

Installation Guidance Note: Coral Entrance Flooring System Products

General Advice

The appearance, performance and durability of the installed floor covering will be determined to a large extent by the quality of the prepared subfloor and the conditions in which they are laid. As with any resilient floor covering irregularities in the subfloor will be apparent in the finished flooring.

It is important to ensure that all recommendations for substrate and site conditions are met prior to beginning the installation.

Beginning the installation is an implied acceptance of site conditions by the parties involved and liability for any failure directly related to inadequate site conditions becomes the responsibility of the installer and/or flooring contractor.

Subfloor preparation should be carried out in accordance with BS5325:2021 code of practice for the installation of textile floor coverings. Areas to receive flooring should be clean, free from other trades, fully enclosed and weather tight. Subfloors should be clean and free of contaminants, smooth, sound and permanently dry.

Always conduct moisture tests on all substrates. All ground-based level floors should have an effective moisture barrier.

Areas to receive flooring shall be adequately lit to allow for proper inspection of the substrate, installation and for final inspection.

Surface regularity should be within the SR1 surface regularity standard – less than 3mm under a 2m straightedge (BS5325:2021 Annex C). Any nibs, abrupt ridges or changes of level in the subfloor should be removed by sanding or grinding, or by localised application of a levelling compound.

Contaminants can affect the adhesion of the new floor covering and/or cause migrating stains. It is therefore important that contaminants such as cleaning chemical residues, old adhesive residues and remains of old floor coverings such as residues of carpet tile backings are removed or, where permissible, isolated with an appropriate subfloor treatment.

Areas to receive flooring shall be adequately lit to allow for proper inspection of the substrate, installation and for final inspection.

It is essential that the laying area is at a steady temperature of 18 to 27°C for 48 hours prior to, during, and for 24 hours after installation. The material and adhesive should be conditioned in the same environment for at least 24 hours prior to the installation. Where the floor coverings have been stored or transported immediately prior to delivery in temperatures below 10°C the acclimatisation period should be extended to 48 hours.

Prior to installation rolls should be checked to ensure that the correct colour, batch number and quantity have been received and that the material is in good condition. No claim will be accepted for incorrect colour, pattern or obvious damage if the material has been fitted.

Use material from the same batch/dye lot and install in roll number sequence. The use of different production batches will always result in visible shade differences. The batch number is clearly marked on the material packaging and must be checked before commencement of installation.

Note : For areas requiring a sustainable slip resistance product please visit our wetroom range – **Wetroom Solutions**.



Existing floors and substrates

Concrete and screeds bases:

It is important that the base is clean, dry, smooth, even and free from loose gritty particles. It is recommended to apply a 3mm application of smoothing compound.

All ground-based level floors should have an effective damp proof membrane.

If any doubt exists a proprietary surface applied damp proof membrane (DPM) or other appropriate moisture protection system should be used (CFA Guide to Contract Flooring).

Note: *Floor slabs circa 1965 or earlier are unlikely to contain an effective integral damp-proof membrane. Old floor slabs without a DPM may provide a moisture reading below 75% if they have previously been covered with a permeable floor covering such as vinyl composition tile or carpet. Potential ground water problems may not, therefore, come to light until the base is covered with an impermeable floor covering.*

Asphalt floors:

Should be clean, sound and free from any cracks. The base should be primed (if required by the smoothing compound manufacturer) and covered with a minimum 3mm thickness of smoothing compound suitable for this type of base.

Quarry tiles or ceramic tiles:

Should be checked to ensure that there are no loose or cracked tiles, thoroughly cleaned and degreased, primed and levelled with a 3mm thickness of a suitable smoothing compound.

Note: *Old quarry tiles were often laid on subfloors without a suitable Damp-proof membrane. This should be checked prior to installation of the floor. If there is no integral DPM, or if any doubt exists, then a surface DPM must be installed.*

Expansion joints:

Floor coverings should never bridge these joints, the joints need to be brought through to the final floor finish, Floor coverings should stop either side of the expansion joint.

If required a suitable expansion joint cover strip can be used to cover the joint (see expansion joint cover strips).

