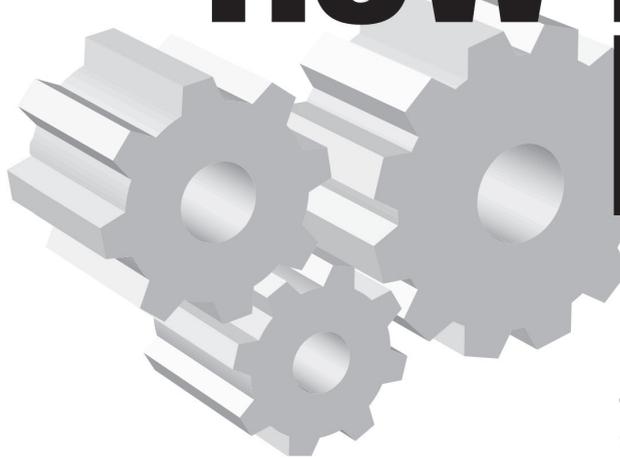


HOW IT'S MADE:



Two sides of the flooring coin...

With the Gerflor acquisition of USA flooring giant Connor Sports®, singling out a winning floor is now easier than ever.

Heads you win, tails you win. Everybody likes a sure bet and that they'll end-up being on the winning side. It's basic human nature and the very epitome of Darwin's theory of natural selection. The best will always prevail. Choosing the right sports flooring for whatever discipline isn't much different. Making the right choice for a winning solution is still top of the game...or tree.

In 2015, International flooring specialist Gerflor announced their acquisition of Connor Sports® and their Sport Court® brand in a move that subsequently expanded the company's global market reach and sports product portfolio.

Connor Sports® was founded in 1872 and is the market leader in portable and permanent wood sports flooring systems and is a growing provider of synthetic and rubber sports flooring. Connor has built maple hardwood courts for 14 NBA teams and countless numbers of NCAA schools and universities, with products for every level of competition, from park and recreation centres to high schools to the top college basketball programs in the USA. Connor Sports® operates from an ISO-certified lumber mill in Amasa, Michigan producing a wide range of solid maple products. All Connor floors are ISO-certified and DIN and STEM tested. They are also a charter member of the Maple Flooring Manufacturer's Association (MFMA) and the first member of that group to be certified by the Rainforest Alliance.

In 2005, Connor Sports® joined industry leader Sport Court® to form Connor Sport Court International,



Inc. (CSCI). It's little wonder why more athletic events are played on Connor Sport Court surfaces than on any other sports flooring in the world. Connor Sports® and Sport Court® are registered trademarks of Connor Sport Court International.

Sport Court® has built systems for many elite associations including the NBA, NCAA, FIBA, USTA, FIVB, US Youth Futsal, USA Volleyball and Premier Euro League Teams.

On the western outskirts of Salt Lake City in Utah, USA, and just

by their international airport sits the Sport Court® factory that produces their PowerGame™ modular outdoor playing surface. It's a manufacturing Val Halla that embodies everything that's good in both theory and practice by way of the manufacturing process. The Connor Salt Lake City resource is a large glass-fronted hanger-like structure that has some 162,000-square foot given over to production. The building's interior is a shining, modern nod to everything that embodies sleek manufacturing, coupled to design and quality. You could eat your

dinner off the floor it's that clean and clinical. The factory on this site was only established back in 2013, providing a modern, state-of-the art manufacturing unit and valuable source of employment for the city.

