

Installation Guidance Note: Sarlon Vinyl Sheet

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.

Forbo floor coverings are manufactured for internal use only. The product performance is not guaranteed for use in external environments.

The Installation of Sarlon sheet 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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: As with all newly installed floor coverings Sarlon should be protected from heavy traffic, particularly high point load wheeled traffic, for 72 hours and must not be washed for 48 hours after installation.

Underfloor heating

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

Adhesive Recommendations and application

For standard installations Eurocol 540 Eurosafe Special adhesive is recommended, however, if a low emission EC1 adhesive is required, Eurocol ‘640 Eurostar Special’ should be used.

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.

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.

Install one length of sheet at a time, making sure to place the material into wet adhesive and roll afterwards with a 68 kg roller, rolling 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.

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

Direction of laying

The following installation advice should be followed in relation to direction of sheet laying.

The installation direction for each design is indicated on the product brochure, packaging and the back of the sheet. The following general guidance applies, but it is important to check the required installation method for each sheet when planning the installation.

All over/Uni colour designs: -Canyon, Cement, Concrete, Cristal, Code Zero, Degrade*, Frequency, Linea, Resin, Zebrano, Uni,



Reverse installation of alternate sheet lengths is required.

Directional designs: - Wood*, wood XL* and Topography*



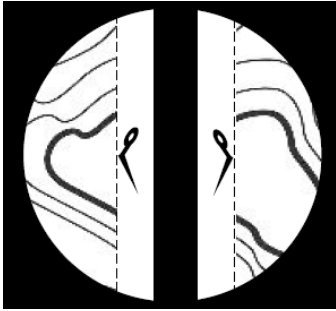
Sheet lengths should be installed in the same direction.

*See additional guidance below

***Please Note the following:**

Sarlon Wood designs: Wood designs incorporate a 2cm selvedge on each side of the roll to allow for trimming and pattern matching. Factory edges should **never** be laid together as the width of the planks on each side of the sheet will be larger than the rest of the design. The welded seam in plank designs should form the joint line of the plank.

Topography: The cutting lines for seams of Topography are indicated in the design the design as below.



Sarlon Degrade: This design changes shade across the width of the sheet. Due to this design feature alternate lengths should be reverse laid. It should be noted therefore that there are different coloured weld cables for each side of the sheet (see image below).



Installation

Forbo recommends that Sarlon sheet flooring be installed one sheet at a time. Always check the recommend direction of laying before cutting sheet length (see “Direction of laying above). It is recommended that each sheet be scribed to fit and that the factory edge be properly removed before adhering (see below). Seams should always be under-scribed after the material has been placed into the adhesive and rolled. Following these recommendations will give the installer the best opportunity to manage the open and working time of the adhesive and ensure that the flooring material is placed into wet adhesive.

Cut the sheet material to the required lengths and then back roll each cut length before scribing to the long wall and length ends in order to release any roll tension from the winding of the sheet.

Note: regardless of the installation method being used the factory edges should always be trimmed to form a true edge for seaming.

Fitting the first sheet

Once scribed to the walls cut a true edge along the factory edge of the sheet, a Forbo 'strip and seam cutter' is designed to carry out this operation in one cut (Fig.1). Alternatively, the factory edge can be trimmed using a straight edge and utility knives with straight and hooked blades. Place the straight edge approximately 2cm in from the factory edge and score the sheet using a utility knife and a straight blade. After scoring the material cut

through the sheet using a utility knife and a hooked blade. After trimming the factory edge trace the line of the seam edge onto the subfloor with a pencil, this will serve as a guide line for spreading the adhesive.

Pull the sheet back to approximately half of its length and spread the adhesive ensuring that the adhesive is spread right up to all perimeter edges and the marked pencil line Fig.3. Feed the sheet back into the adhesive and roll immediately first across the width of the sheet and then along the length to ensure that complete wet adhesive transfer is achieved. Again pay particular attention to the perimeters Fig.4. A seam roller or rubbing hammer can be used to ensure the sheet is pressed into the adhesive around harder to reach areas such as door frames and overhangs from furniture or fittings.

