

# Vinyl Composition Tile

Armstrong VCT is one of the most sustainable floor coverings available.

The Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability (BEES) model developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology measures performance using a life-cycle assessment approach. The objective measurement system evaluates environmental and economic considerations for scoring building materials. The BEES model has consistently rated VCT as one of the best products in overall floorcovering performance.

The basic ingredients in VCT – limestone – are common materials available in great supply. In 2000, the amount of post-industrial vinyl content used in organic binder portion of our tile, which is approximately 15% of the total tile, totalled 9,110,859 pounds. In 2001 the amount of post-industrial vinyl totalled 8,334,650 pounds.



## Highly Sustainable

### ■ Efficient manufacturing

- Our production process produces little physical waste. In-process scrap is incorporated back into the manufacturing process.

### ■ Transportation cost savings

- With five North American manufacturing locations, which is more than any competitive VCT manufacturer, the distances needed to transport raw materials for manufacturing are minimized. That represents efficiency in transportation and related energy costs. Our plant locations also make it energy efficient to move finished product to our network of distributors, contractors and end-use customers.

### ■ Installation and maintenance friendly

- Because of the great amount of inert materials in our VCT, there are very low emissions of any volatile organic compounds (VOCs). When installed correctly, any VOC's emitted are

dissipated quickly through normal ventilation. Low and no VOC adhesives, cleaners and finishes are readily available to install and maintain the floor covering.

■ **Long lifecycle** - It is not unusual for VCT to remain in a building for 20 or even 30 years because it wears exceptionally well. The outstanding durability reduces the need to manufacture and replace additional tile, which in itself represents significant energy and economic savings.

At the end of its useful life, VCT can be safely disposed of in landfills that accept construction waste without posing special problems. Because it is an essentially inert material, none of the ingredients in the product, including vinyl resin and pigments, require special handling. Vinyl products resist corrosive conditions that can cause materials to decompose and potentially contaminate ground water. In fact, modern landfills commonly use vinyl liners to prevent ground water contamination.