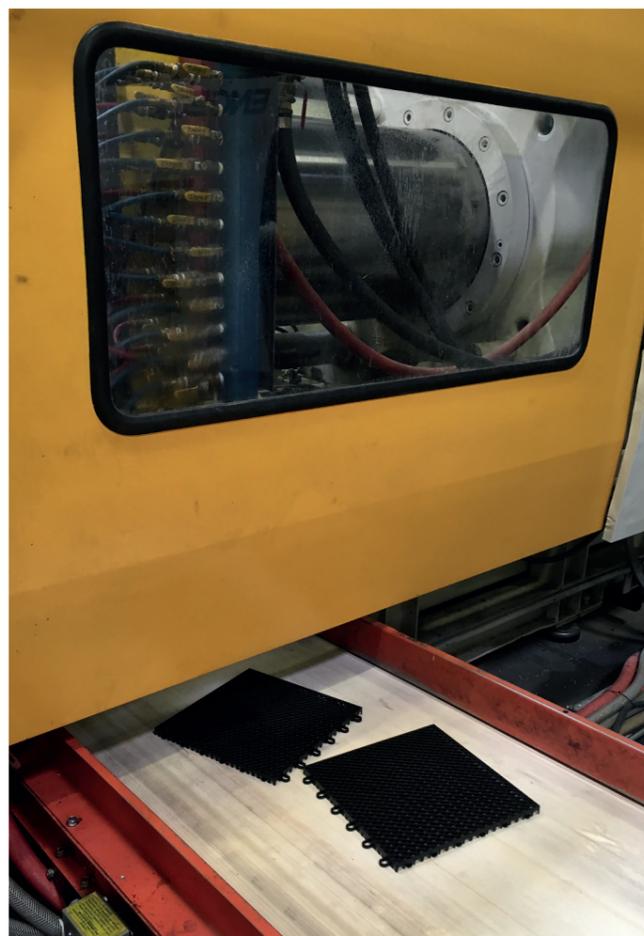
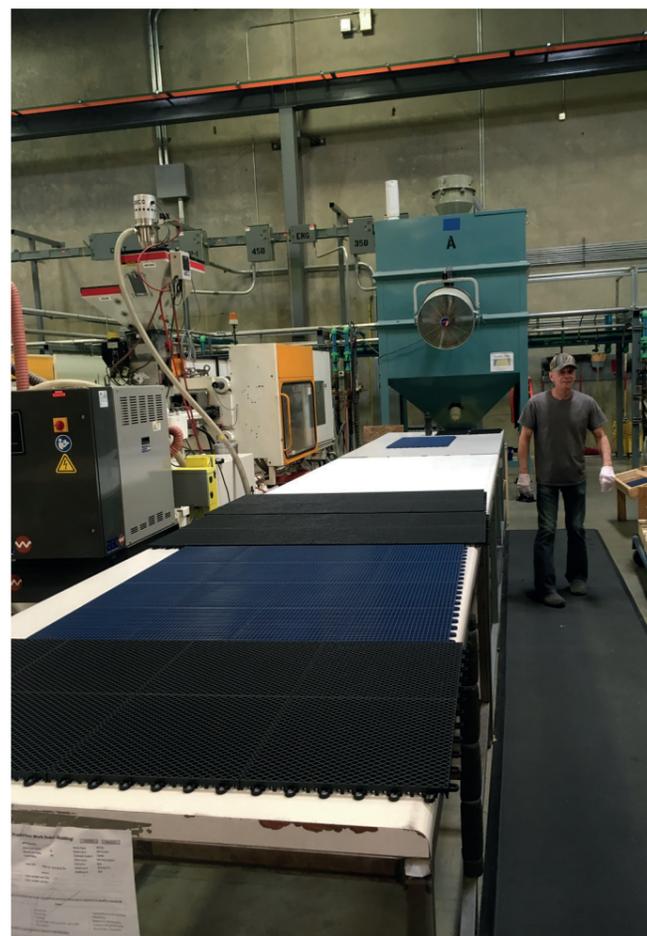
The Sport Court® business itself was established in 1974 and now employs around 100 people in the Salt Lake City area which includes everything from sales through to engineering, marketing, production staff, warehousing, accounting and technical staff. Sport Court® is the only Zero Waste company in the USA Sports flooring industry. Recycling, avoiding waste, innovative technology and a strong environmental consciousness are a major part of their corporate policy. As a Zero Waste company, less than 1% of all their waste is sent to a landfill. Sport Court® continue to explore options that will result in an even further reduction of waste reaching a landfill because of their

business operations. Their commitment to the environment has resulted in industry leading products using recycled material. Sport Court® has a long history of environmentally conscious practices and in 2004 they were even presented with an award by Salt Lake City for their commitment to the environment.

The safest outdoor court in the world PowerGame™ features the lowest skin abrasion of virtually any outdoor court surface and is made of the highest quality materials and UV stabilizers to protect the customer's investment. The patented Double-Tier shock absorbing grid and Lateral Forgiveness reduces joint strain and fatigue to help users play longer and more safely than ever. At the Salt Lake City facility, they have four engineers who are constantly working on research and development to design and produce some 700,000 square feet of flooring every month. It's a mammoth task, with the basic production activity

covering injection moulding and a vast coating line to produce the flooring we all know. At Connor Sport Court, they are rightly proud of their zero-waste policy with all their scrap plastic being recycled to give a helping hand to the environment.

