

Installation Guidance Note: Allura Dry Back Tiles and Planks

General Advice

The appearance, performance and durability of the installed floorcovering will be determined to a large extent by the quality of the prepared subfloor and the conditions in which they are laid. As with any thin floor covering irregularities in the subfloor will be apparent in the finished flooring.

Subfloor preparation should be carried out in accordance with BS8203:2017 Code of practice for the installation of resilient floor coverings. Areas to receive flooring should be clean, free from other trades, fully enclosed and weather tight.

Subfloors should be clean and free of contaminants, smooth, sound, even and permanently dry.

Notes:

- *Irregularities or undulations in the subfloor can result in the bond of tiles or planks drifting during installation. Particular attention should be given to the preparation of the subfloor and surface regularity. Surface regularity should be within the SR1 surface regularity standard - 3mm under a 2m straightedge (BS8203:2017 Annex C).*
- *Any nibs, abrupt ridges or changes of level in the subfloor should be removed by sanding or grinding, or by localised application of a levelling compound.*
- *Contaminants can affect the adhesion of the new floor covering and/or cause migrating stains. It is therefore important that contaminants such as cleaning chemical residues, old adhesive residues and remains of old floor coverings such as residues of carpet tile backings are removed or, where permissible, isolated with an appropriate subfloor treatment.*

Always conduct moisture tests on **all** substrates. All ground-based level floors should have an effective moisture barrier.

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 18 to 27°C for 48 hours prior to, during, and for 24 hours after installation. The material and adhesive should be conditioned in the same environment for at least 24 hours prior to the installation.

Note: *Where the floorcoverings have been stored or transported immediately prior to delivery in temperatures below 10°C the acclimatisation period should be extended to 48 hours.*

Store and acclimatise Allura tiles and planks in their respective cartons, stacked at a maximum 5 cartons high, and laying flat. Do not remove from cartons until required for installation.

Prior to installation tiles should be checked to ensure that the correct colour, batch number and quantity have been received and that the material is in good condition. No claim will be accepted for incorrect colour, pattern or obvious damage if the material has been fitted.

Use material from the same batch/dye lot. The use of different production batches will always result in visible shade differences. The batch number is clearly marked on the material packaging and must be checked before commencement of installation.

As with all Forbo floor coverings, Allura can be used in conjunction with under-floor heating systems. A separate guidance note "**Installation over Underfloor Heating Systems**" provides more information on the conditions for installation in such circumstances.

Allura should be protected from heavy traffic for 24 hours and must **not** be wet cleaned for 48 hours after installation.



Adhesive recommendations and application

Eurocol 640 Eurosafe Special low emission EC1 adhesive is recommended for all standard applications (see below for high temperature areas). Use an A2 V-notched trowel to apply the adhesive. The recommendation is to apply the adhesive, leave for a maximum 15-20 minutes before fitting tiles into the semi-wet adhesive and rolling with a 68KG floor roller after tile placement. On completion of the installation or within an hour of placement, the tiles must be re-rolled for a second time to ensure a firm adhesive transfer and bond.

Forbo Flooring recommends that in areas liable to be subjected to abnormal temperature variation in use, for example, retail premises with glazed window fronts, open spaces in offices with large glazed areas, conservatories etc., the use of a high temperature adhesive compatible with the floor covering and the subfloor (such as Eurocol 543 Eurosafe Deco). The application process is the same as for Eurocol 640 Eurosafe Special above.

The open time of the adhesive will depend on site conditions and porosity of the base. It is best practice to 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 any potential bonding problems.

If alternative supplier adhesives are to be used consult with the supplier for usage information, guidance and warranty. Pressure sensitive adhesives are not recommended for use with the Allura Dry Back range.

Note: 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.

Note: Trowels will wear during use, check the trowel both before and during use to ensure that the proper, specified trowel notch is used and maintained.

Installation

Most Allura designs are non-directional; however, the following installation advice is given. Stone, Concrete and Sand 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 and Gymfloor design do not have a pattern match.

Gymfloor note: original court design and lines are deliberately reshuffled into a confetti of non-matching colourful stripes.

Like the natural materials, some designs will vary in tone and colour. This is intentional and gives the floor a more authentic appearance.

Note: see additional installation advice below for Hungarian point" planks

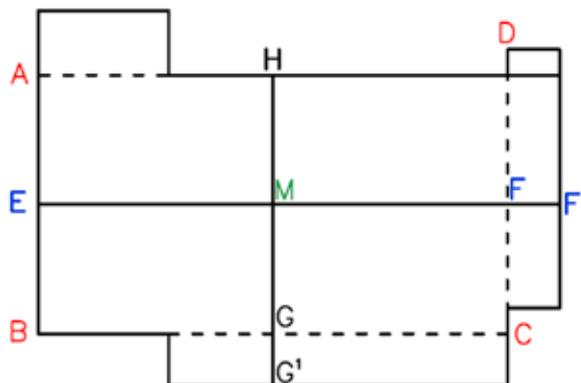
Setting out

Forbo tile products are installed using conventional tile installation techniques.

