

General Installation Instructions

In order to get a perfect floor it is important to pay attention to a proper installation of the floor covering. Forbo offers an assortment of high quality installation products, which helps you obtaining the desired result. Key factors in the installation of a floor are:

Sub floor preparation

The installation of a resilient Forbo floor starts with the sub floor, which must be dry, rigid and smooth. Egaline and MDF boards are both perfect systems for leveling sub floors. The sub floor is sanded and vacuumed and, if insulation is required, two thin layers of Forbo Seal are applied.

Installation plan

It's important to make a good plan before beginning an installation. Rooms, materials and sub floors must have a minimal temperature of 17 degrees Celsius (63 degrees Fahrenheit). Allow the materials to acclimatize for at least one night before installation.

Scribing and cutting

A good start makes all the difference: pay extra attention to the first tile of floor covering! A set of professional tools contributes to a perfect result.

Adhering

A perfectly installed floor requires perfect adhesion. Elastocol is recommended for adhering Forbo floorings to the sub floor.

For vinyl follow the recommended open time (flash off time) from the adhesive supplier, thereafter place the PVC tile into the glue bed, rub the tile carefully from center to the edges in order to press the air out.

If prescribed, use a roller to roll the surface, first width wise, then lengthwise. Remove any excess adhesive.

After installation, make sure that the room will be ventilated in order to allow the adhesive to dry. It is preferable not to use or load a freshly installed floor until the adhesive has set thoroughly, which in normal conditions takes two days.

Design tiles

Forbo Allura design vinyl tiles are manufactured to the highest technical standards. To guarantee best performance and to qualify for warranty the following installation requirements must be met.

Care must be taken during storage and transportation that cartons are flat and stacked evenly. Do not stack cartons on end. Prior to installation, the product should be stored flat at a temperature between 18 – 27°C for a period of 24 hours and maintained at this temperature for a period of 24 hours after installation is complete.

Forbo Allura can be installed on concrete, timber and certain other sub floors, provided they have been correctly prepared. The sub floor needs to be clean, dry, sound and level. Do not install over woodblock, particleboard or existing resilient flooring. Never install over expansions joints. Within the same installation cartons from the same batch should be used. Forbo Allura design vinyl tiles should not be welded.

The following adhesive should be used: Forbo Elastocol 570. Other suppliers offer similar adhesives, which are expected to perform sufficiently. Always refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

After installation the floor should be rolled with a 70 kg three segment roller. The floor will take 24 hours to fully set after which fittings can be placed. The floor should not be exposed to water for 48 hours after installation.

Tips

- Tiles and planks do not require shuffling prior to installation, but dry laying will identify best use of design;
- Tiles that require directional installation will have installation instructions included in the cartons;
- Patterns on emboss tiles do not match exactly. This is intentional and gives the floor a more realistic appearance;
- Like the natural material, many designs will vary in tone and colour. This is intentional and gives the floor a more authentic appearance.

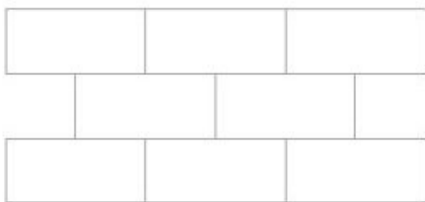
Installation examples

Wood plank



Wood strips to be installed in a random pattern.

Sandstone/Slate



Sandstone and Slate is best installed in an offset or bricklayers pattern.



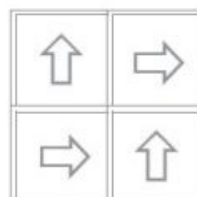
Corrugated

Corrugated metal tiles should be installed in a checkerboard pattern.



Rustic Stone

All tiles same direction with the 'L' shape of the integrated grout always to the top left.



French Sandstone

Grain direction of stone should be alternated while the 'L' shape of the grout is always to the top left.

Cleaning and Maintenance

- PU/PUR low maintenance finishes
- Competitive whole life costs
- Protection against dirt and scuffmarks

Initial site clean

Remove all debris, dirt and dust off the floor and clean the floor with a neutral floor cleaner. For larger areas a scrubber dryer or a rotary machine with a suitable cleaning pad may be used. Pick up dirty water with a wiper and mop or wet vacuum, rinse with clean water and allow floor to dry.