Existing vinyl and cork flooring:

Should be taken up and any remaining adhesive cleaned off the floor. If the old adhesive residues cannot be completely removed or if the floor covering is to be fully adhered a minimum 3mm thickness of a suitable smoothing compound should be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

In older properties some tiles (and adhesives) may contain asbestos. Where it is difficult to establish whether or not these materials contain asbestos, specialist advice should be sought before attempting to remove.

Note: *Attention is drawn to Asbestos and man-made mineral fibres in buildings: practical guidance, published by DETR [7], which gives advice on the precautions to be taken when removing existing flooring containing asbestos." (BS8203:2017).*

Wooden floors

Existing Floorboards:

Loose or uneven floorboards should be secured, all protruding nail heads should be hammered flush and damaged boards replaced. Where required high spots should be sanded flush and uneven or hollow areas levelled with an appropriate smoothing compound prior to covering with plywood.

Chipboard, hardboard, Particle Board:

Forbo Coral should not be directly adhered to the above substrates. Particle board subfloors and all wood panel based floating subfloors should be overlaid with Plywood. (Refer to BS8203:2017 for Plywood performance specifications and installation requirements).



FLOORING SYSTEMS

Wood Blocks:

It is impossible to ensure that wood block floors are not loose or contain latent defects through aging. It is therefore strongly recommended that these are removed and that the subfloor is correctly prepared and, if necessary, a surface damp proof membrane applied.

Underfloor heating

Forbo Flooring products may be installed over underfloor heated floors providing the maximum surface temperature of the substrate does not exceed 27°C under any condition of use.

It is imperative that the 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 floor covering installation commencing and remains off for at least 48 hours after the installation.

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.

Where embedded electric underfloor heating systems are being used their compatibility should be checked with the supplier before installing Coral.

Surface applied mesh type electric underfloor heating systems should be covered with a layer of smoothing/levelling compound. The manufacturer of the smoothing compound should be consulted for advice on suitable products and recommendations for the minimum application thickness.

Note: *These systems should never be placed directly under the finished floor covering.*

If necessary, an alternate heating source should be used to maintain the room temperature at a minimum of 18°C prior to, during, and for 72 hours after installation.

The temperature of the underfloor heating system can be increased 72 hours following the installation. When raising the floor temperature, do so gradually so the substrate and flooring material can adapt to the temperature change together.

Note: *Care should be taken when placing rugs or items of furniture (that do not allow hot air circulation) onto underfloor heated floors. Placing these item types onto the underfloor heated floor can create hot spots and thermal blocks, resulting in damage to your Coral floor.*

Installation/Fitting – Coral Sheet

Adhesive recommendations and application

Coral sheet products should always be fully adhered.

The recommended adhesive for use with Coral is 640 Eurostar Special (EC1 – low VOC)

Use a 1.5mm x 5mm V notched trowel to apply the adhesive.

Note: *Trowels will wear during use, check the trowel both before and during use to ensure that the proper, specified trowel notch is used and maintained.*

The open time of the adhesive will depend on site conditions and porosity of the base. It is best practice to conduct an adhesive bond test before starting the installation. Bond testing will assist in identifying both the working characteristics of the adhesive (waiting and working time) for the site conditions, and also any potential bonding problems.

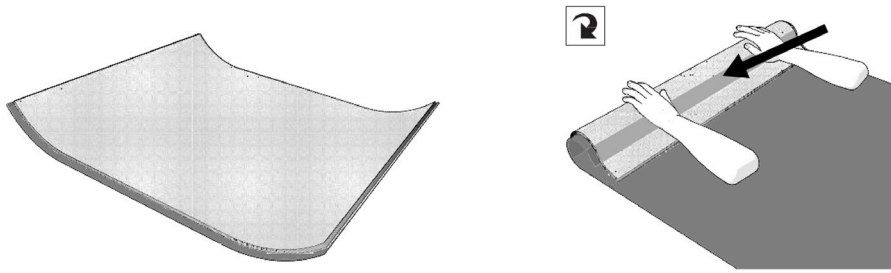
If alternative adhesives are to be used consult with the supplier for usage information, guidance and warranty.