The other side of this shining Connor coin is some 1500 miles away in the small provincial town of Amasa in Michigan. It's where the Connor Sport solid wood maple products are produced. The location of the factory is hugely important because to be a member of the MFMA any manufacturing facility producing this kind of solid wooden product must be located above the 35th parallel, which this part of Michigan is. Production began in Amasa back in 1975 with the factory now employing most of the town in its 100,000-square foot manufacturing plant, which is ranged over a vast 40-acre site. The 120-staff work are spread over the main



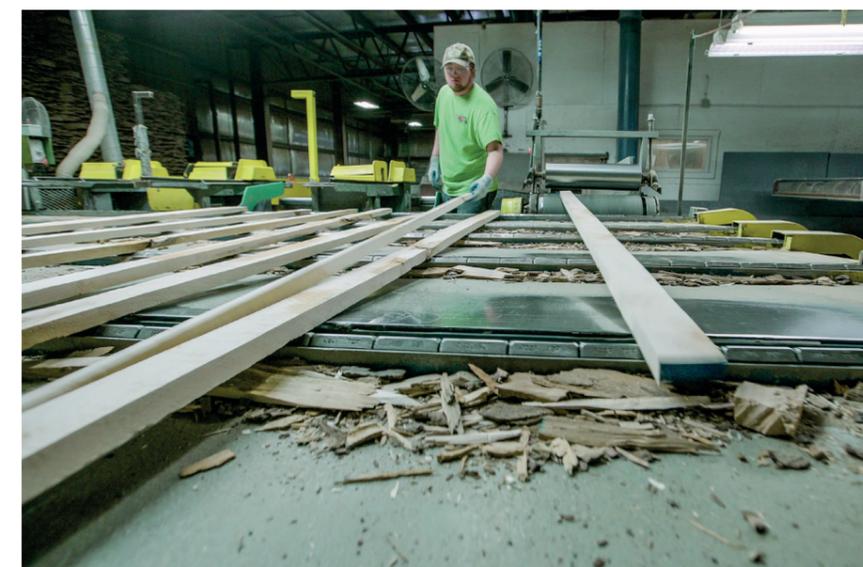
yard and dry lumber flooring mill which accounts for half the staff, together with engineered products like subfloors, portable and parquet ranges. They have 3 research and development team members who are constantly looking at ways to improve the subfloor systems of hardwood courts. The subfloor system is where the performance characteristics like shock absorption come from. The amount of flooring produced per month varies on seasonality. At the Amasa factory they still do a lot of the process by hand, whereas many other factories are completely mechanised. It's fair to say that all the staff at the Connor plant in Amasa are dedicated to continuous improvement on both product and production.

The actual process of 'harvesting' the raw product is both simple as it is complicated and time consuming. In a 24,000-acre forest, foresters select 500 sugar maples. Using a tank-like machine with rollers and chainsaws, the trees are sustainably harvested and chopped

into as many 8-foot pieces as possible. In the Amasa mill, trees are debarked, cut to planks and dried. To create the strongest floor, boards are staggered, just like building an oversized floor at a home. In terms of producing the final basketball court planks are shipped to Idaho, sanded and measured. The floor then becomes a giant paint-by-numbers

picture. Every inch is stained, and using NCAA graphics as stencils, the floor is painted. Arriving on two 18-wheelers, the floor is assembled and altered to accommodate the side-lines and baselines. Then it's time for basketball.

The UK has introduced four systems from the Connor Sports® family providing



a host of high quality sports flooring solutions for a myriad of markets. Available now are; NeoShok™, Rezill Sleeper and Alliance™, with stock levels held in France. The fourth available product is the QuickLock™ portable system, also held in France is ideal for temporary use in a multitude of sporting events. All the above systems can be finished in 3 different grades of 57mm x 20mm North American Hard Maple strip.

The green lobby in the USA is as strong and forceful an argument as it is here. Making the best of the environment and ensuring that the Connor Sports® fingerprint' is just a small dot on the environmental horizon is key for them. The Connor Sports® factory has a boiler onsite that allows them to re-use wood to power the drying kilns. This operation alone translates itself into a truly zero

waste process. Connor Sports® also work locally to use Forest Stewardship Council lumber, meaning its harvested under sustainable harvesting practices. All Connor Sports® products are manufactured with the goal of minimizing the environmental impact at every state of the product's life. Because of this, they have completed "cradle to grave" analysis on harvesting, manufacturing, installation, and maintenance and product removal. Connor Sports® is the only American Sports Flooring Company, and one of a few European Sports Flooring Company's to operate under ISO 14001-management system and the only in the sports flooring industry to be Zero Waste certified.

When the 2016 Rio Olympic Committee sought to buy eight courts for

basketball and wheel chair basketball arenas they specified a total of 75,000m² of flooring that would need to undergo the rigours of top-flight performance. They selected Connor Sports® floors. Says it all really!

Learn more about Gerflor solutions, ask for a free sample or contact us to speak to a specialist today by calling: 01926 622 600, emailing: contractuk@gerflor.com, or visiting gerflor.co.uk for the latest innovations.

