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Housing

Eco Home Hertfordshire, UK

PRODUCTS USED: Colonia PUR

Polyflor Colonia Wood PUR brings Nordic minimalist style to Hertfordshire Eco Home.

Imagine owning a house with no CO₂ producing gas supply that generates energy so efficiently that you receive back more in rebates than you are charged for the electricity you consume. This may seem like fiction but for David and Gill Jay it is a reality. Through a combination of careful design and innovative technology, their home achieves a very high SAP rating of 97, meaning it costs less to run than its current annual energy rebate. However, this astonishing energy performance is only part of the story.

The plot was formerly occupied by a 1960s bungalow. To transform it, David turned to childhood friend and now RIBA Award winning architect - Richard Mitzman. Working within the footprint of the previous building, he created a striking angular design with a mezzanine floor and balcony - offering views out across the nearby golf course.

The open-plan layout is flooded with natural light and includes a spacious living area and stylish kitchen diner which can be separated off with sliding dividers. The areas feature a monochrome palette of whites, blacks and greys supported with natural materials. In keeping with this, Polyflor's Colonia Wood PUR Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) collection was specified for the floors throughout this main living area in neutral Nordic White Oak.

Colonia Wood PUR fitted naturally within the design brief to create clean internal spaces that could be easily maintained. Fitted in a traditional straight laid pattern, the oak-style floor brings Scandinavian charm to the home and is both soft and warm underfoot. Colonia features a textured surface which captures the look and feel of real wooden flooring but is far simpler to clean and care for over time.

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Integral to this hard-wearing design is a durable wear layer which offers lasting protection against dirt, dust, soil and everyday wear and tear, backed with a comprehensive 7-year residential guarantee. Colonia LVT is also designed to handle accidental splashes and temporary surface water, meaning they are more than capable of dealing with the occasional spill or mishap within kitchen or dining areas.

"We are very happy indeed with the quality of the Polyflor flooring. The installers, Underfoot Flooring, were excellent. The finished surface looks good and with the right equipment, it is very easy to clean."

David Jay, Homeowner

In addition to ensuring their new home is highly energy efficient, the Jays were also keen to use sustainable materials within its construction. Colonia Wood PUR more than ticked this box. The LVT is manufactured with materials which are responsibly sourced and typically comprise around 40% recycled content. Their low maintenance regime means less water and chemicals are needed to keep the floors in top condition. Colonia is also 100% recyclable. As a result of this environmentally friendly performance, Colonia has been assigned a BRE A rating.

Colonia also meets some of the most demanding indoor air quality standards, creating a healthier and more comfortable environment within the Jay's home. The LVT can be quickly and accurately cut to size with a sharp utility knife. This allowed the experienced installers to easily accommodate more unusual features of the home including floor sockets and the track for the sliding separators around the kitchen area.

"Our specialist installers are trained to handle the more intricate areas which cropped up in the installation. They found the Polyflor Colonia tiles were straight forward to cut to specific shapes and install."

John Gold, Director, Underfoot Flooring

The Nordic White Oak LVT chosen for David and Gill Jay's home is just one of a wide variety of design options from within the Colonia PUR collection. The complete collection accurately recreates the beauty of natural materials from rich timbers such as Koa and Walnut, to stylish stone, slate and marble. Each option can be installed in several different patterns with optional feature strips which can be laid around borders, creating a truly unique look each time.

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