

INTERFACE



Established in 1973, Interface is the world's largest manufacturer of modular carpet tiles, hard and soft variants which are designed to work together in an integrated flooring system. A global company with a reputation for high quality, reliability and premium positioning, Interface has manufacturing locations on four continents and sales in 110 countries.

Recognised internationally as one of the most environmentally responsible manufacturers on the planet, Interface is dedicated to "Mission Zero". This commitment to sustainability equates to the complete elimination of any negative impact Interface has on the environment by the year 2020. Launched in 1994 to find an alternative to the traditional take-make-waste manufacturing model, Mission Zero is deeply entrenched and embedded into Interface's philosophy and business strategy. When it comes to closed loop manufacturing, Interface sets the bar, recycling thousands of tons of old carpets and transforming them into beautiful new ones.

Right from the design stage, Interface carefully considers their ultimate destination and does what it can to reclaim used carpets. Since 1995, more than 118 million kilograms of have been diverted from landfills globally. Interface also works closely with its fibre suppliers to continually reduce the virgin content in the nylons purchased by supplying them with post-consumer carpet fibre from all over North America. This has resulted in new and innovative technologies that significantly increase the recycled content of Interface products, and now includes

incorporation of reclaimed fishing nets in their 100 percent recycled content Type 6 Nylon.

From design to installation, Interface offers avesthetic appeal in addition to sustainable attributes. Depending on the actual requirements, Interface is able to offer carpets with up to 85 percent in recycled content, a feat few can accomplish. As a result of this emphasis on total life cycle sustainability, Interface is the first carpet manufacturer in Singapore to achieve the maximum 4-tick Leader rating in SGBC's Singapore Green Building Product labelling scheme.

The focus on sustainability permeates every aspect of Interface, from the products it offers right down to the people who make, market and deliver the product. Both management and rank-and-file employees are onboard Interface's sustainability vision through a number of initiatives that include a sustainable internal purchasing policy, a program that puts employee suggestions into action as well as internal transportation programmes. Indeed, Interface tracks and neutralises carbon emissions from employee business air travel, having planted more than 200,000 trees to negate the carbon emissions from business-related air travel since starting in 1997.

With a business model focused on sustainability, Interface is well-poised to achieving Mission Zero by 2020. In fact, the company is getting very close to this goal and proving that a sustainability-based business model is possible. Interface is now preparing to take the next powerful step in its journey: Climate Take Back, an audacious new mission to go beyond mitigating harm to the environment to running the business in a way that helps to reverse global warming.



LOCAL AND REGIONAL PRESENCE

Interface's regional hub is in Singapore with 35 staff, including its Sustainability Lead for Asia. Interface's regional location in Singapore allows it to reach countries across South East Asia including Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, South Korea and Japan.

Interface drives a number of sustainability initiatives from the regional office in Singapore, one of which is an open source collaborative platform designed (HumanSpaces.com) to aggregate and publish content related to biophilic design to advance the sustainability of buildings in Singapore and beyond. Through this site, Interface has featured case studies from WOHA and CPG including the ParkRoyal on Pickering property and Khoo Teck Huat Hospital. Their role has also always been quite focused on contributing global resources and findings to push the boundaries of green and sustainable approaches in Singapore.

Interface works closely with the local industry, such as with the Singapore Green Building Council. Regularly supporting SGBC's Pavilion at the annual BEX Asia exhibition, Interface has also organised a number of events with SGBC, primarily seminars cum networking events centred on sustainability in design and architecture as well as on biomimicry. 🌱

All images courtesy of Interface Asia.