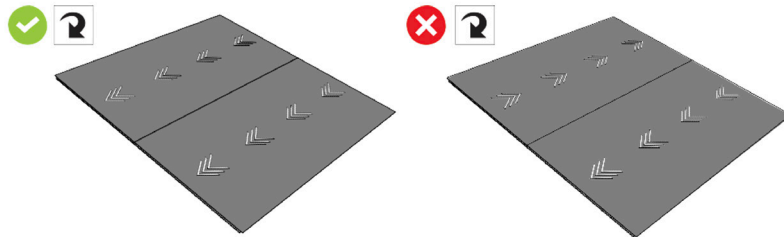
FLOORING SYSTEMS

Installation sheet products

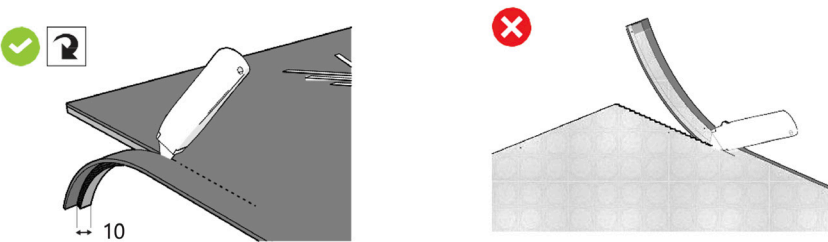
Coral sheet products should be back rolled to relax the material before installing.



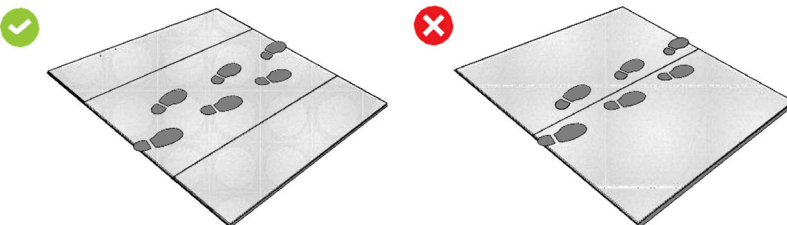
There is an arrow indicating pile direction on the reverse of every backed sheet product. Install sheets with arrows running in the same direction.



For all Coral textile products (except Coral duo) with an Everfort vinyl backing, trim with a straightedges and knife from the back of the sheet. Remove the 2.5cm edge border plus an additional 1cm to provide a suitable edge for butt jointing.



Note: Seams in the main footfall area e.g. in the centre of a doorway should be avoided.



Note: The adhesive must be spread evenly over the entire floor area with particular attention to edges – this will ensure that the sheet is fully bonded at the perimeters.

Place the material into wet adhesive, after the appropriate waiting time, and roll or press afterwards with a 68kg roller or carpet glider, rolling or pressing in all directions to ensure a firm bond. It is important to only spread sufficient adhesive that can be covered within the open time of the adhesive.

Areas that cannot be rolled with the large roller e.g. abutments such as door frames or skirting boards should be rolled with a hand roller or pressed into the adhesive with a rubbing hammer.

Always clean away excess adhesive with a damp cloth before it is allowed to dry.

Coral duo (Everfort vinyl backing) multiple width application, trim from the top with a straight edge and knife. Remove the 2.5cm edge border from all edges and any further material as necessary to maintain a continuous rib design between sheets.

Note: The direction of manufacture of Coral duo is not the traffic direction – ensure the ribs are running at right angles to the walking direction.

Forbo

FLOORING SYSTEMS

Installation/Fitting – Coral tile

Adhesive recommendations

Coral carpet tiles must be adhered using a high grab, all-over tackifier adhesive system; Forbo Eurocol 542 Eurofix Tack Plus is recommended.

The tackifier adhesive must be spread evenly over the entire floor area with particular attention to edges – this will ensure any perimeter tile cuts are fully bonded. Failure to fully bond all full tiles and tile cuts may result in individual tiles shifting and lifting.

Where perimeter tiles are not constrained by fixtures e.g. walls, edge strips etc., it is recommended that such tiles are adhered using a permanent adhesive; Forbo Eurocol 640 Eurostar Special is recommended.

The open time of the adhesive will depend on site conditions and porosity of the base. It is best practice to conduct an adhesive bond test before starting the installation. Bond testing will assist in identifying both the working characteristics of the adhesive (waiting and working time) for the site conditions, and also any potential bonding problems.

