

Case Study

Johns Hopkins Hospital



Details

Location: Baltimore, MD

Products Installed:
108 SF Strait Rx in test site

10,752 SF Forest Rx in
Meyer Neuro & Rehab

Project Needs

- Easy to clean
- Green/sustainable material specifications
- No wax surface
- Slip resistant
- Acousitic
- Ergonomic

Product Benefits

- Easy to clean
- Easy to install
- Durable

Rx Collection Provides a Prescription for Comfort

When Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH) in Baltimore, Md. decided it needed an alternative to carpet, they relied on science to determine an alternative. “We can’t keep carpet clean,” said Teri Bennett, RN, CID, CHID, IIDA, NIHD, EDAC, & Lead Interior Designer in Architecture & Planning Department at JHH.

Under the direction of the hospital’s Facility Planning and Maintenance Team, JHH conducted a system wide multi-disciplinary research floor testing study over 90 days from November 22, 2014 to February 21, 2015. The test protocol and process utilized the 2014 FGI Guidelines Surfaces and Furnishings for performance criteria selection guidelines and focused on overcoming four challenges.

JHH’s first two challenges were to reduce the use of under-performing, environmentally harmful, expensive, and high-maintenance surfaces and to establish a no-carpet flooring policy. JHH tested 20 products; 11 resilient surfaces and 9 acoustic, non-carpet surfaces. This included textile composite, rubber, rubber composite, vinyl rubber composite, and heterogeneous and homogenous resilient flooring.

The third challenge was for all renovation projects to incorporate green/sustainable material specifications. “We had little experience with green, recycled products

and products made from alternative materials,” said Andrea Hyde, AAHID, MDCID & Planner Designer in Architecture & Planning Department at JHH.

The fourth and fifth challenges for JHH were to test establish new standard cleaning procedures and protocols to comply with sustainable, low-VOC guidelines and to also meet infection control and aging issues by eliminating the use of high gloss surfaces, prior to implementation.

The JHH test area that was chosen for the 20 surfaces was the corridor connecting JHH Main Campus and JHOPC, including the Metro subway entrance to JHH East Baltimore Campus. This area receives more than 20,000 estimated footfalls per day. Each of the 20 product test sites measured 6 feet by 18 feet with 4 feet of walking width. The result: “Some of the most sustainable products failed really miserably,” said Hyde. “They needed more care than we could give, or material collected soiling due to the inherent open pore design.”

One of the products that performed the best was Ecore's Strait Rx, a floor that features a heterogeneous vinyl sheet fusion bonded to 5 millimeters of composition rubber. The result: a surface that reduces the risk of injury associated with falls and offers sound control and comfort underfoot.

“The entire side that we were testing acoustics on was interesting,” said Hyde. Using rolling carts, JHH conducted acoustic tests over all of the test products. “You hit the granite tile, then you rolled over our resilient floor, then you hit the granite tile again, and then you rolled over the acoustic test floor,” said Hyde. “We felt the products we were testing on that side, Ecore’s (Strait Rx) included, were truly making a sound difference, as people rolled on that side of the floor,” said Hyde.

With regard to cleaning, some products changed color with the Oxi-Clean or Oxi-Seal. “The Rx product never had an issue at all,” said Bennett. “There were no issues with cleaning at all on both sides (sealed and unsealed). And the seam remained intact throughout the test.”

As a result of Strait Rx’s positive performance and because it fulfilled JHH’s 4 criteria challenges, JHH specified Forest Rx, another product in Ecore's Rx Collection, for installation in 56 inpatient rooms in the JHH Meyer Neuro & Rehab facility. “The existing standard VCT flooring was replaced,” said Bennett.

