

# Installation Guidance Note: Westbond carpet tile

**The following information is provided to highlight important product and installation characteristics for Westbond fusion bonded carpet tiles. The luxury aesthetic and long-term performance of Westbond carpet tiles 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 Westbond Carpet tiles 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 Westbond tiles or planks.

**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 acclimatise in opened boxes, no more than six boxes high, for at least 24 hours in the above conditions. This is particularly important if the tiles 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 acclimatisation 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.



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## Underfloor Heating

Westbond carpet tiles are excellent thermal insulators (Tog value typically 0.7 – 2.0) 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. It is essential that different batches are not mixed in the same area. When ordering tiles, each floor area (plus spares) must be specified from the same batch.

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

The batch number is clearly marked on the reverse of each carpet tile and must be checked before commencement of installation (double check against date of manufacture printed on the tile backing if in any doubt).

**Note:** Westbond carpet tiles are identified as either 'T' or 'B' on both the tile backing and boxes as they are manufactured with a top ('T') and back ('B') before splitting into two separate tiles. The mixing of T and B tiles in the same area of installation is not recommended and should not be carried out unless absolutely unavoidable.

Where both 'T' and 'B' tiles are supplied they should be segregated and used in separate installation areas.

If this is not possible, lay the 'B' or 'T' tiles only in the first half of the installation and then the remaining tiles to the other half. Ideally if there is a natural break or feature centrally in the room use this to work off.

## Adhesive recommendations and application

Carpet tiles 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.

*Insert here the country or regional recommended Forbo Flooring adhesives*

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.

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 540 Eurosafe Special is recommended.

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:** A thick, even coat of adhesive must be applied to ensure a firm bond between the tiles and the subfloor – light coating applications may affect the bond integrity of the installation. For Eurocol 542 Eurofix Tack Plus the recommended minimum application is 1 litre per 10m<sup>2</sup>.

**Note:** the tackifier must be applied with a suitable short pile roller to ensure full contact of the tile backing with the adhesive. If alternative adhesives are to be used consult with the supplier for usage information, 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.

*Insert here the country or regional recommended Forbo Flooring adhesives*

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.



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## 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.

**Note:** 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. Recovery will normally take place soon after installation. However, in some cases it can take up to six weeks for the pile to fully condition and develop a uniform visual appearance.

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.

Please note that Westbond cut pile tiles, particularly plain colours, may exhibit accentuated joins when first installed due to excess loose cut fibre from manufacture– this is a characteristic of cut pile carpet tiles and will even out over time through normal wear and maintenance.

## 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 acclimatise 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. This is particularly important if the tiles have been stored or delivered in conditions of extreme temperature and/or humidity.

## 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 will help to identify any potential problems or necessary adjustments to avoid small perimeter cuts.

## Pile Direction

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

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 Westbond carpet tiles' pile 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.

Note: options for the direction of tile installation will vary between product ranges. It is advisable to check with Forbo Flooring prior to installation.

## Fitting tiles

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

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

**Note:** Unlike bitumen backed tiles, the dimensionally stable Westbond tile PVC backing will not deform to accommodate a tight fit

### Fitting edge tiles and cuts

It is important when fitting Westbond 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 (this is particularly important when fitting cut pile products such as Westbond).

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. See pictures below.



Poor tile edges resulting from trapped pile

### Fitting to stair treads and risers

Appropriate stair nosings must be used for every tread.

Tiles must be bonded securely to the stair tread using a permanent bond adhesive (Forbo Eurocol 540 Eurosafe Special)

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.

### Tiles with Resilient Backings e.g. ProBac®

These should be installed according to the general instructions outlined above, but special note must be taken of the following:

- Prior to installation, carpet tiles with resilient backings (e.g. ProBac®) should be removed from their boxes as part of the conditioning process and stacked not more than 12 tiles high. The stacked tiles must be allowed to acclimatise for at least 24 hours in the atmospheric conditions which will prevail during use. This is particularly important if the tiles have been stored or delivered in conditions of extreme temperature and/or humidity.
- Because of the potential “spring-back” effect which can lead to gapping, it is essential that resilient backed tiles are tightly fitted. It is essential that no pile material becomes entrapped between tiles.

**Note:** ProBac® tiles should be firmly placed against adjacent tiles. Do not slide or force ProBac® tiles into place.

### 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.

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

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.



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**Note:** some protective sheet products with a tacky film in contact with the 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 Westbond ranges are available for download at: [insert local web link](#)

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.

#### Performance and Construction

These details vary according to carpet selection. Refer to Forbo Flooring Product Literature for Further information.

#### If in any doubt contact us:

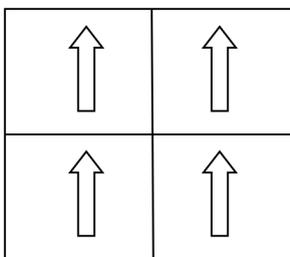
[Insert local contact details](#)



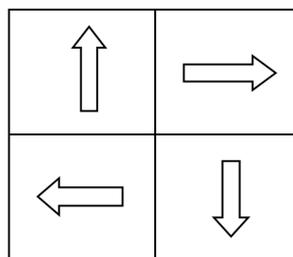
Link to Installation video

#### Westbond tile installation options:

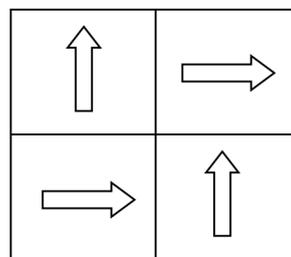
Check product range literature and client preferences before installing



**Monolithic**



**Quarter Turn**



**Tessellated**



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