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Novalis LVT: Designed with Health and Safety in Mind



Blog credit:

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In the midst of the global uncertainty and upheaval resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects, we at AVA hope to put your mind at ease about the health and safety of your AVA flooring.

Americans already spend an average of 90% of our time indoors (EPA). To slow the spread of the virus and protect vulnerable populations, it has become increasingly necessary for many of us to spend even more time at home, away from public places. Because

concentrations of some pollutants can be 2 to 5 times higher indoors than typical outdoor concentrations (EPA), there has been some concern about the impacts of this time indoors.

It's important to have proper ventilation and spend time outdoors—away from other

people—if advisable by public health officials. It's also equally important to control common sources of indoor air pollution, including the finishes in your home. This is why AVA places great importance on producing luxury vinyl tile with ultra-low emissions of VOCs, or volatile organic compounds. VOCs are compounds that easily become vapors or gases and contribute to indoor air pollution. AVA LVT flooring meets the requirements of some of the world's most stringent certifications for ultra-low VOC emissions, including FloorScore, Indoor Advantage Gold, and GREENGUARD Gold. While spending time with your loved ones or otherwise passing additional time indoors, rest assured your flooring is helping keep your overall indoor air pollution low.

In addition to having ultra-low VOC emissions, AVA LVT has a surface that is not conducive to spreading infection. It is incredibly easy to clean your AVA LVT with a simple pH neutral cleaner. Healthcare and other facilities have pre-



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approved products from preferred vendors for all cleaning and disinfection within their facility. To disinfect AVA LVT, use a low-level, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant designed for vinyl floor coverings. It is very important to dilute and use the disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All disinfectants require an adequate "time to kill," achieved by leaving some solution on the surface of the floor covering, to kill pathogens and then dry prior to allowing traffic. Because this residue can build up over time and become sticky, often with dirt left between layers, it can create a sterile yet dirty floor covering. As a result, the floor covering needs to be cleaned periodically with a pH neutral floor cleaner designed for vinyl floor coverings. pH neutral floor cleaners also need to be diluted and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The EPA-registered disinfectant and suitable neutral cleaner should be sourced from the facility's preferred vendor. You can find more specifics and detailed instructions on how to clean your floor at avaflor.com/new-tech-page.

When considering any new product lines or changes, AVA first considers the health and safety of our users, conducting comprehensive tests to see how they will affect indoor air quality and other concerns. We are committed to continually developing new ways to enhance our users' safety. In a time in which health has never been more top-of-mind, AVA can help you design spaces that emphasize the health and safety of their occupants.

Sources: <https://www.epa.gov/report-environment/indoor-air-quality>



Nicole Granath serves as Sustainability Manager for Novalis International, where she is responsible for implementing Novalis' global sustainability strategy. In this role, she works across product lines and operations to advance the company's commitment to producing flooring to the highest health and environmental standards.

Nicole graduated from Harvard University with a bachelor's degree in East Asian Studies and has studied at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and Xiamen University in China.

She has earned the LEED Green Associate, WELL Accredited Professional, and RESET Air Accredited Professional accreditations. Nicole is fluent in Chinese and splits her time between the Dalton, Georgia and Shanghai, China offices.

