

Installation Guidance Note: Sarlibase T.E Underlay

Product description

Sarlibase TE underlay is an impervious loose lay underlay for use over damp or contaminated subfloors or in situations where conventional subfloor preparation cannot be carried out; for example, due to time constraints, or where the existing floor covering cannot be removed.

It is a stable underlay made up of a glass fibre scrim with a smooth vinyl top surface and a textured foam backing.

It can be used with Forbo compact vinyl and linoleum floorcoverings, Tessera bitumen backed carpet tiles and Flotex sheet and PVC backed tiles. Sarlibase is not recommended for use with foam backed or acoustic floor coverings, linoleum or PVC tiles. It is also not recommended for use in hygiene sensitive areas such as clinical areas or clean rooms.

General advice

The appearance, performance and durability of the installed floor covering will be determined to a large extent by the quality of the prepared subfloor and the conditions in which they are laid.

The subfloor must comply with AS 1884-2021 "*Floorcoverings - Resilient sheet and tiles - installation practices*", is sufficiently smooth that no subfloor imperfections telegraph through the completed installation; it must be of consistent quality, firm and have no loose or poorly bonded patches on the surface.

On the other hand, the sub floor can have some contaminants adhered to it, such as thin film of paint, dirt stains and old oil stains, etc.

It is not necessary to attend to control/saw cut joints, construction joints or cracks provided they do not cause a difference in level or show through in the floorcovering.

If the floor to be covered is an old floorcovering it must be sufficiently well bonded to the subfloor.

Different types

New concrete subfloor with a dampness whose value can be over the Australian standards requirements (according to the following comments).

- New, well bonded levelling compound.
- New subfloor of tongued and grooved chipboard or other fibreboard with no appreciable difference in level at the joints (rub down the joints if necessary).
- Old subfloor with no floorcovering or from which the old floorcovering has been removed.
- Old floorcovering, such as a solid vinyl, smoothed down wood, linoleum, tiled floor without grouts (or where the grout has been filled with a special mastic).
- Old dry adhesive residue, not bituminous adhesive (black jack).

General comments

To make an easier installation of the underlay and in order not to hinder the drying of the adhesive between the underlay and the floorcovering we recommend installation of the whole floor on a dry subfloor and in conditions of normal humidity (< 55% RH) with a temperature above 15°C. The underlay is installed the day before the floorcovering.

Acclimatise the rolls of underlay and floorcoverings vertically for 24 hours in a secure and well ventilated area, protected from damp, at an ambient temperature above 15°C.

Laying the underlay

Unroll the Sarlibase T.E. with the foamed texture downwards. The direction of laying is the same as for the floorcovering but with the joints staggered by at least 50 cm wherever possible for sheet floorcoverings and by half a tile for tiles. The installation is loose lay with butt-jointed selvages. If the edges are in good condition there is no need to cut in the seams.

Leave a gap of 3 mm from all perimeter walls and protrusions and at every feature point (e.g. door frames) between the underlay and the wall or door frame.

A minimum of 12 hours must be left between the installation of the Sarlibase T.E. underlay and that of the floorcovering.

Laying the floorcovering

The lengths of floorcovering should be installed sequentially following the roll number or box number sequence. Leave a 3mm gap at walls and protrusions.

If the seams are to be butt-jointed you may need to make a double cut of the selvedges by using a straight edge or an off cut of solid floorcovering under the seam to be re-cut to avoid cutting into the underlay.

If the selvages are to be hot seam welded and are in good condition just close butt-joint the lengths.

As usual, welding is done after the adhesive has dried, at least 48 hours after the installation. Firstly groove the seam taking care not to cut through to the underlay (2/3 of the thickness of the floorcovering is enough). Then complete the weld using a speed weld nozzle and remove the excess with a slider in two separate cuts using a very sharp tool.

Stick the floorcovering to the smooth face of the underlay with PVC single stick acrylic plasticiser resistant emulsion adhesive. Ensure the surface is free of dust. Spread is about 150 g/m².

Apply the adhesive with a very finely toothed spreader or a paint roller in order to avoid spreader marks telegraphing through.

Note: The floorcovering is stuck down half a length at a time and with a waiting time of 45 to 60 minutes to avoid any bubbles caused by the presence of moisture between two totally impermeable layers.

Any air must be smoothed out from (broomed) between the two layers. Then roll each length immediately with a roller of about 50 kg, rolling again once or twice after several lengths have been installed or a surface of about 30 sq mtrs covered and while the adhesive is still on working time.

Generally speaking, skirtings are fitted after the flooring installation. See 'Installation of accessories'.

Textile floorcoverings (with a backing of foam, PVC or latexed fibres)

Lay the floorcovering following the sequence of the cuts and the roll or carton numbers. Leave a 3mm gap at walls and partitions.

