

The preparation/dryness of the subfloor and installation procedures should all be as BS 8203: 2001. i.e.: The relative humidity of a solid subfloor should be below 75% RH when tested with a Hygrometer as described in this British Standard.

Prior to selecting a smoothing compound, it will be necessary to investigate what type of traffic the floorcovering once installed will be subjected to. Latex smoothing compounds are not suitable for areas that will receive heavy traffic, especially heavy-wheeled traffic with narrow wheels. Never subject a newly installed floorcovering to heavy wheeled traffic at an early stage, as this will disperse trowelled applied adhesive from below the floorcovering which may result in future problems. Wheels should be + 30mm and preferably made of neoprene. If it is necessary to traffic the floorcovering at an early stage, protect the installation with hardboard or plywood.

For specific subfloor types and preparation, please refer to our Subfloor Specification Sheet.

Recent studies have shown that micro-organisms can colonise, under certain conditions, the area between the subfloor (wooden or cement) and the installed flooring. These micro-organisms can thrive in warm, damp conditions where there is sufficient 'food' available – for example, certain types of levelling compound used prior to the flooring installation. During their normal life-cycle, these micro-organisms produce a colorant, usually pink, purple, red or black (but can be other colours), which can 'bleed' through to the surface of the PVC flooring product over a period of several months or longer.

Advice should always be sought from the manufacturers of subfloor preparations and adhesives prior to installation, to ensure that their products are suitable for the environment in which the PVC flooring is to be laid – this advice may include using products that contain biocides or of specific resin types.

For wooden fabricated underlay e.g. plywood, care must be taken to store the material in an area where it will not become damp or contaminated.

The 'bleed' through of colorant created by micro-biological activity below PVC floorcovering products is not attributable to a product/manufacturing fault.

Although Tarkett may on occasion list a choice of adhesive, levelling compound and surface damp proof membrane manufacturers and types, we do not however guarantee the products listed (except for Tarkett wood adhesives) or suggest that the list of products or manufactures, are complete or current. Tarkett would not accept any liability (except for Tarkett wood adhesives) for any of these products failing to perform in conjunction with any of their products. It is the responsibility of the adhesive, levelling compound and surface damp proof membrane manufacturer and flooring contractor to ensure the products being used are appropriate for use and applied in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations.

It is imperative that underfloor heating systems have been previously commissioned and found to be functioning correctly prior to the floor finish being installed. Ensure that the underfloor heating system is switched off 48 hours prior to the floorcovering installation commencing and remains off for at least 48 hours after the installation is complete. During the period of decommissioning of the underfloor heating system, an alternative heating source should be provided, if required, to ensure that the area of installation is kept at a constant temperature of 18°C - 27°C. Gradually increase the temperature over a number of days by only a few degrees per day until the desired room temperature is reached. The temperature should never exceed the floorcovering industry agreed maximum of 27°C at the underside of the floorcovering (the adhesive line). Failure to follow these guidelines can result in the floorcovering de-bonding, joints opening, and on some occasions discolouring, all which can occur within a long or short period of time.

CONDITIONING

It is important that the material (rolls) is stored in an upright position. 24 hours prior to use, the material should be cut to the desired lengths and acclimatised within the area to be installed by laying flat on a prepared, clean subfloor at a temperature of 18° - 27°C. This temperature should be maintained throughout the duration of the installation. The minimum temperature of the subfloor should be 15°C. Care should be taken when handling all types of floorcoverings to ensure that safety procedures are followed and damage does not occur to the material.

INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

1. Prepare the subfloor as necessary and remove all traces of debris.
2. Ensure that material with the same batch number is allocated to each area to be installed. All rolls are numbered and should be used in consecutive order.
3. Plan the sheet direction of the area to be installed to ensure whenever possible that joins do not coincide with doorways, main traffic lanes, sinks or urinals.
4. Cut the lengths of the material 10cm longer than the size of the measured length of the room.
5. Scribe the first sheet down the length of the room with the two ends lapped up the wall. Cut down the scribe mark using utility knives with straight and hook blades removing the scrap Linoleum and place into position. Always undercut when using a hook knife.
6. Place the sheet tightly against the wall, draw a pencil line down the edge of the Linoleum on the subfloor lengthways opposite the scribed wall.
7. When in position draw a pencil line at 90° to the edge of the sheet from the Linoleum onto the subfloor using a ruler. This cross mark should be approximately 20cm away from one of the ends still lapped up the wall.
8. Slide back the sheet along the first pencil line until the end of the sheet lies flat on the subfloor and slightly short of the wall. The two cross lines will now have moved apart.
9. Set the long scribers at the distance between the two lines and scribe this size from the wall onto the Linoleum at the same time keeping the scribers parallel with the sheet edge. With the scriber adjusted to this setting, the end of the sheet is now scribed and cut and the surplus removed.
10. Slide the Linoleum back into its previous position with the material now fitted to the long wall and end wall. Repeat this last procedure at the end still lapped up the opposite wall.
- 11. Install all consecutive sheets of Linoleum with the sheets running in the same direction.**
12. Overlap the next sheet by 2.5cm with one end already 2-3cm short of one wall. Adjust the scribers to scribe a small amount off this end of the sheet and cut to size. Slide this end of the sheet into position against the wall just fitted to. Now repeat the procedure adopted for fitting the previous sheet where the Linoleum was still lapped up the remaining wall.
13. This entire procedure should be copied for all consecutive sheets apart from the last sheet, which should be installed in the same manner as the first.
14. Only install the amount of floorcovering that can be adhered to a subfloor in one day.
15. Just prior to adhering the Linoleum, all joins should be cut in to leave a 0.3mm gap. Strike a chalk- line 10mm in from the overlapped edge of the material and re-cut using a knife and straightedge by cutting through 2/3rds of the thickness prior to cutting with a hook knife. Use this good edge to now guide a pin-vice down the edge to create a 0.3mm gap. Deepen this cut with a straight bladed knife then finally undercut with a hook knife.
or
16. Cut good edge on material and then overlap uncut edge on top. Scribe bottom edge of the Linoleum onto top sheet by using a short scriber. (over & unders)
17. Carefully pull the sheets back half their length and re-sweep the subfloor and reverse of the Linoleum to ensure that no debris can be left on the subfloor.
18. Apply a Linoleum adhesive from, Uzin LE2401, F.Ball & Co Ltd-F54/F52, Laybond Products Ltd-48X/90 Super, or Tremco Ltd-141, or from their current adhesive ranges, using an appropriate 'V' notched trowel. Repeat procedure for second half of sheet as soon as first half has been adhered.
19. The responsibility for the choice of adhesive and its suitability for using under certain conditions are the responsibility of the Flooring Contractor, as is its proper application.

