In a first aspect, there is provided ~~This technical problem is solved by~~ a foamable composition containing at least one polymer selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl chloride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyvinyl butyrate, polyalkyl (meth)acrylate and copolymers thereof, a foam former and/or foam stabilizer and di-2-ethylhexyl terephthalate (DEHT) as plasticizer.

In a second aspect, there is provided the use of the foamable composition as defined above for floor coverings, wall coverings or artificial leather.

In a third aspect, there is provided a foamed moulding containing the foamable composition as defined above.

In a fourth aspect, there is provided a floor covering containing the foamable composition in the foamed state as defined above.

In a fifth aspect, there is provided a wall covering containing the foamable composition in the foamed state as defined above.

In a sixth aspect, there is provided an artificial leather containing the foamable composition in the foamed state as defined above.

Compositions containing di-2-ethylhexyl terephthalate (DEHT) and a foam former or a foam stabilizer were very surprisingly found to be suitable for production of foams or foamed layers which, compared with corresponding DINP-containing compositions, exhibit distinctly greater expansion behaviour with unchanged temperature and residence time even though the gelling rate has been reduced. This makes it possible to reduce either the processing temperature or, if the temperature is kept the same, the residence time in the oven, and this leads to a product output per unit time which is higher and hence advantageous for the processor. This is surprising because this is at odds with established textbook opinion (e.g. "Handbook of Vinyl Formulating", Second Edition, John Wiley (ISBN 978-0-471-71046-2), page 384) that better-gelling plasticizers also lead to higher expansion rates during foaming.

A further advantage is that the foamable compositions can be processed at lower temperatures and therefore also exhibit a distinctly lower yellowness index. Even if the processing temperature is not changed, the yellowness index of the sheets of foam which are obtained from the compositions of the invention is lower than that of a corresponding DINP recipe, so that less white pigment can be used here to hide the yellowness.

It must further be noted that di-2-ethylhexyl terephthalate of the invention is distinctly less volatile than isononyl benzoates used in foamable compositions of the prior art. The possibility of dispensing with generally volatile fast-gellers also facilitates the use for applications in interiors, since the plasticizers in the composition of the invention are less volatile and are less prone to escape from the plastic.