Johnsonite®

SUSTAINABILITY FAQS

JOHNSONITE® FINISHING BORDERS (WALL BASE) FAQS

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What is the difference between Thermoset Rubber (TS) and Thermoplastic Rubber (TP) wall base?

Thermoset rubber and thermoplastic rubber wall base are manufactured under different processes using different material compositions, yet both are required to conform to the same dimensional and performance requirements as outlined in the rubber classification of ASTM-F1861. These requirements include color stability, light stability, chemical resistance, dimensional stability and others.

While both meet or exceed the requirements of ASTM F1861, the difference in composition results in similarities and differences.

Similarities between Thermoset Rubber (TS) and Thermoplastic Rubber (TP)

- Synthetic rubber compound (Some thermoset does have a percentage of natural rubber)
- Conforms well to typical floor surface variations
- Excellent chemical resistance

Difference between Thermoset Rubber (TS) and Thermoplastic Rubber (TP)

	Thermoset (TS)	**Thermoplastic (TP)**
Product Construction	Higher fill content (75-85%)	Lower fill content (65-70%)
Appearance	• Matte surface finish • Good color stability • Excellent flexibility	• Surface smooth and consistent • Excellent color stability • Good flexibility
Performance	• Meets ASTM-F1861 performance requirements	• Meets ASTM-F1861 performance requirements
Sustainability	• Rapidly renewable content • Recyclable	• Pre-consumer recycled content • Recyclable and Reprocessable

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When someone states that their wall base is 100% rubber, what does this mean?

If a product was made of 100% rubber it would bounce; such statements are very confusing to an end-user. Since all wall base has filler content, thermoset rubber up to 85%, no wall base is 100% rubber, vinyl or anything. All this means is the polymer content of the wall base (15-25% of total content in thermoset rubber) is a rubber compound.

Does Thermoplastic Rubber (TP) wall base contain vinyl?

As an ingredient within its synthetic rubber compound, thermoplastic wall base does contain vinyl. As a minority percentage within the full composition of thermoplastic rubber wall base (natural fillers make up 65-70%), vinyl has a number of sustainable benefits. Less than half of the raw materials used for PVC production is from fossil fuels and it requires less energy to manufacture than alternative materials according to the Vinyl Institute. It has excellent insulation properties, low maintenance requirements and its high durability saves replacement resources over the long term. Finally, it is highly recyclable and Johnsonite offer a wall base system that can be reclaimed and repurposed into other building materials.

Thermoplastic Rubber (TP) vs Thermoset Rubber (TS) vs Thermoplastic Vinyl (TV)

	Thermoplastic Rubber	**Thermoset Rubber**	**Thermoplastic Vinyl**
Burke Mercer	Corner Ready Rubber Myte Profiles	Burke Base	Mercer Vinyl
Flexco	Base 2000 Base Sculptures Health Design Wood Elements	Wall Flowers	Vinyl
Johnsonite	Millwork Perceptions rePlace Traditional Wall Base	BaseWorks Thermoset Rubber Wall Base	Traditional Wall Base
Nora	Nora Wall Base Sanitary Wall Base		
Roppe	Visuelle 700 Series	Pinnacle Pinnacle Plus BaseMates Aplha Base	Vinyl Base
Mannington	Premium Edge	Optimum Edge	Mannington Edge
Allstate	Shadow Base Rubber Wall Base		
Forbo	Forbo Wall Base		