If the seams are to be butt-jointed you may need to make a double cut of the selvedges using a straight edge or an offcut of solid floorcovering under the seam to be re-cut to avoid cutting into the underlay.

Stick the floorcovering to the smooth face of the underlay with a single stick acrylic emulsion adhesive. Ensure the surface is free of dust. Spread is about 250 g/sq mtrs. Apply the adhesive with a finely toothed spreader. The floorcovering is stuck down half a length at a time depending on the backing type with a waiting time of about 20 minutes if the backing allows the passage of moisture.

Any air must be smoothed out from between the two layers. Then roll with a roller of about 50 kg while the adhesive is still on working time.

Generally speaking, skirtings are fitted after the flooring installation. See 'Installation of accessories'.

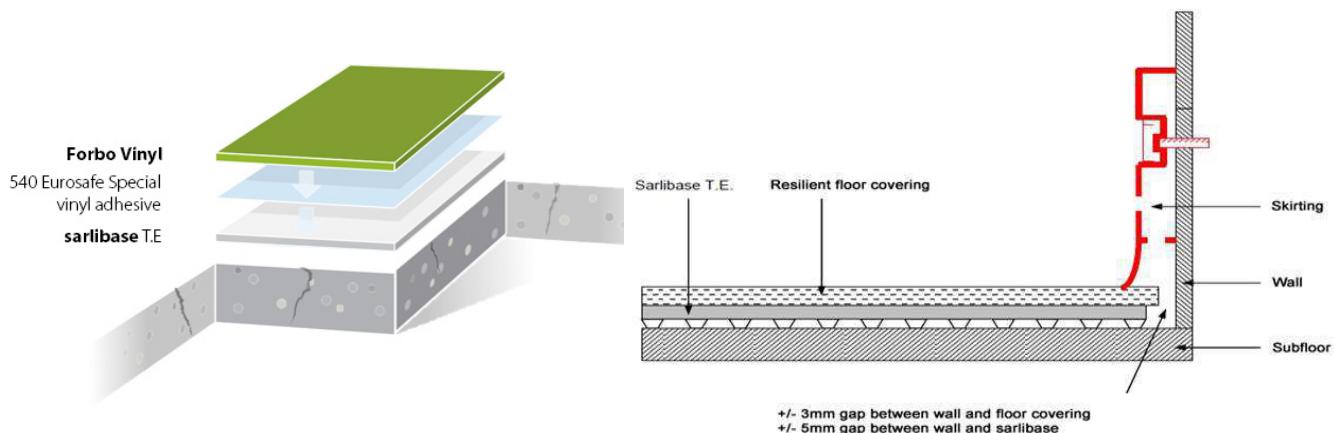
Note: For all floorcoverings where there is dampness

Subfloor moisture testing will be in accordance with AS 1884:2021

- Sarlibase is suitable to lay over damp subfloors that when tested to AS 1884:2021 the moisture range should not exceed 90% RH and reducing.

- Above RH 85% as tested to AS 1884:2021 ventilated skirtings must be fitted around all perimeter walls so substrate moisture can permeate to the ventilated skirtings and equalize with the surrounding atmosphere. See diagram below.

- When the subfloor is moisture tested to AS 1884:2021 and is found to be 80% RH or lower for sheet vinyl installation, vinyl can be coved off Sarlibase and ventilate skirtings will not be required.



- Where installation is difficult because of a high humidity level (whether substrate or atmosphere) use a two bi-component adhesive.
- Apply to the smooth side of the underlay as a single stick at a rate of 250 g/m² using a fine toothed spreader.
- As before, squeeze out any trapped air then roll several times before the adhesive cures.
- To avoid movement of the adhesive underfoot, the installer should move around on 50 x 50 cm wood panels.

Installation Accessories

Skirtions when the substrate is dry

Skirtions of wood, PVC, textile, etc. can be installed after the laying of the floorcovering.

Skirtions when the substrate is damp

- Use a prefabricated skirting which clips to the wall distributed by Forbo Flooring Sarlino
- Alternatively use ventilated wooden skirtions made from marine glade plywood and grooved on the back. The thickness should be 10 mm with routed channels 10 to 15 mm wide at a spacing of 1 or 2 every 50 cm
- Make sure no adhesive in the channels prevents ventilation

Door trims

Edge trim can be used at doorways.

Laying tools

The use of the usual tools for installing PVC or textile floorcoverings is required following the kind of floorcovering.

If in any doubt contact us:

Tel: 1800 224 471

E-mail: info.au@forbo.com

Website: www.forbo-flooring.com.au

Additional reference documents and information:

Forbo Floor Coverings Installation Guide: www.forbo-flooring.com.au/installation
AS 1884:2021



FLOORING SYSTEMS