

# The First Step

Environmentally responsible floorcoverings for school safety and comfort



*Tandus and C&A create products with a purpose—floorcoverings specifically designed to support health and safety in schools, as well as foster an environment that inspires learning.*

Photos courtesy of: Tandus

With the 21<sup>st</sup> century bringing about technological advances, globalization and an aggressive responsibility to the environment in which we live, schools need to feature more diverse learning environments with greater technology and an emphasis on the importance of sustainability.

On average, children spend close to 60% of their time away from home. If their first place of comfort is their home, shouldn't their second place of comfort be their school? At Tandus, the company works to create an environment conducive to learning that is healthy and safe for schoolchildren to laugh, learn and grow.

Tandus is a leading manufacturer of floorcoverings that unites the industry's leading specialized commercial flooring brands—Monterey, C&A and Crossley. By offering diverse product categories including Powerbond® six-foot roll goods,

broadloom carpeting, woven carpets and carpet tile, their floorcovering brands offer standard product families with coordinated styles. These products enhance the appearance of any facility with proven performance, while addressing a number of budget alternatives, which is important in all school districts.

Tandus believes everyone has a part to play in the future of our education system. The role Tandus plays is to develop "products with a purpose," floorcoverings specifically engineered to deliver solutions. Their products inspire imagination with creative designs, are budget-friendly to meet economical restraints within school budgets and are environmentally responsible to benefit future generations.

Tandus prides itself in appropriate applications—putting the right floorcovering in the right place. Floorcovering that works well in one environment may not meet the



*Klein Independent School District recently returned 120,000 pounds of flooring for recycling. To date, Tandus has recycled more than 110,000,000 pounds of carpet back into carpet through the closed-loop recycling process.*

demands and needs of another environment. From using the right color in a classroom to stimulate creativity without being distracting, to providing a cushioned floor that creates a cozy atmosphere where children can be comfortable while sitting and standing, Tandus realizes the importance of a floor being more than just a floor.

Making healthy, comfortable and flexible learning spaces is key in good school design. With school facilities used daily by more than 59 million students, teachers and other adults in the U.S., adequate security, day lighting, ventilation, acoustics and other elements impact the health, and safety of our schoolchildren.

One of the most pressing issues facing our schools today is the ability to achieve good indoor air quality (IAQ). According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), poor IAQ ranks as one of the top five public health hazards in the U.S. and poor IAQ plagues over half of all U.S. schools. Since flooring plays a critical role in maintaining good IAQ, it is vital to implement the right choice.

As most IAQ professionals will agree, major indoor air quality concerns, especially in schools are: mold/mildew growth, dust and air-borne allergens and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). With the backing on floorcoverings as the primary defense against mold, mildew and fungal growth, it determines more than 90 percent of the flooring's overall performance. In knowing that, C&A, a Tandus brand, created the only type of floorcovering that provides a wall-to-wall barrier against contaminants

and moisture flowing through the backing and seams. The vinyl cushion tufted textile (VCTT), called Powerbond®, has seams that are molecularly bound together at the time of installation and a factory-applied peel-and-stick adhesive that meets established minimums for adhesive and emission standards. Powerbond® can be cleaned with hot water extraction--eliminating harsh chemicals, allergens, fungi and bacteria up to 99 percent, and only takes a few hours to dry, eliminating the environment for mold, mildew or fungal growth. In addition, its tufted wear layer is extremely low and dense to reduce the buildup of contaminants and keep them near the surface for easy removal. With schools undergoing the continuous wear and tear that they do year after year, Powerbond® has proven to cost significantly less to maintain than conventional flow-through carpet.

With the 21st century embarking on more aggressive approaches to tackling the world's environmental issues, Tandus has made a proven commitment to stand out. Recognizing that sustainability is a journey, not a destination, Tandus is a leader in environmental innovation within its industry. It is the first floorcovering manufacturing company to create a true closed-loop recycling process. By recycling its own carpet,

*Schools of the present and the future need to be designed utilizing natural resources and materials in order to provide the safest environment for children to learn.*

as well as its competitors' carpet, back into product, Tandus is helping to reduce landfill waste and greenhouse gases. To date, Tandus has recycled more than 110,000,000 pounds of carpet. Its environmental awareness and social responsibility does not stop there. Tandus has also invented an innovated process to recycle broken windshields into high-performance carpet backing and it uses high recycled-content products--also 100% recyclable--with virtually no VOC emissions. By collecting waste cooking oils from local restaurants, Tandus is able to use biodiesel to fuel its manufacturing processes.

