

Installation Guidelines: Allura® Tile

General Installation Guidelines

- The installation of Allura Tiles should be carried out in accordance with the national code of practice for the installation of resilient floor coverings if available. 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.
- 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 17 °C, 48 hours before, during and 48 hours after installation. The material and adhesive should be conditioned in the same environment for at least 48 hours prior to the installation. Where national codes of practice exist they take precedence over these guidelines.
- Store Allura® tiles in cartons stacked, maximum 5 cartons and laying flat.
- Always conduct moisture tests on all substrates. All ground based level floors should have an effective moisture barrier.
- Use material from the same batch/dye lot.
- Do not remove more tiles from the box than can be installed within 1 hour.
- Most Allura designs are non-directional; however, the following installation advice is given :
 - Stone tiles may be laid either in bond (broadloom) or brick pattern
 - Textile designs should be installed chequerboard.
 - Tiles and planks do not require shuffling prior to installation, but dry laying will identify best use of design. Please note that abstract stripe designs do not have a pattern match.

Adhesive application

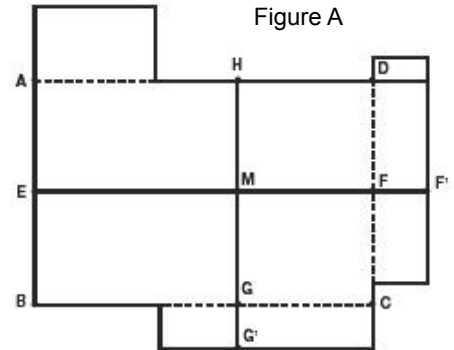
- For installing Allura tiles a hard setting adhesive is required such as Forbo Eurocol 646. If alternative products are to be used consult with the supplier for more information, guidance and warranty.
- Always conduct an adhesive bond test before starting the installation. Bond testing will assist in identifying both the working characteristics of the adhesive (Waiting and working time) for the site conditions, and also any potential bonding problems.
- Use a trowel to apply the adhesive. Trowels will wear during use, ensure that the trowel has got the proper and specified notch.
- Install tiles into wet adhesive and roll with a 60-75 kg roller before the adhesive has dried. Always check for proper adhesive transfer. In order to achieve a secure bond, there must be a complete **wet** transfer of adhesive to the tile backing.
- A short waiting time will often be necessary to allow the adhesive to develop body. The tile **MUST** be placed into the adhesive before it has had an opportunity to dry. This enables a complete wet transfer of the proper amount of adhesive to the tile backing and is essential for a secure bond.



Installation

Layout

1. Forbo tile products are installed using conventional tile installation techniques.
2. It is customary to start from the center of the room. In corridors and small spaces, it may be simpler to work lengthwise from one end, using the center line as a guide.
3. The center line is drawn as follows: a chalk line is snapped from center of wall A-B (=E) to the center of wall C-D (=F). The center of line E-F is found (M). Draw a perpendicular line through M using the 3:4:5 method to establish G-H (Figure A).
4. Starting at center point M, measure out lengthwise and widthwise to the walls. Wherever possible, cuts of less than 60mm or so should be avoided as these are more likely to come loose at some stage in the life of the installation. Adjust the position of lines E-F and G-H if necessary.



Installation

1. Begin laying tiles at the starting point, ensuring that the tile is laid exactly along the layout lines. If the first few tiles are not installed accurately, the entire installation will be affected.
2. Because the tiles must be installed into wet adhesive, do not spread the adhesive in an area larger than tiles can be installed while the adhesive is still wet taking care that the adhesive is covering 100% of the backing of the tiles. Any excess dried adhesive left on the substrate should be removed before applying fresh adhesive to ensure consistent spread. Remove fresh adhesive residue immediately with a clean white damp cloth. Dried adhesive residue can be removed with a clean white cloth and soapy water.
3. The time it takes to mark and cut the border tiles must be taken into consideration when planning the installation. Without adequate planning, it is likely that the working time of the adhesive in the area of the border tiles will be exceeded before the tiles are installed, which will result in an inadequate bond of the border tiles. The successful installation of border tiles is best accomplished by following one of two strategies:
 - a. When laying out tile, determine the edge of a field tile a comfortable distance from each wall and then snap chalk lines around the perimeter of the room. When spreading adhesive, use these lines as a guide to stop spreading adhesive and install the field tiles up to the adhesive spread lines. Once the field tiles have been installed, the border tiles and be "dry" fitted (before spreading the adhesive). After the border tiles have been cut, adhesive can be applied in the area of the border tiles and the tiles can be placed immediately into the wet adhesive.
 - b. Plan the sequence of spreading adhesive so that the border tiles can be cut and placed into the adhesive before the adhesive working time has been exceeded.
4. Immediately after placing the tiles into wet adhesive, roll the tiles with a 60-75 kg roller in multiple directions to ensure adequate transfer of adhesive to the backing. Re-roll the tiles periodically to ensure that the tile remains in contact with the adhesive while the adhesive is curing. Areas that cannot be rolled with the large roller e.g. abutments such as architraves or skirting boards should be rolled with a hand roller or pressed into the adhesive with a rubbing hammer.

For further information or in any doubt please contact your local Forbo technical representative.