

# Installation Guidance Note: Coral Interior tiles & planks.

The following information is provided to highlight important product and installation characteristics for Coral Interior tiles & planks. The aesthetic and long-term performance of carpet tiles & planks are dependent on correct installation.

## General Advice

The appearance, performance and durability of the installed floorcovering will be determined to a large extent by the quality of the prepared subfloor and the conditions in which they are laid.

The installation of Coral Interior should be carried out in accordance with the national code of practice for the installation of textile floor coverings if applicable. Areas to receive flooring should be clean, free from other trades, fully enclosed and weather tight. Subfloors should be clean, smooth, sound and permanently dry.

- Problems associated with plasticizer migration from PVC flooring can lead to dimensional instability in carpet tiles. All subfloors of this type must be removed before installation.
- Forbo does not recommend installing over finished wood flooring products, such as parquet or wood strip flooring.
- Raised access flooring panels have a tendency to settle shortly after installation and this should be taken into account when assessing the appearance of the tile/plank installation fitted onto such flooring systems. Ridges between uneven raised access floor panels will telegraph through to the finished tile installation. Uneven or loose floor panels should be levelled or re-fixed before installing Coral Interior.

**Note:** unevenness between raised access floor panels will adversely affect the integrity of the adhesive bond and may cause tiles to de-bond, lift or move.

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. Prior to installation, the carpet tiles must be allowed to acclimatize. This is particularly important if the boxes have been stored or delivered in conditions of extreme temperature and/or humidity. Where the floorcoverings have been stored or transported immediately prior to delivery in temperatures below 10°C the acclimatization period should be extended to 48 hours. Where national codes of practice exist they take precedence over these guidelines.

Ensure that all recommendations for substrate and jobsite 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.

## Underfloor Heating

Coral Interior tiles & planks are thermal insulators (Tog value typically 1.0 – 1.1) and this should be taken into account when using with underfloor heating systems. 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. To enable a secure bond of the adhesive to the substrate, the underfloor heating system should be turned off, or set to the lowest temperature, for a minimum of 48 hours prior to installation of the Forbo flooring material. The temperature of the substrate must not exceed 18 °C during the installation of the flooring material. 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. A rapid temperature change could result in bonding problems.

## Inspection

As with any floor covering, the use of different production batches will always result in visible shade differences. For the specific developed design Coral Interior it is not necessary to install the same batch numbers and can be installed out of random batches.

Prior to installation, boxes should be checked to ensure that the correct tile type and quantity have been received and that the tiles and planks are in good condition. No claim will be accepted for obvious damage if the tiles have been fitted.

## Adhesive recommendations and application

Carpet tiles and planks must be adhered using a high grab, all-over tackifier adhesive system; Forbo Eurocol 542 Eurofix Tack Plus is recommended. If alternative products are to be used consult with the supplier for more information, guidance and warranty.

The tackifier adhesive must be spread evenly over the entire floor area with a short pile roller with particular attention to edges (use a paint brush to ensure as close as possible application 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.

Adhesives must be applied according to the manufacturer's instructions and it is essential that tackifier adhesives are allowed to dry to a clear, tacky finish before laying the carpet tile. Failure to do so could result in a permanent non-release bond.

**Note:** Always consult before installation with the supplier of the adhesive for full information, instructions (e.g. use of a carpet roller), guidance and warranty.

**Note:** adhesive coverage rates will be reduced on very porous subfloors such as plywood or sand cement screeds. Highly absorbent subfloors such as sand/cement screeds and plywood etc. should be primed; Forbo Eurocol 044 Europrimer Multi is recommended. If alternative products are to be used consult with the supplier for more information, guidance and warranty.

The primer should be allowed to dry fully before proceeding with the application of the adhesive.

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

Do **NOT** use bleaching agents or strong solvents as they can be harmful to both people and to your floor.

## Installation

The following instructions are intended to draw the fitter's attention to current "Best Practice", and must be followed for the relevant product guarantees to be valid. Installation must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of this guidance along with local codes of practice where applicable.

### General

Any carpet tile can be susceptible to a certain amount of pile distortion when they are taken out of their boxes. This may result in visual differences in appearance between tiles, during, and immediately following, installation. Tile edges may also be more evident immediately after installation.

these are not manufacturing defects, and after fitting and assuming normal prevailing conditions (under dynamic foot movement) this visual differential will diminish as the pile recovers to its natural position.

**Note:** as with any cut pile carpet, cut pile carpet tiles may be subject to some pile shedding following installation. This is not a product fault and if any pile shedding does occur, it will effectively cease after several cycles of vacuum cleaning and normal use.

**Floor protection**

Tiles should be protected from dirt and dust before, during and after installation. Failure to do so may affect the performance warranty. When using protective sheeting ensure that all edges are sealed to prevent building debris and dust settling on the carpet tiles. Ensure that any adhesive tape residues on the carpet tile pile surface are removed before use.

**Conditioning**

Prior to installation, the carpet tiles must be allowed to acclimatize in opened boxes in the laying area at a steady temperature of 18 to 27°C, no more than six boxes high, for at least 24 hours.

**Setting Out**

The location of the starting point of an installation is usually determined by the fitter to maximize the yield. This may be anywhere in the room, but would normally be located as near to the true centre as possible. Small cuts in either the field or perimeter should be avoided.

Having established the starting point for the installation, making some check measurements or dry laying a few rows of tiles and planks will help to identify any potential problems or necessary adjustments to avoid small perimeter cuts.

Coral Interior is specially developed to install it in random order to give it is specially design. Pile direction is not an issue in this kind of installation but as the design of each tile or plank can be different it is advisable to check the lay out before starting the installation.

**Fitting tiles**

It is important when fitting Coral Interior tiles and planks to ensure that they are each carefully placed against the adjacent tiles - do not slide the tiles and planks into place.

Ensure that each tile butts up to its adjacent tile as tightly as possible without placing the tile or plank under any pressure which may cause peaking.

**Fitting edge tiles and cuts**

It is important when fitting Coral Interior tiles and cuts to skirting boards or other fixed perimeters that the tile/cut has sufficient tolerance to allow the tile/cut to drop into place without exerting any pressure. Any tiles/cuts fitted under pressure may be subject to lifting from the tackifier adhesive – this will cause loss of bond to that tile/cut and the surrounding installation area.

**Pile trapping**

It is essential that no pile material becomes trapped between tiles during placing in position of the tiles.

Any trapped pile will distort the overall tile adhesion bond which may affect the long-term tile bonding as well as negatively affecting the tile edge aesthetic.

**Fitting to risers**

Tiles to risers should also be permanently adhered using a suitable contact adhesive.

It is important that tiles are fitted to treads with the pile direction facing inwards towards the riser and fitted to risers with the pile direction facing downwards towards the tread.

**If in any doubt contact us  
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