



Quality Service

It's more than our Name, it's our way of doing business.

Hello, Kris.
APRIL ISSUE

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Leading the Way in the LEED Era

With environmentally responsible commercial construction markets estimated to top \$20 billion this year, "green" building has become the norm as more municipalities and industries adopt LEED certification and compliance. Here are a few things to know about LEED for your next flooring project:

What is LEED anyway? Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a certification program established to provide a national standard for green building design. The rating system is based on achieving a certain number of points, which are allocated for design choices defined within the standard. The points are accrued within specific credits. Factors such as water and energy efficiency, green site development, and sustainable interior details contribute to the rating system.

Can flooring contribute to LEED certification? Only buildings, not floors, can be LEED certified, but flooring can contribute toward earning LEED credits. In fact, flooring products and installation materials can contribute to earning points in three of the six LEED categories, and in a number of credit areas.

Which LEED programs are affected the most by commercial flooring? LEED-NC and LEED-CI are the two programs where flooring helps earn LEED points. LEED-NC has performance criteria that apply to commercial and institutional buildings that are either new or undergoing major renovation, while LEED-CI addresses tenant spaces in office and institutional settings.

Does it cost more to specify flooring that contributes to LEED certification? Not necessarily. Building green can pay off in reducing the environmental impact a building has on its surroundings and on the bottom line. If you look at just the "first-cost" figures, it can cost approximately 2% more to construct a LEED-certified building. But that cost can often be recovered through faster lease-up rates, rental premiums and increased market valuation. We can help you keep "first-cost" flooring expenses lower, thanks to our buying power with the nation's leading floor covering manufacturers. And, because of our tremendous experience, we can control installation costs and related expenses better than less-qualified contractors.

The LEED rating system can be daunting, but Quality Service Floor Covering can help. Our flooring experts can work with you to identify, specify and install flooring solutions that are compliant with all LEED standards and guidelines. Call us to find out how.



Quality Service's three independent operational divisions – *Floor Covering*, *Stone & Marble*, and *Commercial Maintenance* – work together to provide every customer with an exceptional total flooring solution.

www.qservice.com | quality@qservice.com

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