The 21st century has been about growing and building in harmony with nature. Schools of the present and the future need to be designed utilizing natural resources and materials in order to provide the safest environment for children to learn. Schools shape our children's future, and in a broader sense, so do companies who are committed to children and sustainability.

#### Tandus

311 Smith Industrial Blvd.  
Dalton, GA 30720  
800.248.2878  
tandus.com



# Education is as important to us as it is to you.

Meeting the floorcovering demands of school environments since 1967, Tandus develops “products with a purpose”. We believe everyone has a part to play in creating a safe and healthy environment for schoolchildren to learn. We take pride in our part to inspire imagination and enhance learning with products that are design friendly, budget conscious, and environmentally responsible, which benefits us all.

In keeping with our mission, we created the only type of floorcovering that provides a wall-to-wall barrier against contaminants and moisture flowing through the backing and seams called Vinyl Cushion Tufted Textile (VCTT), or by our brand name, Powerbond®.

Flooring is our business. School design is yours. Working together with educators, we can create beautiful environments where our children can thrive and learn.

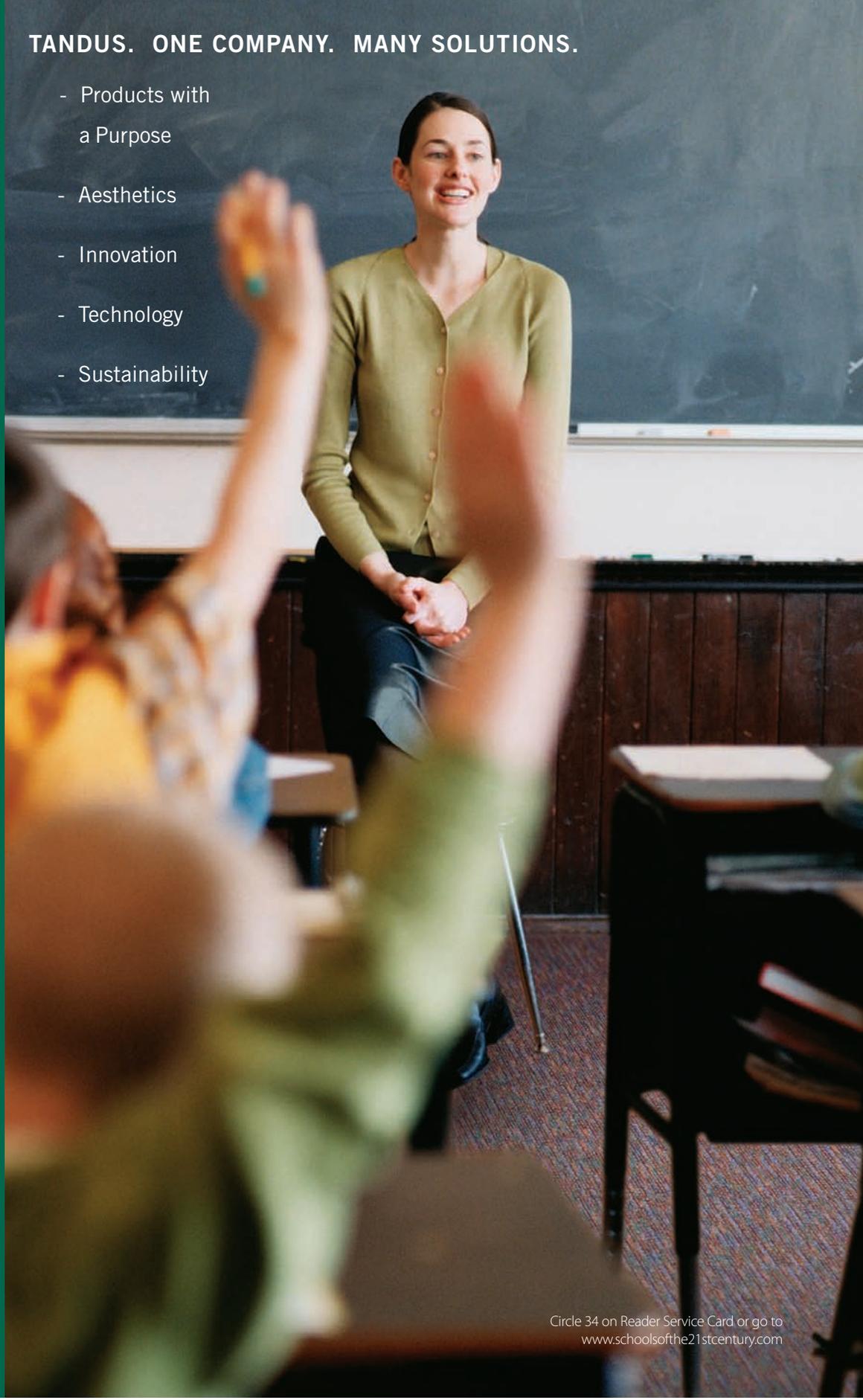
For additional information or a VCTT demonstration, contact your local sales representative at 800.248.2878.



