asbestos abatement.
- ✓ Underfoot comfort and sound reduction - 14dB (Altro Cantata and Altro Wood adhesive-free)
- ✓ Quickly installs with tape for minimal downtime
- ✓ Can be welded and walked on same day
- ✓ Install in areas up to 98% relative humidity
- ✓ Embossed backing allows subfloor moisture to dissipate
- ✓ No adhesive odors
- ✓ Contains rapidly renewable bio-based content
- ✓ Emits low VOCs
- ✓ Many match and/or coordinate with glue-down counterparts

Damp problem? Fresh slab? No problem!

The revolutionary underside emboss allows Altro adhesive-free flooring to sit off the subfloor, allowing damp floors to breathe, resulting in any moisture dissipating.

Equally, they can be used on fresh concrete subfloors up to 98% relative humidity (RH). Allowing you to install flooring quickly and easily without having to wait for the substrate to dry. In some instances, Altro adhesive-free floors can be installed on subfloors that are between 7 - 10 days old.





Teachers' lounge
Altro Lavencia

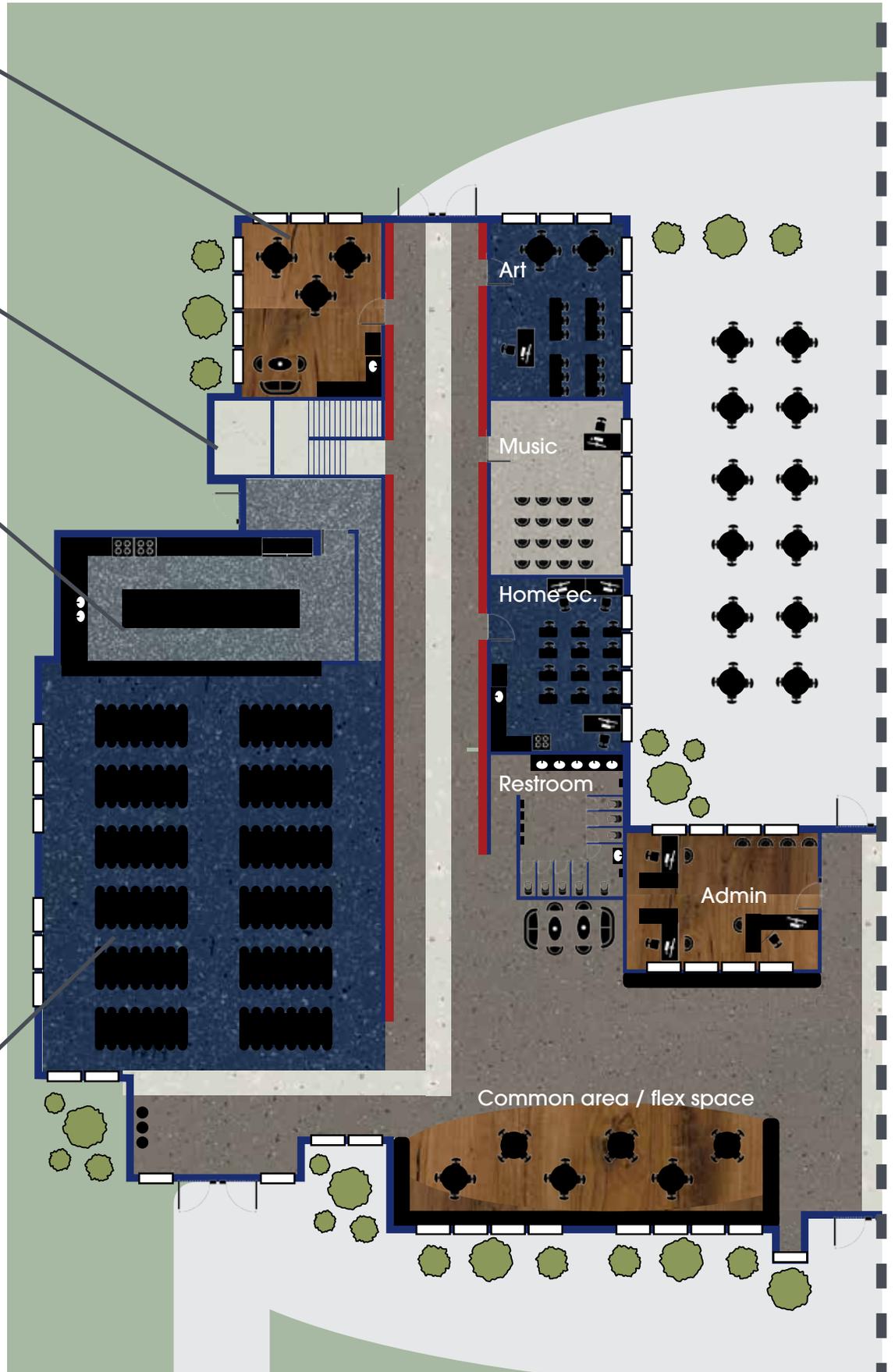
To other classrooms
Altro Dolce, Altro Dolce Essentials
Altro Quartz Tile, Altro Lavencia



