

Installation Guidelines: Flotex® Sheet

General Installation Guidelines

- Flotex® sheet flooring may be installed on approved substrates on all grade levels.
- Areas to receive flooring should be clean, fully enclosed and weathertight. The permanent HVAC must be fully operational, controlled and set at a minimum of 68° F (20° C) for a minimum of seven days prior to, during, and seven days after the installation. The material and adhesive should be conditioned in the same environment for at least 48 hours prior to the installation. Areas to receive flooring shall be adequately lighted to allow for proper inspection of the substrate, installation and seaming of the flooring, and for final inspection.
- Store Flotex® rolls standing upright.
Note: Storing the rolls laying down will result in pile crush. Forbo will not honor claims relating to pile crush if the rolls were stored laying down.
- Always conduct moisture tests on all concrete substrates, regardless of age or grade level.
- Determine the moisture vapor emission rate (MVER) of the concrete by testing conducted in accordance with ASTM F 1869. The MVER of the concrete must not exceed 8.0 lbs. per 1,000 square feet in 24 hours when using Forbo FRS 885 adhesive. When moisture vapor emissions exceed these requirements, refer to the Moisture Limitor section of Forbo's Installation Guide for additional information.
- Determine the internal relative humidity of the concrete by testing conducted in accordance with ASTM F 2170. The internal relative humidity of the concrete must not exceed 85% when using Forbo FRS 885 adhesive. When the internal relative humidity exceeds these requirements, refer to the Moisture Limitor section of Forbo's Installation Guide for additional information.
- The concrete surface pH must be tested and must not exceed a pH of 11 when using Forbo FRS 885 adhesive.
- Always conduct adhesive mat bond tests before beginning the installation. Bond testing will aid in identifying both the working characteristics of the adhesive (open time and working time) for the site conditions, and also any potential bonding problems.
- Material should always be visually inspected prior to installation. If there are any questions regarding the quality of material, contact your local Forbo representative or Forbo Technical Services PRIOR to installation.
Any costs (including labor) associated with the replacement of material that was installed with visual defects that could have been seen prior to installation are not covered under warranty.
- 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.
- Use Forbo FRS 885 adhesive.
- Use a 1/16" x 1/16" x 1/16" square notch trowel to apply the adhesive.
- Use material from the same batch/dye lot.
- **Install rolls and cuts in consecutive order.** Forbo will not honor shading claims where the Forbo Flotex® sheet has been installed out of sequence.
- Do Not Reverse sheets for seaming. Install with arrows all pointing in the same direction.
- Install sheets running lengthwise in corridors.
- Butt factory edges for seaming.
- Roll immediately with a 75 pound three-section roller and always check for proper adhesive transfer. In order to achieve a secure bond there must be complete transfer of adhesive to the material backing.
- Remove fresh adhesive residue immediately with a clean white damp cloth. Dried adhesive residue can be removed with a clean white cloth and mineral spirits.
- Mixing Flotex® sheet and Flotex® tile products in the same area is not recommended. This is especially important when installing borders or motifs. The Flotex® tile is thicker than the Flotex® sheet material and may wear or become damaged when mixed with the sheet material.
- Take pride in your work and be Professional at all times.
- For additional information, contact Forbo Technical Services.

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Cutting and Fitting Sheets

1. Prior to cutting, organize the material by roll number to ensure that the rolls and cuts will be installed in consecutive order. Make sure that all rolls are from the same batch/lot.
2. Whenever possible, run the arrows toward the main light source.
3. Unroll the material and cut the individual pieces to length, making sure to allow for pattern match and trimming. Do Not Reverse sheets. Run all arrows in the same direction.
Note: When installing Flotex® sheet in corridors, always run arrows lengthwise. Where corridors intersect, it is recommended that a decorative border be used as a separator to avoid pattern cross match at the intersection.
4. Dry lay the pieces, butting the factory edges for seaming. Make sure that the seam edges come together with a net fit with no fullness or gaps.
Note: For cross seams or fills that are not pre-trimmed, straight edge the material from the face. Hold the knife blade at a right angle to the face of the material.

Adhering the Sheets

1. After dry laying the area, carefully roll each sheet back approximately half way. Take care that the sheets do not shift during handling. Mark the edge of the first sheet with a pencil line before rolling back.
2. Snap a chalk line as a spread line in front of where the material is folded over to assure an even and straight line of adhesive.
3. Spread adhesive on the exposed substrate. Take care not to leave ridges or puddles.
4. For porous substrates, a short open time may be necessary before placing the flooring material into the adhesive. For non-porous substrates, a longer open time will be necessary in order to allow the adhesive to develop body before placing the flooring material into the adhesive, but **DO NOT ALLOW THE ADHESIVE TO DRY**. The flooring material **MUST** always be placed into the adhesive and rolled immediately. Check for adhesive transfer frequently. There must be transfer of adhesive to the material backing in order to achieve a secure bond.
Note: The open time and working time of adhesives will vary depending on site conditions such as ambient temperature and humidity, the porosity of the substrate and air circulation. It is the installer's responsibility to make adjustments to specific conditions as may be necessary. Refer to the Adhesives section of Forbo's Installation Guide for additional information regarding adhesive open time and working time. The material must be placed into semi-wet adhesive.
5. Carefully place the Flotex® sheet into the adhesive one at a time, starting with the first sheet and carefully follow the pencil line. Smooth the seams into place using a spatula.
Note: Do Not Use a stretcher or knee kicker on Flotex® sheet.
6. Roll the material with a 75 pound three-section roller.
7. Remove fresh adhesive residue immediately with a clean white damp cloth. Dried adhesive residue can be removed with a clean white cloth and mineral spirits.
8. Trim the excess material at doorways and walls using a carpet knife or edge trimmer with a hooked blade, and use a spatula to press the Flotex® firmly into the adhesive after trimming. Be sure to complete all trimming before the adhesive working time has expired.
9. Repeat this sequence for the other half of the area.

Decorative Inlays

1. Lay and adhere all field areas in the room following the guidelines outlined in these instructions.
2. Measure out the locations for the decorative inlays. Mark off the inlay locations with white chalk.
3. Place a cutting guide in position along the chalk lines and cut the field piece along the lines.
4. Remove the cut field piece and scrape any ridges that may remain from the original adhesive.
5. Cut the inlay piece to fit, re-apply adhesive and place the inlay into position.
6. Using a spatula, press the inlay firmly into place.
7. Roll the completed inlays with a 75 pound three-section roller.

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Decorative Borders

1. Snap chalk lines around the area where the field material will stop, making sure to allow for trimming the border material.
2. Lay the field material so that it extends slightly over the chalk lines.
3. Using the chalk lines as a spread line, adhere all field areas in the room following the guidelines outlined in these instructions.
4. Using a straightedge as a guide, cut the field material along the chalk lines.
5. Apply adhesive in the area of the border and place the border material into position.
6. Using a spatula, press the border firmly into place.
7. Trim the border material at the perimeter and roll the completed installation with a 75 pound three-section roller.

Stairs

1. Flotex® CANNOT be wrapped on stairs.
2. A standard stair nosing must be used, with a separate piece of Flotex® for each tread and riser.
3. Adhere the Flotex® on the treads and risers using a high quality commercial grade contact cement following the application guidelines of the adhesive manufacturer.

Forbo's Installation Guide contains additional information on substrate evaluation and preparation, and is available for download at www.forboflooringna.com. For a hard copy, or for additional information, contact Forbo Technical Services at +800 842 7839.