

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.

Subfloor preparation should be carried out in accordance with BS8203:2017 Code of practice for the installation of resilient 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. *
- Problems associated with plasticizer migration from PVC materials can lead to dimensional instability in carpet tiles. All subfloors of this type must be removed before installation.
- 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 or an asphalt screed applied before installation of carpet tiles.

*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 uncovered or have been covered with a permeable floor covering such as VCT or carpet. Potential ground water problems may not, therefore, come to light until the base is covered with an impermeable floor covering. If any doubt exists a proprietary surface applied membrane or other appropriate moisture protection system should be used (CFA Guide to Contract Flooring).

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 floorcoverings 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.

Take care with the following:

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 3mm thickness of a suitable smoothing compound should then be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Thermoplastic tiles:

Should be taken up and all remaining adhesive cleaned off the floor.

Note: any remaining bitumastic adhesive may cause discolouration. Remaining adhesive residues should be isolated with a 3mm application of a suitable smoothing compound. If the floor covering is to be fully adhered a 3mm thickness of smoothing compound should then be applied.

Asphalt floors:

Should be covered with a minimum 3mm thickness of smoothing compound.

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 latex smoothing compound.

Concrete:

It is important that it is clean, dry, smooth and free from loose gritty particles.

Wooden floors:

Loose or uneven floorboards should be secured and covered with hardboard or plywood to provide an even surface. All protruding nail heads should be hammered flush. Particle board subfloors and all wood panel based floating subfloors should be overlaid with Plywood or hardboard.

Note: Hardboard should only be used in domestic situations; in all other cases where a fabricated underlay is required it should be plywood. (Refer to BS8203:2017 for Plywood and hardboard performance specifications and installation requirements).

Novilon can be used in conjunction with under-floor heating systems. A separate guidance note "**Installation of Forbo PVC and Linoleum Floor Coverings on Underfloor Heating Systems**" provides more information on the conditions for installation in such circumstances.

Installation/Fitting

The material must always be acclimatised and installed at normal room temperature (18 - 27°C). Where possible, unroll the material some hours before use.

Avoid cutting in too tightly as this can lead to bubbling caused by changes in temperature.

Novilon products are recommended to be fully bonded to provide a secure fitment for all types of use and are able to be sealed using an anti-fungal acrylic sealant around all four edges (particularly suitable for kitchens, bathrooms etc).

The recommend adhesive is Eurocol 640 Eurostar Special or a similar solvent-free, plasticizer-resistant acrylic dispersion adhesive. 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.

It is possible to install Novilon products in a loose-laid format (in areas up to 40 square metres) but the product may only be secured around doorways and along two adjacent walls (in an “L-shape”) with plasticizer resistant adhesive tape or a suitable solvent-free, plasticiser-resistant acrylic dispersion adhesive.

Note: Fixed items of furniture such as kitchen units, built in wardrobes etc. should not be fitted on Novilon when loose laid.

Note: Never perimeter-stick or apply a water-resistant sealant around all 4 sides when choosing to loose-lay as this will cause bubbling within the product installation. When joining two pieces, stick single-sided plasticizer-resistant adhesive tape on the underside of the join ensuring the tape is not placed directly under the seam (this avoids transfer of adhesive to the surface).

In rooms with underfloor heating, rooms with mobile furniture e.g. castor wheeled chairs or rooms subject to intensive or non-domestic use, the floorcovering must be fully adhered using 640 Eurostar Special, a solvent-free, plasticizer-resistant acrylic dispersion adhesive.

Seams

To keep out dirt etc, weld the seam with a cold chemical weld, such as Noviweld 671.

Product orientation

On plainer designs and products, it is advisable to reverse-lay sheets.

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 swept or 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 and the potential for impact, scratching or indentation damage.

In many cases it is customary for the initial floor preparation to be left, or subcontracted, to a professional cleaning and maintenance contractor who will have the staff and equipment to do the job thoroughly.

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 products are available for download at:
www.forbo.com/flooring/en-uk/downloads/consumer-products

Cleaning and maintenance guides should be passed onto the main contractor, 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 0282 162

Fax: 01772 646912

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 (Tel: 01159 411126)