800.248.2878  
tandus.com

## TANDUS. ONE COMPANY. MANY SOLUTIONS.

- Products with a Purpose
- Aesthetics
- Innovation
- Technology
- Sustainability



# Products with a Purpose: Powerbond RS® - Vinyl Cushion Tufted Textile (VCTT)

Powerbond RS is vinyl cushion flooring in six-foot widths with a permanent wear layer of tufted textile. Powerbond RS is the only soft-surface flooring that is VCTT. This ensures that all components are properly balanced to create a product that has been shown to perform for over 35 years in school environments without failure.

**SURFACE:** Most types of hard surface flooring require multiple applications of a topically applied finish, called a wear layer, to protect the product. The wear-layer of Powerbond RS is permanent and not topically applied.

**CONSTRUCTION:** The wear layer of Powerbond RS is permanently fused to the cushion backing under heat and pressure.

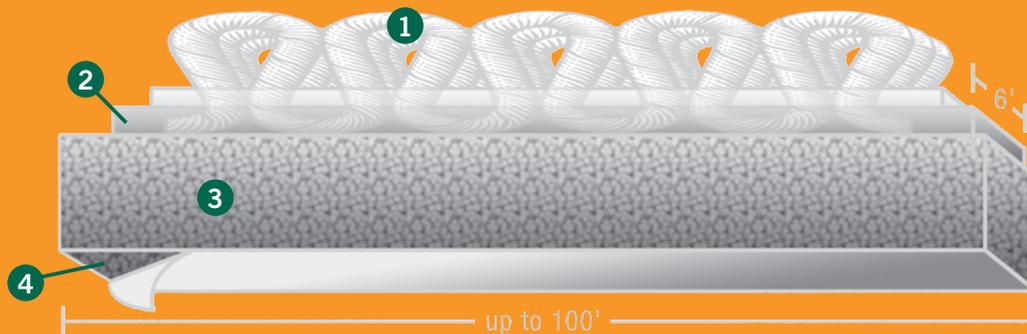
**BACKING:** Powerbond RS has a closed cell vinyl cushion, which creates a 100% moisture barrier and wall-to-wall protection from microbial growth, spills and even floods. The closed cell vinyl cushion accelerates drying times and does not require antimicrobials to protect against mold and mildew.

**INSTALLATION:** Unlike some types of carpet, the low profile of the wear layer has been proven to reduce contaminant accumulations and airborne contaminants. What's more, installation of Powerbond RS is a simple peel and stick application with nearly undetectable VOC's.

**WARRANTY:** Powerbond RS is warranted against delamination and wear for 25 years, non-prorated.

**C&A Powerbond RS® is VCTT. This floorcovering is a “product with a purpose,” which means it has been specifically engineered to deliver solutions for the school environment.**

## POWERBOND LINK ENGINEERING



- 1 Super dense low-profile wear layer constructed of 100% continuous filament nylon
- 2 Encapsulating vinyl sealant pre-coat
- 3 Closed-cell vinyl cushion
- 4 RS tackifier pre-applied adhesive
  - 25-year non-prorated warranty
  - Meets the most stringent IAQ criteria
  - Cushioned vinyl back for comfort that also helps reduce slip/fall injuries
  - Molecularly bound seams to ensure an impervious backing
  - Impervious wall-to-wall moisture barrier