

Installation Guidance Note: HemingwayDesign X Forbo – Mid Century Weave carpet tile

General Advice

Sub-floor Preparation

The quality of the finished installation will depend on the quality of the sub floor. Irregularities in the subfloor will be apparent in the finished flooring. All subfloors should be smooth, sound clean and permanently dry in accordance with BS5325. Particular attention should be paid to the following:

- i) All cementitious floors must have a residual moisture content of less than 75%, when measured according to Annex A of the standard.
- ii) Problems associated with plasticizer migration from PVC materials can lead to dimensional instability in carpet tiles. All subfloors of this type must be removed before installation.
- iii) It is impossible to ensure that wood block floors are not loose or contain latent defects through aging. It is therefore strongly recommended that these are removed and that the subfloor is correctly prepared and, if necessary, a surface damp proof membrane or an asphalt screed applied before installation of carpet tiles.
- iv) Raised access flooring panels have a tendency to settle shortly after installation and this should be taken into account when assessing the appearance of a carpet tile installation fitted onto such flooring systems. Adhesive manufacturers' instructions must be followed.

Underfloor Heating

Carpet tiles are excellent thermal insulators (Tog value typically 0.7 – 2.0) and this should be taken into account when using with

underfloor heating systems. When used with underfloor heating systems the temperature at the surface of the subfloor must not exceed 27°C. A separate guidance note "Installation of Forbo Floor Coverings on Underfloor Heating Systems" provides more information on the conditions for installation in such circumstances.

Installation – General

Tiles should be protected from dirt and dust before, during and after installation. Failure to do so may affect the performance warranty.

Batch Matching

As with any floor covering, the use of different production batches will always result in visible shade differences. It is essential that different batches are not mixed in the same area. When ordering tiles, each floor area (plus spares) must be specified from the same batch. The batch number is clearly marked on the reverse of each carpet tile and must be checked before commencement of installation.

Inspection

Boxes should be checked to ensure that the correct tile type, colour, batch number and quantity have been received and that the tiles are in good condition. No claim will be accepted for incorrect colour, pattern or obvious damage if the tiles have been fitted.

Any carpet tile can be susceptible to a certain amount of pile distortion when they are taken out of their boxes. This may result in visual differences in appearance between tiles during, and immediately following, installation.

After fitting and assuming normal prevailing conditions (under dynamic foot movement) this visual differential will diminish as the pile recovers to its natural position. Recovery will normally take place soon after installation. However, in some cases it can take up to six weeks for the pile to fully condition and develop a uniform visual appearance. Pile distortion is not a manufacturing defect,

Conditioning

Prior to installation, the carpet tiles must be allowed to acclimatise in opened boxes for at least 24 hours in the atmospheric conditions which will prevail during use. This is particularly important if the tiles have been stored or delivered in conditions of extreme temperature and/or humidity.

Installation - Fitting

The following instructions are intended to draw the fitter's attention to current "Best Practice", and must be followed for the relevant product guarantees to be valid. Installation must be carried out in accordance with the requirements of BS 5325:2001 or any subsequent revision., and the guidelines contained in the Contract Flooring Association "Guide to Contract Flooring" manual.

Setting Out

The location of the starting point in an installation is usually determined by the fitter to maximize the yield. This may be anywhere in the room, but would normally be located as near to the true centre as possible.

Having established the starting point for the installation, making some check measurements or dry

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laying a few rows of tiles will help to identify any potential problems or necessary adjustments to avoid small perimeter cuts.

Pile Direction

The arrow marks on the reverse of every tile indicate the direction of pile lay. Mid Century Weave carpet tiles should be laid tessellated or quarter turn.

Pile trapping – ensure that each tile butts up to its neighbour as tightly as possible without causing peaks. It is essential that no pile material becomes entrapped between tiles.

Tile Fixing

Carpet tiles must be adhered using a high grab, all-over tackifier adhesive system; Forbo Eurocol 542 Eurofix Tack Plus is recommended.

The tackifier adhesive must be spread evenly over the entire floor area with particular attention to edges – this will ensure any perimeter tile cuts are fully bonded. Failure to fully bond all full tiles and tile cuts may result in individual tiles shifting and lifting

Where periphery tiles are not constrained by fixtures e.g. walls, edge strips etc., it is recommended that such tiles are adhered using a permanent adhesive; Forbo Eurocol 540 Eurosafe Special is recommended.

Adhesives must be applied according to the manufacturer's instructions and it is essential that tackifier adhesives are allowed to dry to a clear, tacky finish before laying the carpet tile. Failure to do so could result in a permanent non-release bond.

Note: adhesive coverage rates will be reduced on very porous subfloors such as plywood or sand cement screeds.

Carpet tiles must be adhered using an all-over tackifier adhesive system; Forbo Eurocol 542 Eurofix Tack Plus is recommended. Note: adhesive coverage rates will be reduced on very porous subfloors such as plywood or sand cement screeds.

Fitting to stair treads and risers

Appropriate stair nosings must be used for every tread. Tiles must be bonded securely to the stair tread using a permanent bond adhesive (Forbo Eurocol 540 Eurosafe Special)

Tiles to risers should also be permanently adhered using a suitable contact adhesive.

It is important that tiles are fitted to treads with the pile direction facing inwards towards the riser and fitted to risers with the pile direction facing downwards towards the tread.

Tiles with Resilient Backings (Softbac®)

These should be installed according to the general instructions outlined above, but special note must be taken of the following:

i) Prior to installation, carpet tiles with resilient backings (eg Softbac®) should be removed from their boxes as part of the conditioning process and stacked not more than 12 tiles high. The stacked tiles must be allowed to acclimatise for at least 24 hours in the atmospheric conditions which will prevail during use. This is

particularly important if the tiles have been stored or delivered in conditions of extreme temperature and/or humidity.

iv) Because of the potential "spring-back" effect which can lead to gapping, it is essential that resilient-backed tiles are tightly fitted. It is essential that no pile material becomes entrapped between tiles.

Softbac® tiles should be firmly placed against adjacent tiles. Do not slide Softbac® tiles into place.

Maintenance

Appropriate care and maintenance is essential to longevity and appearance retention and is necessary to maintain product warranties. Refer to the clean and care instructions available from Forbo Flooring Systems.

Note: Upright vacuum cleaners with a mechanically powered brush should be used on all carpet tiles.

Performance and Construction

These details vary according to carpet selection. Refer to Forbo product literature for further information.

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