Mechanical floor care (spray method)

Regular cleaning

- Wipe with a static (dust control) mop
- Remove spots with neutral detergent

Periodic cleaning

- Spray clean with a rotary machine and buffing pad
- Use spray where necessary

Occasional maintenance

- Scrub with cleaner, rotary machine and scrubbing pad
- Pick up dirty water with a mop or wet vacuum cleaner
- Rinse thoroughly and allow floor to dry
- Full Spray with a rotary machine and buffing pad

Manual floor care (monel method)

Regular cleaning

- Wipe with a static (dust control) mop
- Remove spots with neutral detergent

Periodic cleaning

- Clean with neutral detergent
- Apply Monel film with a damp mop

Occasional maintenance/refurbishment

- Scrub with neutral detergent
- Pick up dirty water with a mop or wet vacuum cleaner
- Rinse thoroughly and allow floor to dry
- Apply Monel film

Tips

In most situations you can just clean the floor and use it. However, where intensive use is expected, start the cleaning and maintenance program by carrying out a maintenance action i.e. Spray buff for mechanical cleaning or apply Monel for manual cleaning.

For machine cleaning and maintenance, 150 to 300 rpm is perfectly suitable for the spray method.

Notes: Allura should never be dry buffed always use a damp pad. Never use brown or black pads. Do not carry out any wet cleaning within 48 hours of installation.

Best Practice: Tips for effective floor care

General advice

Cleaning

- Regular cleaning is more beneficial and cost effective than occasional heavy cleaning
- Always follow the Health and Safety guidance provided
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning products
- Use protective feet on chairs and tables to reduce scratching
- Remember that light colours may need to be cleaned more frequently
- When cleaning floors incorporating raised profiles e.g. Allura Treadplate, a rotary machine or scrubber drier fitted with a suitable brush may be used.

Use barrier matting

As much as 80% of dirt entering a building is brought in by foot traffic. Correct use of a good quality entrance barrier mat is recommended and can significantly reduce the volume of dirt reaching smooth floorcoverings; reducing maintenance costs and maximising appearance retention. It is generally accepted that a minimum area of 4-10 steps is required before soil is removed.

Protect newly laid floors

All newly laid floor surfaces should be covered and protected from all other trades during the contract with a suitable non-staining protective covering.

Use recommended cleaning products

High quality cleaning products and equipment ensure efficient maintenance and represent only a small proportion of maintenance costs.

Frequently asked questions:

How often should I clean and maintain my floor?

The optimum frequency for cleaning and maintenance is determined by the way the floor is used. When producing a cleaning and maintenance schedule it is good practice to consider the situation of the floor first: e.g. is it near an entrance to the building or on an upper floor? Will it collect dry or moist soil? What level of traffic will it be subjected to?

How do I remove stains?

Remove stains as soon as they are discovered. Try out removal on a sample piece or hidden area. Most stains can be safely removed using a dry (paper) towel, water, detergent, white spirit or alcohol (in that order). Do NOT use highly alkaline products (ammonia, soda) or strong solvents such as acetone as they can be harmful to both people and to your floor.

Can I use floor care products from other suppliers?

Many floor care products can be safely used on Forbo resilient floorcoverings. Consult with your regular supplier for more information. Try to avoid or minimize the use of high pH products, rinse the floor well after use of such products with clean water.

Forbo Floor Care products

Forbo have developed a range of floor care products which, when used with the Forbo Floor Care System, will help to keep your floor in perfect condition.

Forbo Spray offers ideal performance for local spray cleaning.

Forbo Spray will restore localized small irregularities such as scratches and has excellent buffing properties ensuring the optimum visual appearance of the floorcovering.

Forbo Cleaner is a pH neutral detergent, which leaves no residue and will remove most common stains and soiling.

Monel is based on natural ingredients and offers a practical protective film and perfect cleaning properties in one product.

Forbo cannot accept any responsibility for product recommendations made by other manufacturers, but should you require assistance in product selection please contact our Technical Services Department.