If alternative adhesives are to be used consult with the supplier for usage information, guidance and

Installation Tile product:

The arrow marks on the reverse of every tile indicate the direction of pile lay. The preference of the specifier as to “broadloom”, “tessellated” or other visual effects must be confirmed before tiles are installed.

When laying tiles in a monolithic format follow the direction of the arrows, which should, where possible, point towards the main light source.

Note: *The term ‘broadloom’ is often used as an alternative description of monolithic. Whichever term is used, it refers to the installation direction of the carpet tiles. It does not mean that the installation will be viewed as seamless. Tile edges are most visible in new installations. The quality of Coral carpet tiles’ construction will help to reduce the visibility of tile edges over time with traffic and regular vacuuming) however, tile edges may remain visible during the life of the product in non or low trafficked areas.*

Pile trapping – Ensure that each tile butts up to its neighbour as tightly as possible without causing it to peak or “dome” off the subfloor. It is essential that no pile material becomes entrapped between tiles.

Fitting to stair treads and risers

For use on stairs Coral sheet products are recommended. Appropriate stair nosings must be used for every tread. Coral sheet must be bonded securely to the stair tread using a permanent bond adhesive (Forbo Eurocol 640 Eurostar Special). Fitted to risers the sheet should be permanently bonded using a suitable contact adhesive. It is important that the sheet is fitted to treads with the pile direction (arrows) facing inwards towards the riser and fitted to risers with the pile direction (arrows) facing downwards towards the tread.

Note: *As Coral products are available in a variety of backing/tile options, the product is tufted and held in as unbacked stock before finalising to the selected product type manufacture. The tufting production number is printed on the back of each tile whilst the tile production batch number is printed on the box. Please ensure the same box batch number is used in each location as mixed box batch numbers may result in shade variations.*

Installation – Coral loose lay mats

Loose lay Coral mats may be used on smooth resilient flooring surfaces either as a temporary solution (in accordance with HSE guidance) or in areas where a fitted Coral zone is impractical. In any location or use, it is important to check

that the Coral PVC backed mat is compatible with the existing flooring. For example, vinyl flooring may permanently discolour due to the effect known as plasticiser migration between the two PVC surfaces.

In some instances, with compatible very smooth floors, some slippage of the mat may still occur. If this is experienced, the mat should be secured using PMR (Plasticiser Migration Resistant) double sided tape.

Please note:

The use of Coral mats on top of any type of textile flooring is not recommended due to the high likelihood of the mat moving on the textile products surface pile with the resultant potential to cause a trip hazard.

Always ensure that the Coral mat is flat during use (and storage) to avoid edges curl.



On completion of the installation

First impressions may have more impact on the client than hours of skilled fitting.

The completed installation should be cleared of scrap material and debris, the floor vacuumed and any traces of adhesive residues removed from the floor and skirtings.

If the floor covering is to be protected from other trades or site traffic prior to project completion, a protection product should be chosen that is appropriate for the type and level of traffic likely to be experienced.

Note: *Upright vacuum cleaners with a mechanically powered brush should be used on all Coral products.*

Note: some protective sheet products with a tacky film in contact with textile floor coverings can leave an adhesive residue when removed. This can be difficult to remove and attract dirt when the floor covering is put into use. The potential for this effect should be checked with the protection product manufacturer before use and advice on suitability confirmed. Forbo will not accept any claims for soiling problems associated with the use of such products.

If the optimum performance of any new floor covering is to be achieved, it is important that the correct cleaning and maintenance procedures are used from day one. Cleaning and maintenance guides for all Forbo Flooring Coral ranges are available for download. **www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/downloads**

Cleaning and maintenance guides should be passed onto the client or end user as appropriate on completion of the installation, and before any hand over clean is started.

If in any doubt contact us:

Forbo Flooring UK Ltd

Tel: **0800 121 4780**

Samples: **0800 731 2369**

Info.flooring.uk@forbo.com

www.forbo-flooring.co.uk

Additional Reference documents and information:

- Forbo Floor Coverings Installation Guide: **www.forbo-flooring.co.uk**
- BS8203:2017
- The CFA Guide to Contract Flooring **www.cfa.org.uk**



FLOORING SYSTEMS