Please note

20. **Failures of sheet linoleum installations are almost always due to inadequate adhesive spread, late placing of the sheet into the adhesive, inadequate rolling to ensure overall bond or a combination of all three. In other words the adhesive did not set in contact with the linoleum. Pay close attention to ends of sheets at perimeters of walls or areas that are inaccessible to a 68Kg roller, roll these areas with a hand roller.**
21. The adhesive should be applied as recommended by the manufacture and the Linoleum placed into the adhesive whilst the adhesive is still wet. Roll the Linoleum down its length and then across its width using a 68Kg roller. Repeat rolling at 15 minute intervals until fully bonded to the subfloor, paying close attention to the seams, cross-joins, ends of the sheets and any inaccessible areas. Wipe any excess of adhesive away with a cloth moistened with water or if dry nothing stronger than white spirit.
22. **In every full roll of Linoleum there is a stove bar. Some part rolls also contain a stove bar. These bars are identified as a bulge in the material and are approximately 25cm long x 2m wide. Extra care is required when installing stove bars. Adhere this area of the material with the Linoleum adhesive or use a contact adhesive. Always re-roll at 15 minute intervals and weight down. Some installers prefer to remove the stove bars when cutting off the lengths of material by careful planning of the area to be installed.**

WELDING LINOLEUM

1. Allow at least 24 hours to lapse prior to hot welding with the Linoleum welding cable.
2. Groove seams using a 'P' type grooving tool or an automatic seam router. Do not use a triangular V-shaped paint scraper.
3. The groove should be down 2/3rds into the thickness of the material.
4. Make sure the groove is clear of all debris and excess adhesive prior to commencing welding.
5. The recommended welding temperature is 250-300°C when fitted with a Tarkett speed-weld nozzle. Using a Leister hot air welding gun fitted with a speed-weld nozzle, this will require the setting to be number 4-5. If unsure consult manufacturer's instructions for correct setting. Set the welding gun at this temperature for several minutes prior to commencing welding to attain correct temperature.
6. Try out the welding operation on a scrap piece of linoleum before welding the main area.
7. Weld at approximately 1 metre a minute (half the speed of welding vinyl).
8. Preferably 2 people welding. One operative welding 2 metres ahead of the other prior to the second person trimming the cable 1mm proud of the Linoleum with the aid of a spatula knife inserted into a welding slide. Finally trim the weld cable flush with the surface of the Linoleum with the spatula knife only, whilst still slightly warm.

COVING (not mandatory)PVC Sit-on Coving

This type of coving should not be used when watertight joins are required. It is normally used as an alternative to a wooden skirting in areas that will not be subjected to large amounts of surface applied water.

Sit-on PVC coving is available in lengths of 2m as well as in coils of varying lengths and is normally 10cm in height and protrudes 1-1.5cm out at the toe. Install the floorcovering in the normal manner, scribing to a wall instead of a skirting and adhere to the subfloor. Fix the coving to a prepared wall with a contact adhesive. Prior to adhering the sit-on coving to the wall, the scribed edge of the floorcovering to the wall can be sealed with a sealant. This will provide extra protection to the floorcovering from surface moisture attack, but should not be used as a cheaper alternative to a pre-formed coving or self-coving when a watertight join is required.

STOVE YELLOWING

1. As with all linoleum products, a yellow cast may appear on the surface of Linoleum during its curing process in the stoves due to the oxidation of the linseed oil.
2. This film will gradually disappear when exposed to light.
3. The more natural light the Linoleum is exposed to, the faster this yellow cast will disappear.
4. Depending on the amount of light in the area where installed, this may take a few days, weeks or months to reach the true colour.
5. Normally the areas that take the longest to clear, are the ones that are less exposed to light or have mainly artificial lighting.
6. The effect is more obvious on lighter colour shades of linoleum.
7. Samples of linoleum should always be exposed to natural light whenever
8. possible, prior to choosing the desired colour.
9. Placing a sample of Linoleum face up on a window ledge is ideal. Leave exposed for 2 days.
10. The material will now have reached its true colour.