Kitchen
Altro Classic 25
Altro Puraguard



Cafeteria
Altro Dolce, Altro Dolce Essentials,
Altro Quartz Tile, Altro Lavencia



Area overview

To ensure your flooring is fit for purpose, we recommend different flooring ranges to meet the diverse needs found within schools, colleges and universities.



Library
Altro Lavencia

To other classrooms
Altro Dolce, Altro Dolce
Essentials Altro Quartz Tile,
Altro Lavencia



Men's locker room
Altro Aquarius,
Altro Whiterock

Gymnasium
Altro Ollero



Women's locker room
Altro Aquarius,
Altro Whiterock

Computer cafe

Altro in action

Saint Margaret Regional School

Altro Lavencia LVT makes the grade

Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts, USA

Founded in Cape Cod, Massachusetts in 1994, Saint Margaret Regional School has dedicated itself to providing its community with high-quality education.

The facility offers an impressive variety of benefits to elementary students ranging from pre-k to grade four including before and after-school care, pre-school and kindergarten programs, family events and faith-based service projects.

When considering flooring for academic applications, the ability to withstand student traffic and severe New England winters while maintaining an attractive appearance is essential. Saint Margaret's principal, Beth Mahoney, prioritized these qualities when viewing options for the school's recent renovations. "We were looking for something that would be practical for an elementary school," she explained. "We wanted it to be colorful, durable and easy-to-clean."

Saint Margaret's search for the ideal flooring solution ultimately led them to choosing Altro Lavencia LVT for the job. Constructed to handle the tolls of busy

environments, Altro Lavencia luxury vinyl tiles and planks balance beautifully realistic visuals with outstanding durability.

Unlike standard vinyl composition tile (VCT) alternatives, Altro Lavencia LVT offers attractive, easily installed designs with reduced maintenance and refurbishing costs over time. In Saint Margaret's situation, this was particularly important to Mrs. Mahoney and her fellow faculty members. "We liked the tile application so if we had to replace an area, it would be cost effective and timely for a school schedule."

To complete their design, the school combined three different colors of Altro Lavencia Plus to rejuvenate its corridors: Seagrass Red, Seagrass Blue and Seagrass Yellow. "The faculty and staff are grateful that we went with Altro and this flooring. It is exactly what we were looking for to enhance the beauty of the school," Mrs. Mahoney concluded.



Altro Lavencia



Altro in action

Upper Moreland School

More durability, colors and savings for Upper Moreland School

Hatboro, Pennsylvania, USA

No administrator or official wants where they and students spend from early morning to the afternoon to look tattered and worn, nor do they want their floors to be unsafe, but with constant budget cuts and emphasis toward the cheaper options, school designers are often left cramming.

Enter flooring that may not be the cheapest to install, but the most cost effective to maintain: Altro Quartz Tile. While standard vinyl composition tile (VCT) may look great on paper and feel great on the wallet, the constant maintenance and cleaning can cause years of buyer's remorse.

Upper Moreland School, located in Hatboro, Pennsylvania, underwent a colossal renovation, constructing a new weight room and updating all the classrooms – new science labs, music and art rooms, plus a new pool and locker rooms.

And installed in the hallways throughout Upper Moreland School, connecting it all: 33,000 square feet of Altro Quartz Tile in colors Rock Salt CD, Sunflow CD and Amethyst.

“We wanted a durable product that was better than VCT but not as costly or difficult to maintain as Terrazzo,” said Matthew Malinowski, Business

Manager for the Upper Moreland Township School District.

“[Altro Quartz Tile] provided a durable surface that was easy to clean at a reasonable price point over VCT or Terrazzo.”

The low maintenance and no-finish-required properties make Altro Quartz Tile a more cost-effective solution over time, with possible thousands of dollars in savings over a 10-year life cycle compared to VCT.

Altro Quartz Tile sports durability and wide ranges of looks and styles. With a static load limit that exceeds 3000 psi, these tiles won't break or crack under immense amounts of foot traffic – the typical foe of many a floor in busy and bustling school hallways between classes.

“The flooring looks great,” Malinowski said. “The tiles integrate well to other design elements, and the variety of colors enabled a design and style around the school's colors of purple and gold.”



