

# FIVE IMPORTANT CRITERIA FOR HEALTHCARE FLOORING

## Hygiene & disinfection

To support your fight against healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), your flooring solutions should provide ...



... a dense surface easy to clean and disinfect.



... permanently sealed seams making sure the surface offers no place for germs to hide.

**4.0 mio.**

Patients infected in the EU annually

approx. **37 000** of them die

Infections in healthcare facilities are a real danger to patients.<sup>1</sup>

## Healthy indoor air

To support a healthy indoor air climate, your flooring solutions should be low-emission.



[www.blauer-engel.de/uz120](http://www.blauer-engel.de/uz120)



Make sure your flooring solution, as well as all installation materials, are low-emission, which should be certified by international institutions.

✗ **> 1000 µg/m<sup>3</sup>**  
unhealthy

✓ **≤ 1000 µg/m<sup>3</sup>**  
acceptable

♥ **≤ 200–300 µg/m<sup>3</sup>**  
safe to breathe

Low TVOC<sup>2</sup> emissions are essential for a healthy indoor climate.

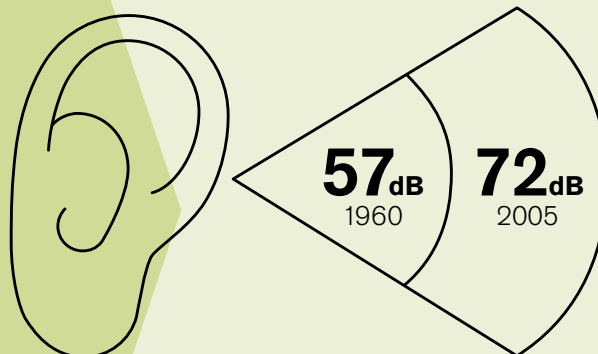
## Noise reduction

Consider noise reduction when choosing the flooring for your healthcare facility.



### Impact of noise on patients

Because rest and relaxation are known to promote recovery, it is especially important to keep noise levels down.



Noise level in hospitals during day<sup>3</sup>

### Common sources of noise

Footsteps, medical device alarms, food trolleys, moving patient beds, medical instrument sounds

# Ergonomic properties and slip resistance

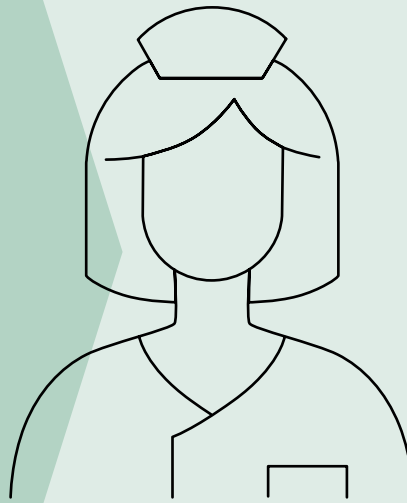
Make sure your flooring solution ...



... provides anti-slip properties.



... cushions the impact of the foot when walking on the floor.



Nurses walk up to **8 km/shift**<sup>4</sup>  
(≈ 5 miles)

This frequently leads to

- fatigue
- back pain

# Economical solution

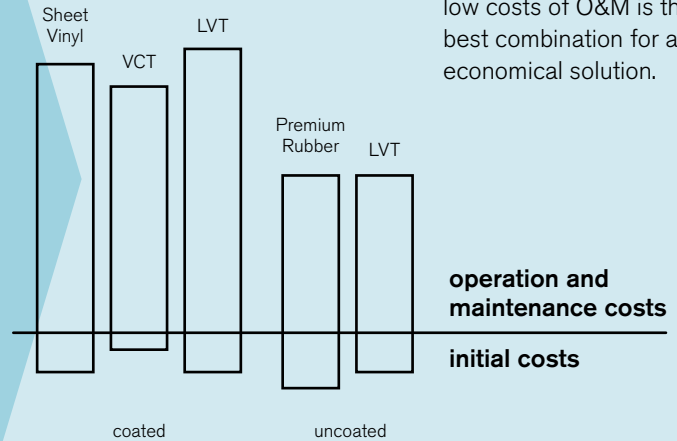
Calculate the costs per year, and take into consideration the life-span of the selected flooring solution. The true costs of flooring<sup>5</sup> show in the long run:



**Installing at low cost** may seem attractive, but watch out for the costs of operation and maintenance (O&M).



**Some coated floorings** have to be recoated regularly to compensate wear. This increases costs of O&M.



A long life-span with low costs of O&M is the best combination for an economical solution.

## Conclusion

**Apart from design aspects, a flooring solution in a hospital or care facility has to comply with a lot of requirements.**

Flooring solutions from nora consider all of these aspects. With the experience of many decades in healthcare flooring, nora makes sure your floor contributes to a safe and healthy environment for patients and staff.



## About nora

nora by Interface, as the brand of Interface, Inc., is the global market leader for rubber floor coverings. With extensive expertise in healthcare facilities, the German-based manufacturer produces floorings for several industries.

For over 70 years, nora premium rubber helps to support operations, efficiencies, health, safety and well-being with flooring that eases maintenance, reduces noise and provides added comfort underfoot.

If you want to know more about nora flooring solutions for your spaces, please contact us. We're happy to help.

[www.nora.com](http://www.nora.com)

<sup>1</sup> European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Annual epidemiological report on communicable diseases in Europe 2008.

Chapter 2 – Healthcare-associated infections, pp 16–38. Stockholm: ECDC; 2008

<sup>2</sup> [www.baunetzwissen.de/boden/fachwissen/qualitaetsicherung/qualitaet-der-innenraumluft-151644](http://www.baunetzwissen.de/boden/fachwissen/qualitaetsicherung/qualitaet-der-innenraumluft-151644)

<sup>3</sup> [www.baunetzwissen.de/akustik/fachwissen/wohnen-gesundheit/kliniken-147963](http://www.baunetzwissen.de/akustik/fachwissen/wohnen-gesundheit/kliniken-147963)

<sup>4</sup> [www.nursetogether.com/how-much-does-nurse-really-walk-during-their-shift/](http://www.nursetogether.com/how-much-does-nurse-really-walk-during-their-shift/)

<sup>5</sup> Boussabaine A., Kirkham R. Whole Life-cycle Costing, Risk and risk responses, Blackwell Publishing Ltd., Oxford, UK, 2004; [www.tf.ilu.lv/conference/proceedings2018/Papers/N405.pdf](http://www.tf.ilu.lv/conference/proceedings2018/Papers/N405.pdf)