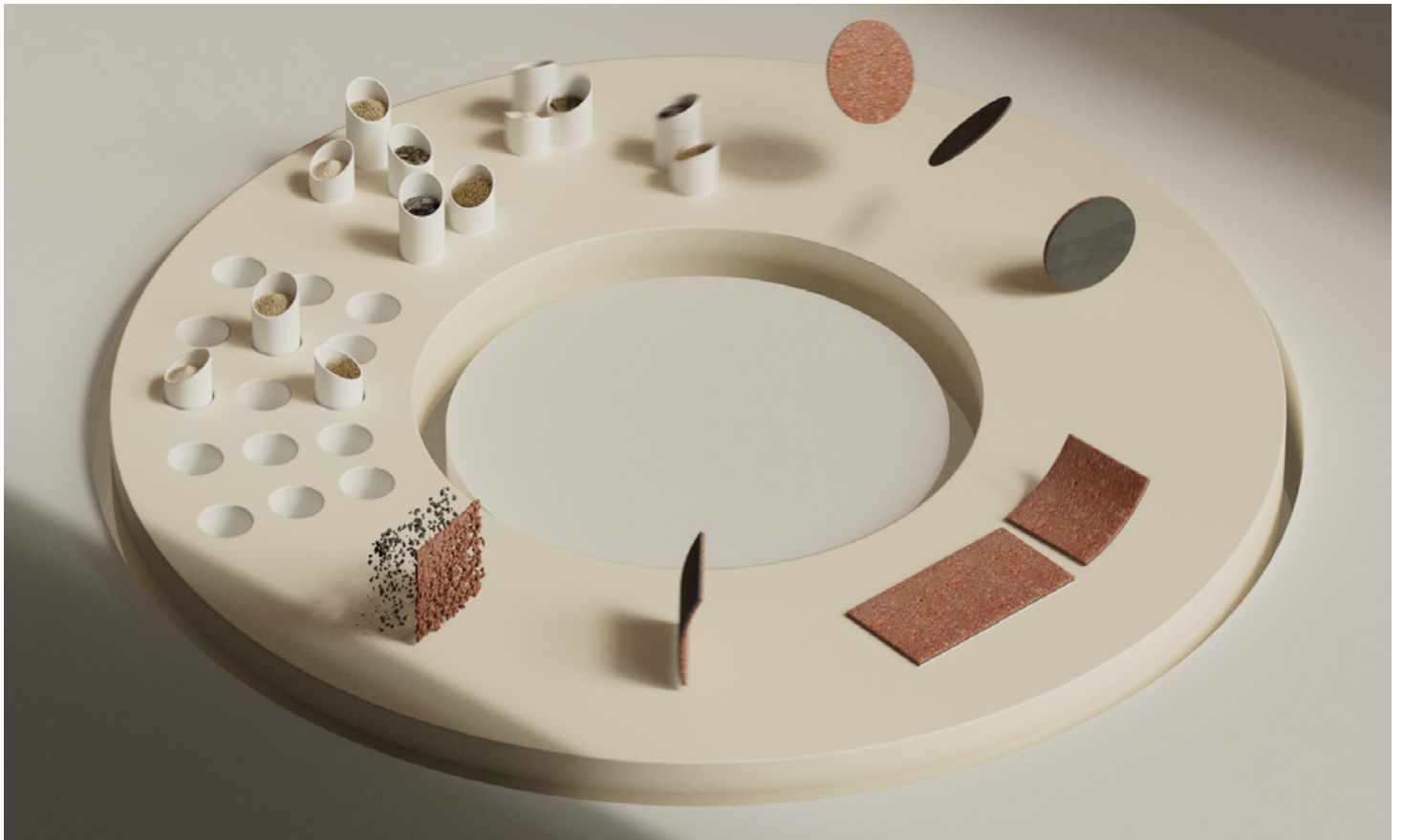


DESSO BY TARKETT: Embracing partnerships to achieve a closed-loop recycling system.



DESSO by Tarkett is a leading global carpet brand with an 85-year history.

More than a decade ago we committed to placing circularity at the core of our ambitions as a business. Moving away from our industry's standard take-make-waste model towards a closed-loop system involved a total change of mindset within the business, alongside an ambitious strategy with challenging milestones. In 2019 we became the first flooring company to transition to the circular economy model, fully closing the loop on DESSO carpet tiles.

We call our commitment to closing the loop the Beauty of Circularity, and it drives us to do more with less at every stage - designing our products to live multiple lives; developing innovative materials that are made to be remade; and building systems to return flooring at end of life to complete the circular journey.

Since we began our circular journey in 2008, partnerships have played a critical role in achieving a closed-loop system, helping us to reduce our reliance on virgin materials and keep more resources from across industries in the loop.

MOVING AWAY FROM VIRGIN CHALK

In 2013, DESSO hosted a Cradle to Cradle event at our Waalwijk site in the Netherlands, to inspire other businesses to get involved in circularity efforts. The director of a local water company revealed he had calcium carbonate (chalk) residues available, which could help DESSO's ongoing search for defined recycled materials that wouldn't contaminate our formulation or recycling processes.

Previously, waste chalk from the local drinking water treatment process was donated to farmers to use as fertiliser in their fields, or as flooring for cattle sheds. The value of the chalk itself, as a material, was completely lost. Meanwhile, DESSO was sourcing virgin chalk for its EcoBase carpet tile backing from a mine in Northern France.

