

DESCRIPTION

Underlay installed between the subfloor and the floorcovering. It is a stable underlay made up of a glassfibre scrim coated in vinyl and backed with a textured foam (see technical information).

SUBFLOOR

a) General

The subfloor must be 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 subfloor can have some contaminants adhered to it, such as paint, old oil stains, dirt, etc...

It is not necessary to attend to day joints, construction joints or cracks provided they do not cause a difference in level.

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

b) Different types

- New concrete subfloor with a dampness whose value can be over the requirements (up to 7%).
- 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).
- Ceramics subfloor which have joint under 5 mm in width and 1 mm in depth.

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.

Store the rolls of underlay and floorcovering vertically 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.

Around the edge of the room and at every feature point (e.g. doorframes) leave a distance of 3mm between the underlay and the wall or doorframe.

A minimum of 12 hours must be left between the installation of the underlay and the one of the floorcovering.

LAYING THE FLOORCOVERING

Install the floorcovering in the same direction as the underlay, with staggered joints, on the smooth surface. Lengths should be cut the previous day and stored flat.

General requirements for laying are as given in national standards and the manufacturer's technical information. The following points should be noted.

Vinyl floorcoverings

The lengths of floorcovering should be installed sequentially following the roll number or box number sequence. 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 selvages by using a straight edge or an offcut 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 a special PVC on PVC single stick acrylic emulsion adhesive (V22 green from Forbo). Ensure the surface is free of dust. Spread is about 150 g/sq mtrs. Apply the adhesive with a very finley toothed spreader or a paint roller in order to avoid spreader marks telegraphing through. 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 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 selvages 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 (V22 green from Forbo). 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

Measurement of humidity will be done by using :

- a liquid cristal digital hygrometre apparatus to have the percentage of the residual humidity of the air,
 - a CM dampness meter (with calcium carbide ampoules) to have the percentage of humidity in the subfloor.
- Measurement will be done on a sample from 4 cm under the subfloor.

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/sq mtrs 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

Skirtings when the substrate is dry

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

Skirtings when the substrate is damp

- Use a prefabricated skirting which clips to the wall distributed by Forbo Flooring Sarlino

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- Alternatively use ventilated wooden skirtings made from marine grade 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 trims 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.