

## The new standard in 'green cleaning'

The complex production process and the many components of conventional floor pads do not make recycling a viable option. As a result floor pads are discarded after use, winding up in landfills where it can take hundreds of years for them to decompose.

As market leader in 'green' production processes and worldwide pioneer in the professional cleaning industry, Americo sets a new standard by producing high performance products with low environmental impact. Wecoline Pads by Americo are made from 100% recycled PET plastic, using water-based latex resins.

The most remarkable and largest step forward is the introduction of the world's first and only floor pads that are designed with enhanced biodegradation when discarded into a landfill. The unique components will begin to biodegrade in a fraction of the time required by conventional floor pads.

What does this mean for consumers and for our environment? In addition to world-class quality and extremely durable performance, Wecoline Pads by Americo guarantees consumers the best and friendliest solution for the environment.



The same familiar floor pad structure - now with enhanced biodegradation, thanks to the new special formulation.



ASTM D5511 tests showed up to 78% biodegradation of Americo's Full Cycle™ floor pads within one year!



Does not leave any toxic substances or residues in the environment.



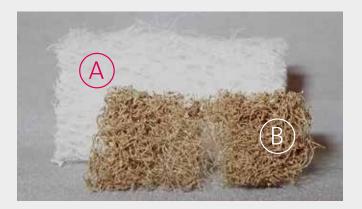
By-products created during the enhanced biodegradation process are methane (which can be converted into energy), carbon dioxide and inert humus (enriches the soil).

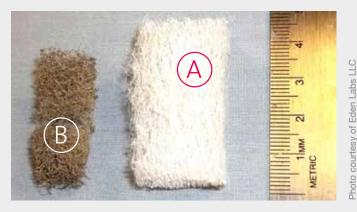




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## The world's first floor pad with enhanced biodegradation





Figuur 2: Top view

Figuur 1: Side view

Photos of floor pad samples - taken within a year of ASTM D5511 testing - confirm the high level of biodegradation of the Full Cycle<sup>TM</sup> floor pads. Sample A is a standard floor pad; Sample B, is a Full Cycle<sup>TM</sup> pad and demonstrates the drastic mass reduction possible by biodegradation in landfill conditions.

## **The Underlying Science**

Biodegradation is the process by which organic materials are broken down into other compounds via the action of naturally occurring microorganisms.

The latex polymers and synthetic fibres used in the production of floor pads are not natural compounds. They are designed for high resistance and will last in the environment for hundreds of years. With Americo's new biotechnology, the natural breakdown of our floor pads is enhanced, thanks to a series of new formulations that trigger rapid biodegradation once the product is disposed in an active microbial environment such as a landfill.

What actually occurs to speed up the biodegradation of our floor pads after they are disposed of in an anaerobic environment or landfill?

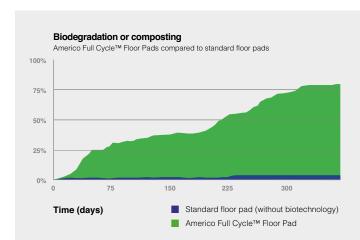
Microorganisms are attracted to the surface of the floor pad, where they will colonise and begin digesting and breaking down the polymers in the floor pad structure. This triggers a rapid biodegradation or composting process. Unlike standard floor pads, this does not take hundreds of years. Photos 1 and 2 show this clearly.

The biodegradation process is significantly accelerated in this way. The by-products produced during this process are methane (which can be converted into energy), carbon dioxide and inert humus (enriches the soil).

## Full Cycle™ Results

Quality, product performance and sustainability go hand in hand with Wecoline Pads by Americo. After all, protection of the environment is our collective responsibility. It is this conviction that sets Americo apart from other manufacturers.

Visit wecoline.com/eng/FullCycle to learn more.



Figuur 3: ASTM D5511\* testing shows 78% biodegradation of Americo's Full Cycle™ floor pads as compared to only 2% on standard floor pads. \*ASTM D5511 testing simulates anaerobic environments. Actual biodegradation will vary depending on actual environments in individual landfills.

