



---

## **BREEAM**

### **the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method**

#### **What is BREEAM?**

BREEAM is an environmental assessment method and rating system for buildings. It is most commonly used in the development of public sector buildings, although some commercial organisations have adopted the method for certain projects.

A BREEAM assessment uses recognised measures of performance, which are set against established benchmarks, to evaluate a building's specification, design, construction and use. The measures used represent a broad range of categories and criteria from energy to ecology. They include aspects related to energy and water use, the internal environment (health and well-being), pollution, transport, materials, waste, ecology and management processes.

The BREEAM Green Guide provides designers and specifiers with guidance on how to make the best environmental choices when selecting construction materials and components. Building materials are assessed in terms of their environmental impact across their entire life cycle - from 'cradle to grave'. They are of generic nature only and are used to illustrate a range of typical materials. This data is set out as an A+ to E ranking system, where A+ represents the least environmental impact, and E the most environmental impact.

Building types are categorised as domestic, health, industrial, commercial, retail or education. Specifiers can search under these building types for rated materials for many aspects of the building's construction such as windows, walls, roofs and floor finishes.

#### **Resin Flooring and BREEAM**

Resin flooring systems vary massively in terms of the materials used, types available and benefits provided. As such, resin systems are often designed to provide a specification that may be unique to a given project.

The diversity offered by resin flooring creates a unique challenge from a BREEAM assessment point of view, where ratings are most often of a generic nature. Many FeRFA members have considered pursuing a formal BREEAM assessment, but have determined that the process is not economically viable due to the product diversity on offer.

In many cases, a resin floor is chosen because it offers significant performance advantages over other flooring options, often resulting in enhanced durability which in itself has a major environmental benefit. Resin flooring is also chosen in situations where no other product is 'fit for purpose' and under these circumstances, BREEAM ratings are a secondary consideration.

The effect on the overall rating achieved for the building will be influenced by the cumulative effect of all the other building materials being specified for the project. For Industrial buildings flooring can simply be left outside of the scope of the BREEAM calculation.

For further information please contact FeRFA.

April 2013