Pull the other half of the sheet back and repeat the above process.

Fitting the second (and subsequent) sheet/s

Unroll the next sheet and lay it on the floor overlapping the trimmed edge of the first fitted sheet by approximately 2cm. Trim the factory edge on the opposite side of this sheet as above and mark this edge of the sheet on the subfloor with a pencil. Scribe the ends of the sheet. Pull the sheet back halfway and adhere and roll the sheet as above.

Immediately after rolling the sheet trace the seam with recess scribers (Fig.6) along the trimmed edge of the first sheet and cut through with a utility knife and hooked blade. Once the seam is cut, the cut edge should just fall into place alongside the edge of the first sheet. The Forbo Trimmer (Fig.7) can be used to cut the seam in one operation. Roll the seam with a seam roller to ensure full contact with the adhesive. Repeat the process for the second half of the sheet length.

Tip: If the guide on your recess scribers is too thick it could remove adhesive from the subfloor when scribing the seam. Sanding the bottom of the guide on the recess scriber to reduce its thickness will prevent this and will also help to keep the guide clean and free of adhesive contamination.

Seam Welding

All seams should be hot welded. Matching coloured weld cables are available for the full Sarlon range.

Seam forming and grooving

Seams should be cut with tight butt joints and grooved to a depth of approximately 2/3rds of the material thickness but no more than 2mm with thicker designs. A 'P' Type groover (Fig.11) is recommended for manual grooving of seams, however, automatic or power groovers (Fig.12) may be more productive on larger installations.

Welding

Switch on the hot air gun and allow 5 to 7 minutes for it to reach the selected temperature. Sarlon should be welded at a temperature of approximately 450° C. (see weld gun manual for setting details). Fit the welding nozzle before switching on the hot air gun.

If the gun is resting on the floor ensure that the nozzle is not directed at the floor or anywhere dangerous.

Weld guns will vary, so it is always advisable to practice weld techniques first on a piece of waste material in order to match the correct air gun temperature with welding speed. Sarlon should be welded with a 5mm Speedweld nozzle.

Make sure the groove is thoroughly clean before beginning to heat weld. Make sure that all electrical cables are laid out without tangles and that there are no obstructions along the seam to be welded.

Cut the welding cable to a consistent and generous length or unwind sufficient weld rod from the reel and put the reel in a position where you are working towards it. Have the power cable ahead of you if possible.

Start at a wall. Thread the cable through and weld moving backwards, away from the wall, maintaining a slight downward pressure so that the weld nozzle will force the weld cable into the groove. Do not let the cable melt in the nozzle.

A good weld is obtained by the correct combination of temperature, speed and downward pressure. The weld cable should be allowed to melt enough so that the melted rod reaches the bottom of the groove.

Trimming

While the cable is still warm trim off most of the top half of the cable down to approximately 0.5mm using a Mozart knife or sharp spatula and slide which fits over the cable. This enables the cable to cool more quickly and enables a quick first cut to be made without risk of gouging the material.

The welding cable will dish slightly (concave downwards) as it cools. Wait until the material is completely cool before trimming flush with the surface of the sheet with a Mozart knife or sharp spatula angled slightly across the line of cut.



Mozart knife



Spatula



Slide

Note: Making the final trim while the welding rod and material is still warm can result in the weld cable dishing of the weld cable. This may result in subsequent seam soiling problems or cause permanent damage to the surface of the flooring.

Perimeter sealing

If the purpose of specifying welded seams is to prevent the risk of moisture getting under the floorcovering then logically the specification must ensure that perimeters are also sealed, together with any areas where pipes, etc. come up through the floorcovering. This is usually done with a silicone sealer but in special areas, such as prisons, a hard-setting epoxy may be used.

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 linoleum products are available for download at: www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/vinyldownloads.

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:

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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)