Altro Quartz Tile



Top floor picks for education



Altro Quartz Tile



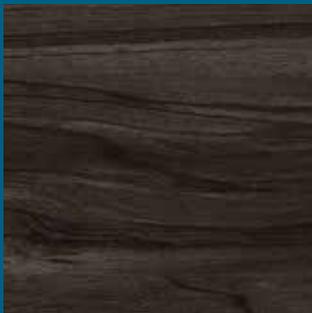
Altro Dolce Tile



Altro Dolce Essentials



Altro Ollero



Altro Lavencia LVT



Altro Symphonia

General use



Altro Wood

General use



Altro Walkway 20

General use



Altro Classic 25

Kitchens, industrial areas



Altro Aquarius

Showers, pool surrounds



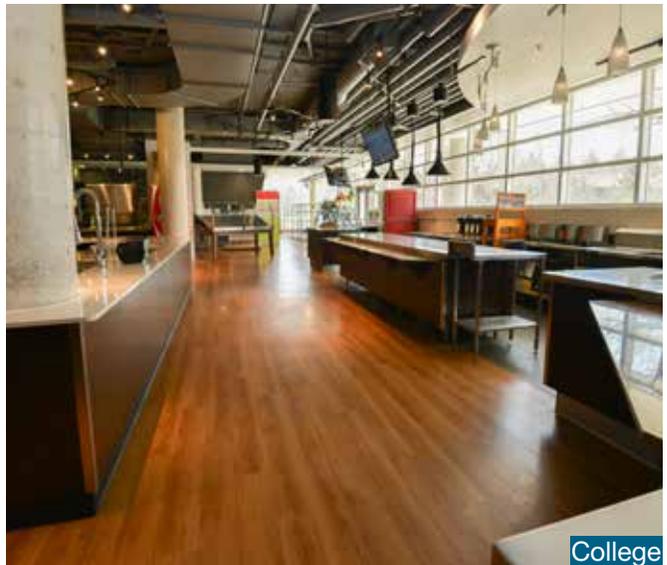
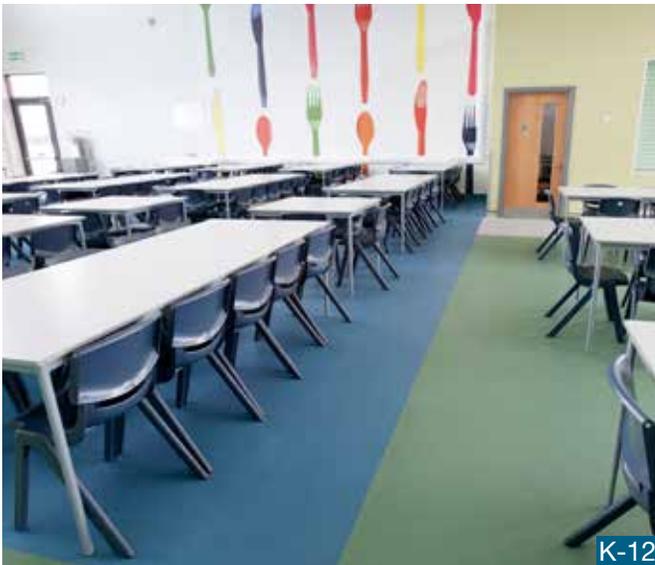
Classrooms

Studies have shown that the design of a classroom can impact a child's academic progress by as much as 25% during a school year as well as boost morale, enhance safety and foster student collaboration.

With so much at stake, it's important that the right products and colors are used in these spaces. Use products that foster learning while offering the durability required to withstand the frequent reconfiguration that occurs in today's flexible STEM learning classrooms.

Top product choices

- Altro Quartz Tile
- Altro Dolce Tile
- Altro Dolce Essentials
- Altro Lavencia



Cafeterias

The constant presence of food and beverages, as well as moving tables, chairs and plenty of foot traffic requires a unique combination of products to meet the demanding needs of busy cafeterias.

Altro Quartz Tile is a great smooth option while slip resistant sheet vinyl can offer enhanced safety and durability around lunch lines and areas of likely spillage. Altro Lavencia LVT may also be used to evoke a high end look, especially important for college and university cafeterias.

Top product choices

- Altro Quartz Tile
- Altro Lavencia
- Altro Wood
- Altro Dolce Tile
- Altro Walkway 20



K-12



College

Hallways and corridors

Rigorous foot traffic stampedes through hallways and corridors daily, so flooring must stand up to everyday demands and be easy to clean.

Choosing the right flooring in these high-traffic areas is critical for visual impact and way-finding, as well as controlling long-term maintenance costs.