The correct starting point for setting out a tiled floor is traditionally the centre of the area – although this may not be the final starting point when tile laying begins. Some adjustment of the starting point may be required, for example, to avoid small perimeter cuts, where the tiles are to be laid with a border, or with designs such as Hungarian Point.

In corridors and small spaces, it may be simpler to work lengthwise from one end, using the centre line as a guide. The centre line is drawn as follows: a chalk line is snapped from centre of wall A-B (=E) to the centre of wall C-D (=F). The centre of line E-F is found (=M). Draw a perpendicular line through M using the 3:4:5 method to establish G and H.

Starting at centre point M, measure out lengthwise and width wise to the walls. Wherever possible, cuts of less than 60mm 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.



Laying tiles or planks

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.

Note: In a large area, two or more fitters may be placing tiles at the same time. As finger pressure in butting the tiles or planks together may be slightly different, we suggest starting from a common point and work away from it to avoid tiles or planks going out of bond.

Lay the tiles into the adhesive after the required waiting time and within the open time applicable to the adhesive being used and roll with a 68 kg roller, rolling in all directions to ensure a firm bond. It is important to only spread sufficient adhesive that can be covered within the open time of the adhesive.

Note: the adhesive must be spread evenly over the entire floor area with particular attention to edges – this will ensure that the sheet is fully bonded at the perimeters.

Areas that cannot be rolled with the large roller e.g. abutments such as door frames or skirting boards should be rolled with a hand roller or pressed into the adhesive with a rubbing hammer.

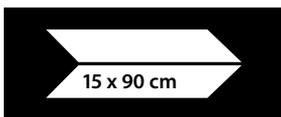
Remove fresh adhesive residue immediately with a clean white damp cloth. Dried adhesive residue can be removed with a clean white cloth and soapy water.

When laying fully adhered tiles or planks 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 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 into the 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.

Hungarian Point

This design is made up of left and right planks which are installed together in rows (option 1) or either side of a standard plank (option 2). Each box has an equal number of A and B planks packed face-to-face and back-to-back in the box.



Note: As with any geometric design, irregularities or undulations in the subfloor can result in the bond of tiles or planks drifting during installation. This is particularly important with the installation of Hungarian point planks if the points of the planks are to meet consistently and particular attention should be given to the preparation of the subfloor to ensure that the highest level of subfloor regularity is achieved i.e. within SR1 surface regularity standard

Draw a straight line in the middle of two furthest distance walls.



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Dry lay the planks along the line drawn on the floor to check that the planks line up to the walls on both sides. You will be able to check if the row of planks will fit evenly on both sides. If necessary, shift the line to the right or left to avoid awkward cuts and wasting material.

Install a row of Hungarian Point planks tightly fitted to the drawn line in the middle of the room. Roll this initial line of planks to ensure a firm adhesive bond. Once the first line of planks is installed install the next line of planks to the opposite side of the start line. Re-roll the planks if any small adjustments are made in aligning the planks.

Install the remaining rows, starting in the centre and working to both sides of the room, making sure that you work parallel to the drawn centre line. Put pressure on the planks after any small adjustments are made in the exact line up of the planks.

Only spread sufficient adhesive that can be covered and rolled within the specified open time.

On completion of the installation

Allura should be protected from heavy traffic for 24 hours and must not be wet cleaned for 48 hours after installation.

First impressions may have more impact on the client than hours of skilled fitting.

The completed installation should be cleared of scrap material and debris, the floor swept or vacuumed, and any traces of adhesive residues removed from the floor and skirtings.

If the floor covering is to be protected from other trades or site traffic prior to project completion, a protection product should be chosen that is appropriate for the type and level of traffic likely to be experienced and the potential for impact, scratching or indentation damage.

In many cases it is customary for the initial floor preparation to be left, or subcontracted, to a professional cleaning and maintenance contractor who will have the staff and equipment to do the job thoroughly.

If the optimum performance of any new floor covering is to be achieved, it is important that the correct cleaning and maintenance procedures are used from day one. Cleaning and maintenance guides for all Forbo Flooring products are available for download.

Cleaning and maintenance guides should be passed onto the main contractor, client or end user as appropriate on completion of the installation, and before any hand over clean is started.

If in any doubt contact us:

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Additional Reference documents and information:

- Forbo Floor Coverings Installation Guide: **www.forbo-flooring.co.uk**
- BS8203:2017 installation of resilient floor coverings - Code of practice
- The CFA Guide to Contract Flooring **www.cfa.org.uk (Tel: 01159 411126)**



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