DESSO's research and development teams began working closely with AquaMinerals (formerly Reststoffenuie), a Dutch drinking water industry partnership established to create value from water treatment waste. Our engineers partnered with AquaMinerals to achieve the exact composition and size of chalk particles needed for our EcoBase backing and manufacturing processes, using chalk from a number of local water treatment plants.

Our circular collaboration played a key role in EcoBase first achieving Cradle to Cradle Gold certification in 2015. EcoBase can be 100% safely recycled within our own production process. Recycled content is externally verified by Lloyd's Register.

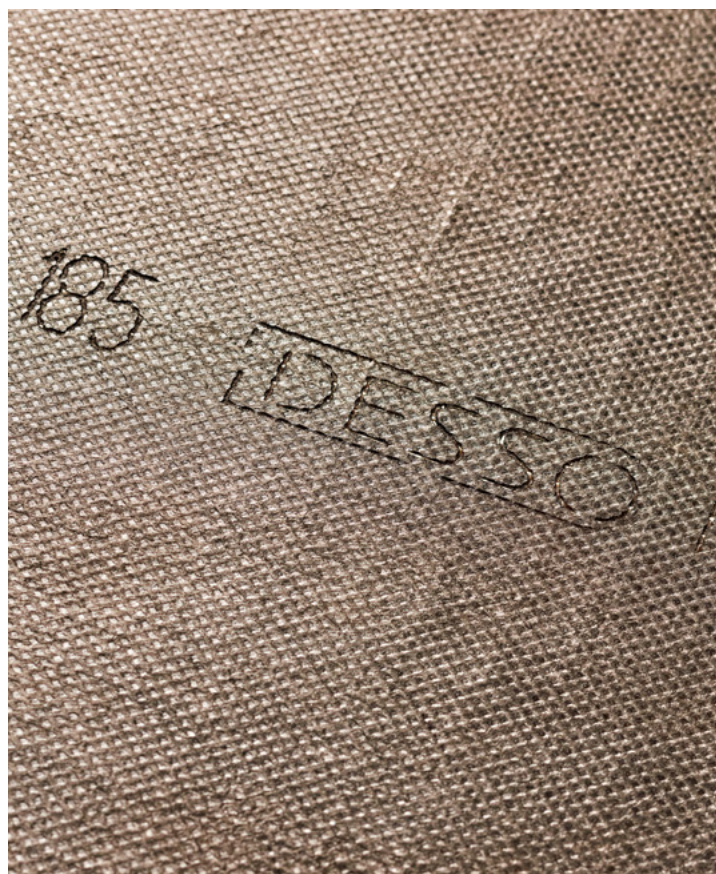


RECYCLING OUR PA6 YARN

Our chief challenge when trying to close the loop was the question of recycling our post-use carpet tiles. We needed to find a way to separate the yarn from the EcoBase backing while maintaining the quality of the materials, so they could be used again for the same purpose.

DESSO has been recycling post-consumer carpet tiles since 2009 through our ReStart recycling and take-back programme, and in 2019 we developed pioneering technology at our Waalwijk facility in the Netherlands, to separate the yarn and backing while retaining more than 95% yarn purity. This level of purity was a vital step in ensuring that the polyamide 6 (PA6) yarn could be recycled.

A long-term, close collaboration with Aquafil, a leading producer of PA6 yarn and a pioneer in the circular economy, opened up a way to recycle the PA6 yarn from DESSO carpet tiles into new carpet yarns – specifically, Aquafil's regenerated ECONYL® nylon yarn. This major step forward meant that both yarn and EcoBase backing could now be disassembled and recycled into resources for the next carpet cycle – making DESSO the only carpet maker in Europe to have externally verified evidence of closing the loop on carpet tile production, as documented by the Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for EcoBase-backed tiles.¹



¹<https://www.environdec.com/library/epd8606>

²Tarkett calculates the Circular Carbon Footprint based on carbon generated over the full life cycle of its products, covering material extraction, manufacturing, installation, use, and recycling at end of life. Its Circular Carbon Footprint calculations are externally verified by Bureau Veritas

³Circular Carbon Footprint: according to the product specific Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) S-P-13143, S-P-05827, S-P-08559, S-P-08561, S-P-09339, S-P-08952. Externally verified by Bureau Veritas



SCANDINAVIAN PAPER INDUSTRY

In 2024 came another milestone for EcoBase, brought about by a cross-industry partnership. DESSO was able to halve the use of petroleum-based material in its EcoBase backing, by replacing it with a by-product from the Scandinavian paper industry: bio-based pine rosin.

The partnership enabled DESSO to replace 50% of EcoBase's fossil-derived tackifier, instead using a rosin ester sourced from Swedish paper mills working with sustainably managed forests. The material is distilled from rosin (wood saps) which is left over from the wood pulping process.

As well as giving life to another industry's 'waste' material, this 5% material adjustment in EcoBase backing has resulted in an average 20% reduction in each tile's Circular Carbon Footprint², achieving DESSO's lowest Circular Carbon Footprint yet.³

DESSO's EcoBase backing now contains up to 91% recycled and bio-based content, is 100% recyclable and Cradle to Cradle Gold-certified.

At DESSO, the Beauty of Circularity is a continuous journey, never complete. We see ourselves as restless innovators; continuously improving materials, nurturing collaboration and creating products that reduce environmental impact. Closing the loop, day after day.

For further information visit:

professionals.tarkett.com/en_EU/node/the-beauty-of-circularity-sustainability-campaign-18225

https://professionals.tarkett.com/en_EU/node/desso-ecobase-5205