

Installation Guidance Note: Needlefelt

General Advice

As with any floor covering, 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 Needlefelt should be carried out in accordance with the National Code of practice for the installation of carpet 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, even 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 minimum 18oC 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 10oC 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.

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.

As with all newly installed floor coverings Needlefelt 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

Needlefelt can be used in conjunction with under-floor heating systems. It is imperative that the underfloor heating systems have been commissioned and found to be functioning correctly prior to the floor finish being installed.



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.

Adhesive Recommendations and application

When installing Needlefelt Sheet a fast adhering carpet adhesive is recommended, such as Forbo Eurocol 509 Eurosafe Tex. If alternative products are to be used consult with the supplier for more information, guidance and warranty.

Use a 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 50-70 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.

Installation

Direction of laying

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

Markant Graphic City :



Reverse installation of alternate sheet lengths is required.

All other designs:



Sheet lengths should be installed in the same direction.

The recommended installation direction for each design is also confirmed in the product brochures and packaging and printed on the underside of each roll.



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Always check the recommended direction of laying before cutting sheet length (see above).

Always consider pattern repeat dimension of the design before cutting sheet length.

Cut the sheet material to the required lengths with an allowance of approximately 10cm for fitting at each end.

It is recommended that the cut lengths are laid out flat in the installation area the day before installation to allow the product to settle.

A suitable cover strip should be used at door thresholds.

Cutting and fitting

It is best practice that factory edges are always be trimmed to form a true edge for seaming. Needlefelt is manufactured with up to 2 cm selvedge on each side of the roll to allow for trimming.

It is recommended that the factory edges should be removed when cutting the seam. Seams should be overlapped and cut to form a close butt joint.

Trim off excess floor covering along the walls and skirting boards.

Note: do not cut the sheet too tightly to the walls. The sheet should be cut leaving a gap of 1mm at the perimeter of the room including all abutments such as architraves and any items of fixed furniture.

Lay the next sheet alongside the first fitted sheet with the sheet ends lapping up the wall and the edge of the sheet overlapping the previously fitted sheet by approximately 2cm.

Note: To install Showtime Graphic the following is recommended :

Double cut after overlapping of 5 cm of the two sheets, so that the pattern match of the designs can be found.

Cut the seam to form a close butted seam and cut each end of this length as for the first sheet. Trim off excess floor covering along the walls and skirting boards.

The final length which abuts the opposite wall should be cut and fitted using the method described for the first length.

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.

Needlefelt is occupancy ready immediately after installation.

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-flooring.com/downloads

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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