



Tarkett Vinyl ensures hygienic, durable spaces in Atherton Hospital

Serving the community of Atherton Tablelands, Yidinji Country in Northern Queensland, the redeveloped Atherton Hospital is designed to offer a homely feel while delivering exceptional care. To meet high standards of hygiene and durability, the Architects specified a suite of complementary Tarkett Vinyl products, designed to protect both floors and walls.

For the Clinical Services Building, Brisbane Architects Peddle Thorp used shape and colour to connect with the local history and reflect the natural landscape.

'The hospital sits on a hill with views of the Seven Sisters ranges, so we used large windows to capture natural light and celebrate the scenery,' says Brendan Sutton from Peddle Thorp. 'The client preferred a muted palette to complement the views, so patients could enjoy the outlook from their beds.'

When designing clinical spaces, the Architects consulted with the hospital operators, Cairns and Hinterland Hospital Services, to benefit from their experience with robust and hygienic facilities. This aligned with Peddle Thorp's history of specifying Tarkett products.

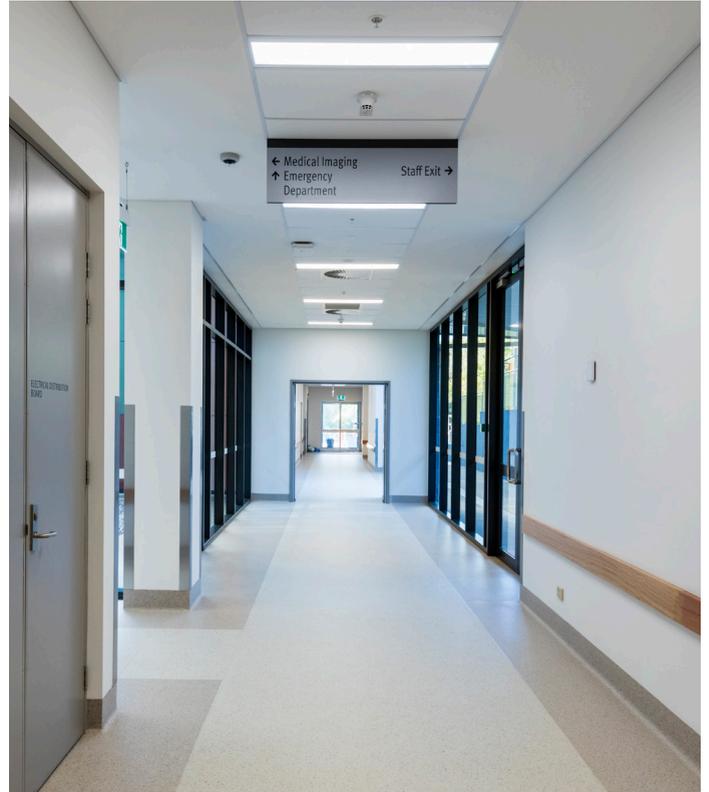
'In a Hospital, infection control is crucial. Tarkett offers a proven solution that we've used in many of our Healthcare projects. Its simplicity and robustness make it ideal for infection control requirements,' says Brendan.

Ian McTackett, Operations Manager for Cairns Hospital, agrees: 'We needed products that offer high-quality finishes, easy maintenance, and quick access to replacements. Tarkett has become our go-to for these reasons.'

Superior performance for clinical environments

With around 13,000 sqm of floors and walls to cover, a combination of Tarkett's iQ Eminent, iQ Granit SD, Granit Safe.T, and Wallgard were specified for different applications. Each product was selected for its performance in key areas.

'First, we needed Vinyl with high-integrity finishes to prevent infection by avoiding gaps that could trap dirt,' Ian explains. 'Second, we needed easy maintenance - these areas are cleaned frequently, so we opted for Vinyl that could be damp or wet mopped with minimal chemicals. Finally, access to spares and replacements was essential, and Tarkett Vinyl is easy to replace and colour-match.'



Combining performance with aesthetics

Tarkett's Vinyl offers a range of attractive, practical colourways, enabling the Architects to tailor each space to meet both performance and aesthetic needs. This also helped create a cohesive design palette that reduced the visual sterility of the hospital environment.

'In the Operating Theatre, we used neutral floor Vinyl and white walls to make spills visible for easy cleaning,' says Brendan. 'In birthing suites, we took the same approach, adding colour in the joinery where spills aren't a concern. In less critical areas like hallways and waiting rooms, we added pops of colour to define departments, using flooring, joinery, doors, and signage to create a cohesive language and help with wayfinding.'

'The range of colours Tarkett offers allowed us to define areas with distinct palettes, like eucalyptus in Emergency and plum in the Birthing Suites,' Brendan adds.

Detailed planning for optimal installation

Providing premium products is essential, but their performance depends on correct installation and careful planning.

'Vinyl's effectiveness is highly dependent on the quality of the substrate and the skills of the installers,' says Ian. 'For the Atherton project, Nexus Commercial Flooring delivered one of the best Vinyl installations I've seen.' Detailed planning for the flooring layout, particularly the welds, was critical to performance.

'In the Operating Theatre, we used full floor and wall Vinyl. We carefully planned the welds to ensure they didn't align in areas where heavy operating tables would move, reducing the number of welds to minimise gaps for easier cleaning and maintenance,' Ian explains.

Training and testing for weld integrity

Ensuring strong welds was vital for the installation, as any gaps could compromise hygiene in the clinical environment. Tarkett provided training and testing for optimal results.

'Tarkett offered on-site support and inspection, which was well received,' says Tony Litfin, owner of Nexus Commercial Flooring. 'I've worked with Tarkett products since 1984, and they're very manageable—especially for welding. They're some of the best products for this purpose.'

'Tarkett went above and beyond by providing weld pressure tests,' adds Ian. 'They applied pressure to test weld integrity, addressing any weak points immediately.'



Protecting walls, floors, and people

Tarkett's Wallgard Vinyl was used in high-traffic areas where bed and trolley movement posed a risk of wall damage. 'Any knocks compromise the clinical environment,' says Ian. 'Having Tarkett Wallgard to protect the walls is a huge advantage and gives us peace of mind.'

Tony notes the importance of welding in this context: 'The 2mm Wallgard Vinyl allowed for smooth transitions between walls and floors, matching the 2mm floor Vinyl perfectly. In wet areas, the wall Vinyl extended to the ceiling, ensuring consistency.'

For the people of the Atherton Tablelands, the result is a building that staff and patients are proud to be in, offering a comfortable, user-friendly hospital with superior protection in its clinical spaces.



Project: Atherton Hospital

Product: iQ Eminent, iQ Granit, iQ Granit SD, Granit Safe.T, Wallgard

Architect: PeddleThorp

Installation: Nexus Commercial Flooring

Photography: Andrew Watson