

# Textiles Intelligence

## Press Release

April 2026

For immediate release

### **Circularity in the carpet floor coverings industry will be driven by technological advances and regulatory pressures**

Companies are building the foundations of a more “circular” carpet floor coverings industry through investments in recycling infrastructure, redesigned product architectures and large-scale recovery programmes, according to a new 19-page report from the global business information company Textiles Intelligence.

Modern industrially produced carpets are highly complex engineered technical textiles but they have proved to be among the most difficult textile products to recycle.

Such difficulty stems from a number of factors, not least the composite constructions of carpets. However, this is only part of the problem. Typically, face fibres, primary backings, secondary backings and adhesive systems are permanently bonded. Furthermore, the presence of latex and thermoset layers prevents economical separation, and sorting is complicated by tile constructions which are made from multiple types of materials.

For these reasons, the recycling of carpets remains a niche activity, and where it does occur it frequently takes the form of downcycling into lower-value applications rather than genuine fibre-to-fibre circularity. Furthermore, existing textile recycling systems lack the economic incentives and the structural coherence to achieve genuine fibre-to-fibre circularity.

However, there has been a structural shift in how floor covering products are conceived. Recyclability has had to become a design parameter rather than an optional sustainability feature—at least in Europe, as a result of regulatory pressures stemming from mandatory textile collection schemes, extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes, and forthcoming ecodesign rules.

At the same time, advances in polymer chemistry and product architecture are demonstrating that high performance and material recovery need not be mutually exclusive.

Reflecting this, the number of chemical recycling technologies for polyamide and polyester is expanding while the development of monomaterial constructions illustrates how simplified polymer systems can unlock efficient fibre recovery.

Actively driving forward the recycling of carpets are five influential companies, namely Aquafil, Interface, Mohawk Industries, Shaw Industries, and Tarkett.

In particular, the companies are building the foundations of a more “circular” floor coverings industry through investments in recycling infrastructure, redesigned product architectures and large-scale recovery programmes.

When all of these developments are combined, they point towards a future characterised by circularity in which carpets can circulate through controlled material loops rather than accumulating as landfill waste.

Admittedly, significant technical and logistical challenges remain—particularly in the fragmented residential floor coverings market. But the direction of travel is increasingly clear.

Ends.

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“Rebuilding the floor coverings industry for circularity” is available for purchase from the global business information company Textiles Intelligence and costs £198 (UK), Euro355 (Europe, Middle East or Africa) or US\$465 (Americas or Asia Pacific). For further information or to purchase this report, visit <https://bit.ly/4cFPQ21> or email us at [editorial@textilesintelligence.com](mailto:editorial@textilesintelligence.com)

The report is also available in Issue No 137 of *Technical Textile Markets*. Other reports published in this issue include: “Editorial: JEC World 2026—collaboration is key for innovation in fibre reinforced composites”; “Technical textile markets: product developments and innovations, April 2026”; “Global technical textiles business update, April 2026”; “The world nonwovens industry: part 3—ten smaller producers, April 2026”; and “Statistics: nonwoven fabric and technical textile production in Japan”.

*Technical Textile Markets*, published four times a year by Textiles Intelligence, provides an overview of the global man-made fibre, nonwoven and technical textile industries.

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