Top product choices

- Altro Quartz Tile
- Altro Dolce Tile
- Altro Dolce Essentials



K-12



College

Bathrooms

Bathrooms can be a dangerous area in the school, with water on the floor a real hazard. Students and faculty need to be protected from slipping. Altro slip resistant flooring provides peace of mind while requiring very little maintenance.

Combined with Altro Puraguard wall protection, the two products form a fully sealed, watertight system with no grouted joints to clean.

Top product choices

- Altro Walkway 20
- Altro Puraguard wall protection



K-12



College

School kitchen

Commercial kitchens are some of the toughest environments for floors. Constantly exposed to grease, liquids and food, the floors in a busy kitchen can be a safety hazard. Thankfully our Altro Classic 25 flooring product offers superior slip resistance even in greasy or wet conditions.

With over 50 years of experience in commercial kitchens, Altro has products, accessories and knowledge that are uniquely tailored to create a total kitchen solution.

Top product choices

- Altro Classic 25
- Altro Puraguard wall protection



K-12



College

Labs

Whether it is a full-scale university medical research lab or an introduction to chemistry class, school laboratories can be a harsh environment for floors and walls.

With resistance to a multitude of chemicals and substances, Altro's high performance flooring and wall cladding products are designed to meet the demanding needs of school labs.

Top product choices

- Altro Reliance 25
- Altro Symphonia
- Altro Whiterock wall cladding



Showers and pool facilities

When water is around the potential for slips and falls can rise exponentially. Altro Aquarius is the perfect solution for these areas as it provides a slip resistant surface to both shoe and barefoot traffic.

Combine this with Altro Whiterock wall cladding to create a complete solution for wet environments. Together these products form a water-tight, hygienic envelope that has become the industry standard for wet environments.

Top product choices

- Altro Aquarius
- Altro Whiterock wall cladding



Administration and offices

These busy areas must look their best for students, faculty, staff and visitors. Altro has a number of decorative products that will work with any design scheme and last through years of rolling chairs, moving desks, heavy office furniture and plenty of foot traffic.

Top product choices

- Altro Lavencia
- Altro Dolce Tile
- Altro Dolce Essentials
- Altro Quartz Tile



Gymnasiums and athletic areas

When selecting floors and walls for athletic areas, durability is key. Consistent foot traffic and heavy equipment can erode surfaces used in gymnasiums. Over time, this can make flooring susceptible to cracking and chipping, creating spaces for dirt and bacteria to evade routine maintenance and potentially compromise student and faculty health.

Altro Ollero is a versatile, durable rubber flooring solution for heavy-duty athletic environments. Comfort backed products like Altro Wood Acoustic and Altro Serenade can be used in light gym and aerobic areas.

Top product choices

- Altro Ollero
- Altro Puraguard wall protection
- Altro Wood Acoustic, Altro Serenade for light gym and aerobics
- Altro Walkway 20



Residence halls

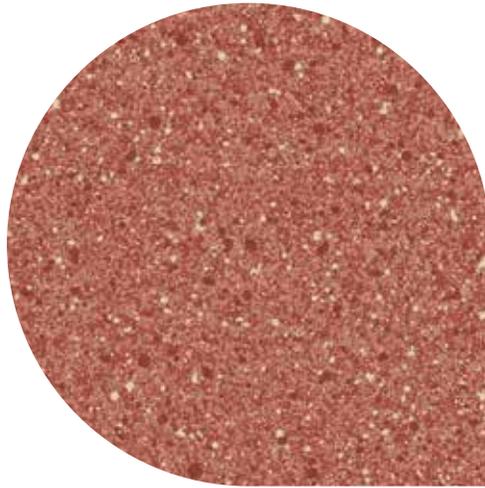
It's no wonder that student residence halls are the fastest growing area in colleges and universities. Studies have shown that student housing is proven to be a major role in student admission decisions. This requires flooring that not only looks beautiful but will last without costly or even routine maintenance.

Altro Lavencia luxury vinyl tiles and planks are the perfect flooring solution for dorms. Altro Lavencia offers amazingly realistic visuals in an array of sizes and finishes. Great looks aside, Altro Lavencia's outstanding performance is just what you expect from Altro. High quality luxury vinyl planks and tiles specifically constructed to handle the tolls of student residence halls.

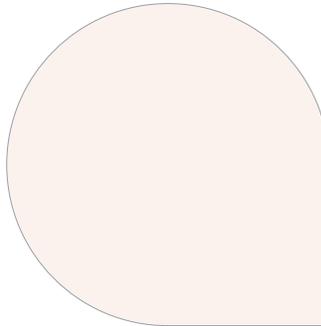
Top product choices

- Altro Lavencia

updated 05/14/20



Altro Cantata



Altro Whiterock Matte



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