

What are your flooring expectations? Is it more important that your floor withstands heavy foot traffic or reduces noise? Is ease of maintenance or stain resistance a high priority? The following chart and descriptions explain different flooring expectations that can help you decide which type of EF Contract products-- carpet, Kinetex, or LVT -- will be the right choice for your project.

CATEGORY	MODULAR	BROADLOOM	KINETEX	LVT
Noise Reduction	●●	●●	●●●	●
Comfort Underfoot	●●	●●●	●●●	●
Slip/Fall Safety	●●	●●	●●●	●
Stain Resistance	●●	●	●●	●●●
Indoor Air Quality	●●●	●●●	●●●	●●
Ease of Cleaning	●●●	●●	●●●	●●●
Modular Furniture	●●●	●	●●●	●●●
Displacement/Indentation	●●	●	●●	●●
Surface Durability	●●	●●	●●●	●●●
Sub Floor Moisture	●●	●	●●●	●●

Good = ● Better = ●● Best = ●●●



### NOISE REDUCTION

Noise reduction is a priority; in offices, schools, medical buildings, almost everywhere. Noise is a sound that is unwanted or distracting, and can have a negative effect on human performance. Noise may be airborne or structure-borne. Each flooring category reduces noise differently.

#### Takeaways:

1. Carpet, particularly modular carpet, reduces noise significantly, almost as well as Kinetex.
2. Kinetex dramatically reduces airborne and structure-borne sound.
3. LVT demonstrates exceptional structure-borne noise reduction for a hard-surface product. When needed, acoustic underlayments will enhance that performance.



### COMFORT UNDERFOOT

Comfort is a perception, and highly subjective. It is nearly impossible to measure. Some people prefer a softer surface, some prefer a harder surface. Those who walk or stand for long periods of time, e.g. teachers and caregivers, are particularly sensitive to comfort underfoot.

#### Takeaways:

1. Kinetex and carpet support the perception of comfort underfoot.
2. LVT can do the same, but to a lesser extent.
3. In areas with LVT, where durability and cleanability are must-haves, strategically placed area rugs made with modular carpet and connector systems provide both comfort and style.



### SLIP/FALL SAFETY

There is real concern over liabilities from slip/fall injuries. All floors are safe when they are clean and dry, but some are safer than others when they are dirty or wet.

#### Takeaways:

1. All EF Contract products meet generally accepted guidelines for traction, wet and dry.
2. Kinetex is the only wall-to-wall textile floor surface certified as High-Traction by the National Floor Safety Institute.



### STAIN RESISTANCE

When spills occur, the best insurance against a stain includes a timely response and stain-resistant flooring. With very few exceptions, all EF Contract products are highly stain resistant.

#### Takeaways:

1. Carpet made with EF Contract solution dyed nylon fiber is highly stain resistant.
2. Carpet made with EF Contract extruded fiber with ColorLoc is highly stain resistant.
3. Kinetex, both solution dyed and solution dyed with applied pattern, is highly stain resistant.



### INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Indoor air quality includes both chemical VOC emissions and sequestration of respirable particles.

#### Takeaways:

1. All EF Contract carpet products and Kinetex and adhesives are certified by the Carpet and Rug Institute as Green Label Plus compliant.
2. EF Contract LVT flooring is certified by SCS Global Services as FloorScore compliant.
3. EF Contract carpet products and Kinetex have been shown to be particularly effective at sequestering respirable particles.



### MAINTENANCE

All floors require cleaning to look their best and meet performance expectations. The type and frequency of cleaning depends on the kind of floor and the type and amount of traffic and soiling.

#### Takeaways:

1. If the requirements of the space dictate the use of LVT, its well-known ease of maintenance is a significant benefit.
2. If the requirements of the space dictate the use of carpet or Kinetex, these are easily cleaned using well-known cleaners and equipment which are proven, available and effective.



### MODULAR OFFICE SYSTEMS

Modular office furniture is designed to be moved and often is. Moving can include disassembly, the use of lift systems, and other methods. Relocating office furniture can potentially damage unprotected flooring.

#### Takeaways:

1. When relocating office furniture flooring protection is always required.
2. Access flooring is often part of the modular office. Modular carpet, Kinetex and LVT flooring with releasable adhesive or TileTabs allows easier access to subfloor for power and cable management.
3. Carpet tiles and LVT installed using dry installation methods are most compatible with access flooring.
4. EF Contract's LVT flooring does not utilize the "click" together method of installation. These products are prone to failing in commercial applications. If an EF Contract LVT product gets damaged, simply remove and replace.



### DISPLACEMENT/INDENTATION

Some flooring systems may be visibly affected by both rolling and static loads. In some cases the flooring itself is visibly indented. In others the flooring is unaffected but collapse of the adhesive layer gives the visible impression of flooring indentation. Displacement; movement of flooring out of its installed position, may occur when rolling loads distort flooring modules enough for them to buckle and move out of place.

#### Takeaways:

1. Carpet, LVT and Kinetex have static load and/or compression-set ratings suitable for the vast majority of commercial and institutional spaces. Examples include the use of pallet jacks during move-in or transporting supplies and rolling hospital beds.
2. If excessively heavy rolling or static loads are a concern (e.g. scissor lifts and small forklifts) protecting the floor using plywood, OSB or other panels may be required to maintain warranty coverage.
3. The EF Contract adhesives used to install LVT and carpet have excellent bond strength and the likelihood of displacement caused by heavy rolling loads is very slight. Costly two-part adhesives will not be required in the vast majority of applications.



### SURFACE DURABILITY

Surface durability is often #1 on the list of what our customers want from flooring. To the extent it is possible, all EF Contract product options meet or exceed industry expectations for abrasion, crushing and scratching/tearing.

#### Takeaways:

1. EF Contract LVT uses a proprietary wear layer with a high dispersion ratio of ceramic beads for exceptional wear resistance.
2. Even then, LVT is susceptible to scratching under aggressive conditions. Occasional topical application of non-building topical finishes can often restore surface appearance.
3. EF Contract carpets use the highest quality materials and advanced construction to extend their useful life and permit risk-free lifetime warranties.
4. Kinetex has a documented TARR rating of 4.5, a European performance classification of Heavy Commercial and carries a lifetime warranty.



### SUB FLOOR MOISTURE

Subfloor moisture is a growing and expensive problem. Understanding site conditions and selecting the best flooring is the best way to avoid post-installation problems.

#### Takeaways:

1. EF Contract's modular carpet installed with TileTabs and Commercialon Premium Sealer will perform in elevated RH slabs up to 99% and a pH of 11.
2. Kinetex will perform in elevated RH slabs up to 100% and a pH of 11.
3. EF Contract's 5mm LVT installed with TileTabs and Commercialon Premium Sealer will perform in elevated RH slabs up to 99% and a pH of 11.