12 Good Reasons to Specify PVC Products
What is PVC?

- PVC stands for polyvinyl chloride but is often referred to just as “vinyl” (as in vinyl records or vinyl flooring).
- PVC is a thermoplastic which means it can be re-melted and is therefore recyclable.
- Unlike the other thermoplastics which are entirely derived from oil, PVC is made from 57% salt which gives it some unique technical properties and helps it to deliver unbeatable value.
- Lingering negative perceptions about PVC are based more on ignorant prejudice than sound scientific facts.
- Full Life cycle assessments (LCAs) demonstrate PVC’s advantages versus alternative materials based on real sustainability criteria.

This presentation provides 12 good reasons why PVC is hard to beat as a resource-efficient material when its credentials are fairly evaluated.
1 PVC is safe

- PVC is one of only a few materials trusted and approved for use for the storage of live human blood cells.
- PVC has extensive European food contact and medical approvals.
PVC is versatile and durable

PVC is easy to process into a wide range of articles.

- Light, tough and long-lasting – it is ideal for construction applications.
- But with high clarity and excellent organoleptic properties (no transfer of taint to food) it is equally suited for use in short-term applications such as specialised packaging.
PVC preserves fossil fuels

Made of 57% common salt and only 43% oil, it takes less non-renewable fossil fuel to make PVC than any other commodity plastic.
PVC uses less primary energy

PVC consumes less primary energy in its production than any of the other commodity plastics.

SOURCE: Software GaBi 4 Database – PE Europe
5 PVC has a relatively small carbon footprint

Look at the CO₂ impact equivalents for producing 1kg of PVC compared to producing 1kg of other products:

- Lamb: 14kg
- Aluminium: 10kg
- Cheese: 11kg
- PVC: 1.9kg
PVC delivers better value

The superior cost-to-performance ration offered by PVC was demonstrated when Brighton & Hove Council estimated what using alternatives to PVC windows would cost.

- **£8.5 million** added to their 5 year housing programme
- over **£30 million** added to their housing business plan over 30 years

SOURCE: Housing Management Sub-Committee, Brighton & Hove Council
7 PVC saves more energy

Over 75% feature PVC profiles

PVC-based windows account for most BFRC ‘A’ Rated Energy Efficient Windows
PVC performs well in LCA studies

A major revision of the BRE (Building Research Establishment) Green Guide was undertaken in 2008 which led to:

- “A” rating for Domestic Windows
- “A+” rating for Commercial Windows
- “A+” and “A” ratings for a range of vinyl (PVC) floorings
- “A+” and “A” ratings for a number of vinyl (PVC) roofing membranes
9 PVC is fully recyclable

PVC reprocesses well and offers an even smaller carbon footprint once recycled into second (or third life) applications.

- Over 300,000 tonnes of post-consumer PVC are already being recycled across Europe each year.
- By 2020 over 800,000 tonnes of PVC will be recycled annually.
10 PVC keeps its promises

Between 2000-2010:

❖ a sustainable European PVC recycling system was established
❖ heavy metal additives were phased out
❖ Vinyl2010 was recognised by the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development
PVC producers are forward thinking

A progressive new industry sustainability programme called VinylPlus has been established.

www.vinylplus.eu
12 PVC jumped the 2012 hurdle

“There are cases where, for health and safety reasons, the only solution is a PVC based material”

LONDON 2012, LEARNING LEGACY DOCUMENT

63,000 m² of PVC flooring

142,000 m² of PVC fabric

PVC cables, pipes, seating, barriers & sports equipment
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