



Yours Purely,



AMORIM



Acrodur®  
Ecotechnology  
by BASF

# Amorim Flooring introduces Acrodur® advanced binder technology by BASF

## Press Release

In an exclusive partnership, Amorim Flooring the world's largest Cork and Wood-on-Cork flooring producer and BASF the world's leading chemical company are proud to present the next generation of flooring and wall covering cork products.

Being world leaders in their activities sectors and acknowledged for quality, innovation and unique solutions, Amorim Flooring and BASF have combined more than a hundred years of cork experience with the new innovative Acrodur® eco-binder technology.

Acrodur® is a water based binder developed by BASF that contains no ingredients such as phenol, formaldehyde or isocyanate and significantly reduces the level of emissions without changing the technical performance of the products.

An important advantage is that Acrodur® greatly improves the workplace hygiene due to lower odour and lower emissions.

Amorim Flooring brands (Wicanders®, Ipocork® and Corklife®) are now available with this new water based binder which will replace the classical "Melamine-Urea-Formaldehyde resin."

### Amorim Flooring and BASF - a partnership for Sustainability

An Eco-Efficiency analysis determines how eco-friendly a product or process is compared to similar ones. It also shows its economic efficiency from the customer's point of view. It takes into consideration for example the amount of energy and other resources spent and the level of green house gas emissions when producing, using and disposing of the products compared.

In 2007, BASF conducted an Eco-Efficiency study on several types of flooring products including Amorim Flooring cork products.

The study's findings confirmed the superior Eco-Efficiency properties of cork flooring products, such as:

- A much more moderate consumption of resources (energy and raw materials) in order to produce the same units of flooring elements.
- Significantly lower contribution to global warming, due to lower emissions and CO<sub>2</sub>-retention in the natural material cork, especially compared to products like LVT Vinyl Flooring.
- Total ownership costs for the end customers: Cork floors allow for considerable reductions of room heating due to their warm touch and thermal insulation properties.



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Overall, the ecological fingerprint and the Eco-Efficiency portfolio (assuming similar flooring material prices) clearly show the superior Eco-Efficiency of the cork based flooring products.

### Amorim Flooring towards sustainability

Amorim's cork products represent a unique balance between the creation of wealth and the protection of the environment.

The cork industry is remarkably sustainable; it takes a natural raw material extracted cyclically from trees without ever harming them, and turns it into high value-added products while promoting the economic and social sustainability of areas at risk of desertification.

Furthermore the world's cork oak forests' role in fixing CO<sub>2</sub>, in preserving biodiversity and in fighting desertification is now recognized as both fundamental to, and a unique example of, true sustainable development.

Our products retain the CO<sub>2</sub> that otherwise would be contributing to global warming.

The CO<sub>2</sub> retention capabilities of Portugal's cork forests are estimated to be as high as 5% of the country's annual emissions, or 4.8 million tons per year.

For more information please contact the respective Amorim country organisation or appointed representative. (look at [www.amorim.com](http://www.amorim.com) / [www.wicanders.com](http://www.wicanders.com))

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### Corporate information: About the company

With a market share of 60 % in cork and wood-on-cork flooring and decorative panelling, Amorim Revestimentos S.A. is the world leader in cork coverings with 650 staff members employed in three production units and nine distribution companies selling to more than 52 countries all over the globe. Amorim Revestimentos is part of the Portuguese Amorim Group, leading the industry for more than 130 years.

### Relevant Facts

Industrial plants: 105 000 m<sup>2</sup>

Employees (2007): 650

Production capacity (2007): 7 millions m<sup>2</sup>

Consolidated turnover (2007): € 130 000 000

Exporting countries: 52

Sales presence: Benelux, UK, Switzerland, France, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Germany, Spain, Austria, Portugal, Poland, USA, Canada, Japan, Italy, Turkey, China, Russia, Australia.

### About BASF

BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products, agricultural products and fine chemicals to crude oil and natural gas. As a reliable partner to virtually all industries, BASF's high-value products and intelligent system solutions help its customers to be more successful. BASF develops new technologies and uses them to meet the challenges of the future and open up additional market opportunities. It combines economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility, thus contributing to a better future. BASF has approximately 95,000 employees and posted sales of €52.6 billion in 2006. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).

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