

AgPR
Arbeitsgemeinschaft
PVC-Bodenbelag
Recycling

PVC FLOOR-COVERING

RECYCLING





WHAT ARE THE PROCESSES INVOLVED IN THE RECYCLING OF PVC FLOOR-COVERINGS?

The recycling process begins with the collection of old PVC floor coverings at the collection centres. These collection centres only collect post-consumer PVC floor coverings in accordance with the AgPR recycling specification and acceptance conditions, since careful sorting is the basis for efficient recycling.

The PVC recyclate is produced at the AgPR recycling plant in Troisdorf (Germany) using the following processes:

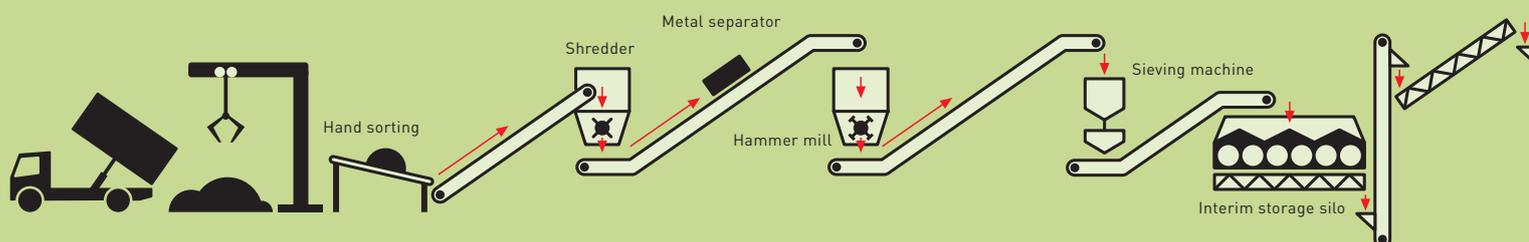
First of all after sorting, the old PVC floor-coverings are broken up into chips no larger than 30mm in size. Following the magnetic removal of metals, the chips are then freed from concrete and glue residues using a

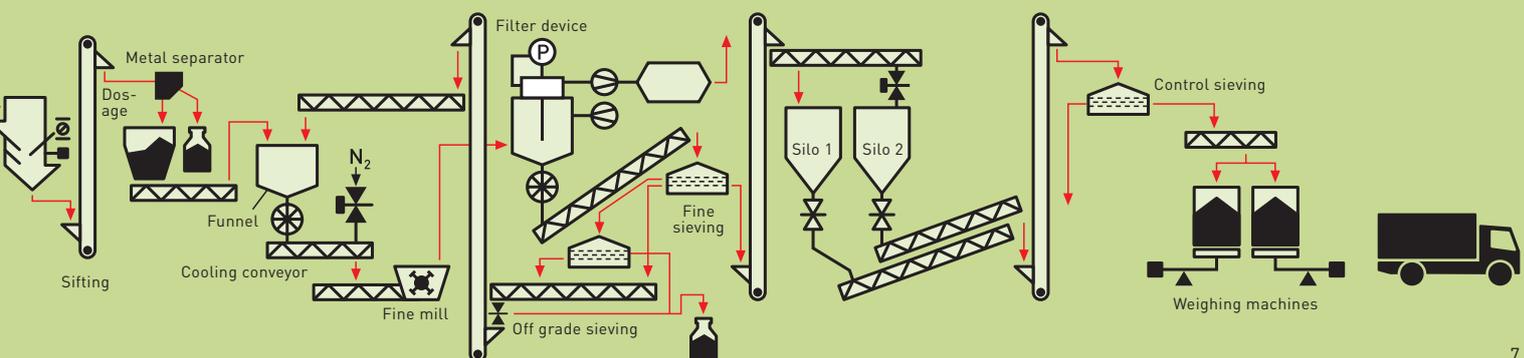
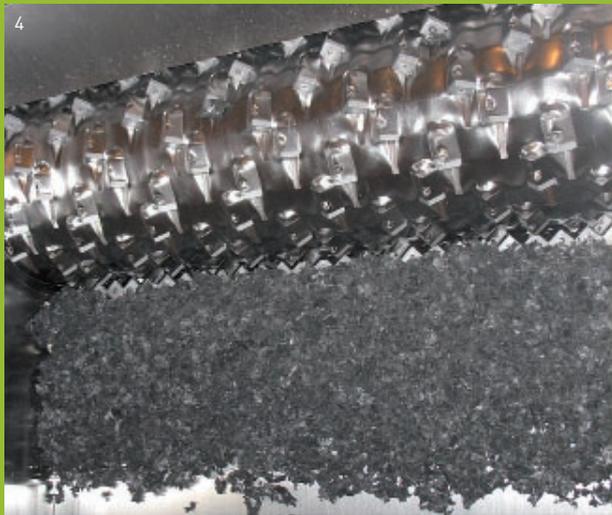
hammer mill and a sieving machine. For the final grinding process PVC material is then cooled to a temperature of -40°C using liquid nitrogen. As a result of this cooling process, the pieces become temporarily brittle and can then be further ground to particles no larger than 0,4mm in size by a fine grinding mill. The material is packed into big bags and if suitable dispatched to AgPR's shareholders for the production of new PVC building products.

As a result of the Troisdorf recycling process, AgPR, API, ARP Switzerland, KALÉI and the other European partners complete an industry-wide material cycle in order to save valuable raw materials and energy resources.



- 1 Post consumer PVC floor-coverings
- 2 Delivery in Troisdorf
- 3 Hand sorting of delivered PVC floor-coverings
- 4 Intermediate product – chips <math>< 30\text{ mm}</math>
- 5 End product PVC finely ground powder
- 6 The AgPR recycling plant in Troisdorf
- 7 Diagram of the AgPR recycling plant in Troisdorf







RECYCLING OF POST CONSUMER PVC FLOOR-COVERINGS BY THE AGPR – A CLOSED MATERIAL CYCLE

Every year, over 200 million square metres of PVC floor-coverings are laid in Western Europe not only for domestic, but also for commercial use. These are fitted in new buildings and during renovation work. PVC floor-coverings are excellent products, available in an exciting range of modern colours and qualities. They are durable, hard-wear-ing, easy to maintain and furthermore – THEY CAN BE RECYCLED.

PVC is a valuable material there is no reason to throw it away. Even when it has given good service as a floor-covering for many years it can be forward-

ed into a closed material cycle. The old PVC is processed into a finely ground powder at the AgPR recycling plant. It can then if suitable be utilized by the floor-covering manufacturers in the production of new PVC building products.

In 1990, as a response to an increased responsibility for the environment, several well known European producers of PVC and PVC floor-coverings had established the AgPR (Association for the Recycling of PVC Floor-Coverings), today operated as an initiative of the PVC floor-covering producers Altro, Gerflor, Polyflor and Tarkett in Trois-

dorf near Cologne with a capacity of 2,500 to 3,500 tons per year.

A network of collection centres in Germany and various logistic systems in Austria, France and Switzerland in cooperation with similar operations in Sweden and the UK guarantee the acceptance of post consumer PVC floor-coverings and their dispatch to the AgPR recycling plant.

Make your contribution towards the recycling of post consumer PVC floor-coverings by contacting:

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