

# Wetroom Installation Guidance Note: Surestep and Safestep

## 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.

The installation of Surestep and Safestep should be carried out in accordance with **AS1884-2021 “Resilient sheet and tiles laying and maintenance practices.”**

## Subfloor preparation - New and existing concrete floor

- Ensure that the concrete floor is smooth, dry, and level.
- Clear substrate of all debris clean off surface contamination and carry out surface repairs using cementitious patching or self-smoothing compounds.
- Carefully feather out at perimeters of repaired areas. Grind level, and then vacuum to remove dust.
- Check for moisture and alkaline content; Australian Standard AS 1884 - 2021 states that concrete subfloors shall be considered sufficiently dry for the installation of resilient floor coverings if the moisture content of the subfloor does not exceed 80% as tested using the in situ probe test in accordance with ASTM F2170 F2420. Three tests shall be performed for the first 100 m<sup>2</sup> and at least one additional test for each additional 100 m<sup>2</sup> and other recommended positions in accordance with ASTM F2420.
- Before subfloor preparation is performed and a floor covering is laid on a concrete subfloor the concrete surface pH shall be determined as described in AS 1884 – 2021. Allowable surface pH shall be as specified by the adhesive manufacturer but typically should be in the range 9 to 10% pH.
  - Should the Relative Humidity (RH) reading exceed 80% an approved moisture barrier should be applied to the subfloor.
  - **Note:** Australian Standard **1884 – 2021 - 3.2 Sand-cement Screed Subfloors** Sand-cement screed subfloors shall not be used for the installation of resilient flooring and their preparation products. This form of subfloor does not possess the required tensile and compressive strength for resilient floor covering installation.
  - **Further note:** Installing Forbo resilient floorcovering on **Sand Screed Subfloors** will make void Forbo Flooring Systems warranty.

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. 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.

Ensure that all recommendations for substrate and job site conditions are met prior to beginning the installation. Beginning the installation is an implied acceptance of site conditions by the parties involved and liability for any failure directly related to inadequate site conditions becomes the responsibility of the installer and/or flooring contractor.

Prior to installation rolls 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.



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Use material from the same batch/dye lot and install in roll number sequence. 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 newly installed floor coverings Eternal should be protected from heavy traffic, particularly high point load wheeled traffic, for 72 hours and must not be washed for 48 hours after installation.

### Adhesive Recommendations and application

When installing Step, Forbo F54 or 640 Eurostar Special vinyl adhesive is recommended. Use a V1, 1.6 mm x 1.6 mm trowel to apply the adhesive. If alternative products are to be used consult with the supplier for more information, guidance and warranty.

**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.

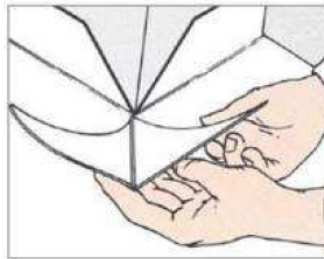
**Note:** the adhesive must be spread evenly over the entire floor area with particular attention to edges – this will ensure that the sheet is fully bonded at the perimeters.

Always clean away excess adhesive with a damp cloth before it is allowed to dry.

### Wetroom installation recommendations

- Subfloor preparation and installation of Step safety vinyl must be carried out in accordance with AS 1884 – 2021 “Resilient Sheet and Tiles – Laying and Maintenance Practices”
- Acclimatise Safestep safety vinyl sheet for 24 hours on site and ensure enough material for coving requirements.
- Lay material out and ensure there is enough material for coving requirements before cutting.
- Direction of sheet installation – Safestep safety vinyl sheets must be reversed installed. The installation direction for each design is indicated on the product brochure, packaging and the back of the sheet. The following general guidance applies, but it is important to check the required installation method for each sheet when planning the installation.
- Adhesive - Due to possible hosing down, wet maintenance and wet foot traffic on the floorcovering area **Forbo highly recommend using a 2-part epoxy adhesive or single pack polyurethane adhesive for the entire vinyl floor covering installation including around gatic type floor waste.** Only spread sufficient adhesive that can be covered within the specified adhesive open time. (Recommended 2-part epoxy adhesive or similar – Ardex AF 545 heavy Duty Epoxy or Ardex MS 180 polyurethane adhesive or similar).

**Contact adhesive** to be used in a 100 mm band around the floor waste and 20 mm into the floor waste. Also use contact adhesive for the vertical cove application.



- Safestep should be rolled with a 3 wheeled 45 kg roller as soon as possible after laying and within the open time of the adhesive – the open time of the adhesive will depend on site conditions and porosity of the subfloor. 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.

### Coving

Forbo Step ranges can be site form coved in the normal manner over a 20mm or 35mm cove former or Pencil coved (10 mm radius). To protect the flooring at the junction of the floor and wall and for ease of cleaning it is recommend that a cove former and cove capping is fitted. See detail view below.

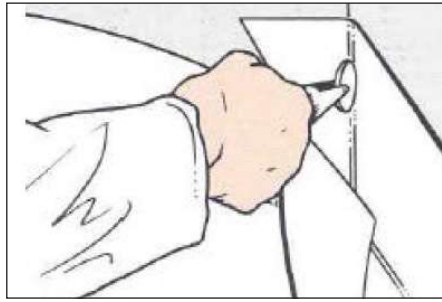


The following skirting details below show pencil cove (no cove former used) and all internal and external corners cut and heat welded at 45 degree angles. **Note:** All sheet joints must be heat welded.

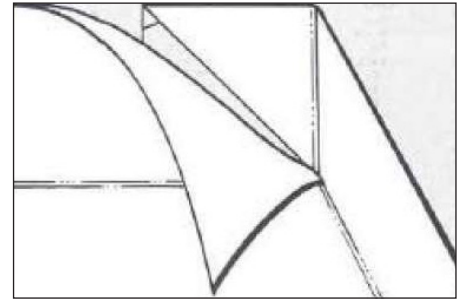
## Internal corners



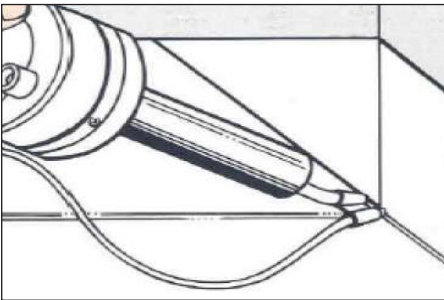
1. Cut the floor covering at a 45 degree angle approximately 5mm off the floor to make future welding easier.



2. Press the floor covering into the corner with a roller



3. Cut the excess material to the 45 degree angle



4. Groove and heat weld ALL seams

5. All exposed edges must be sealed with a sanitary sealant that is resistant to fungus and mould

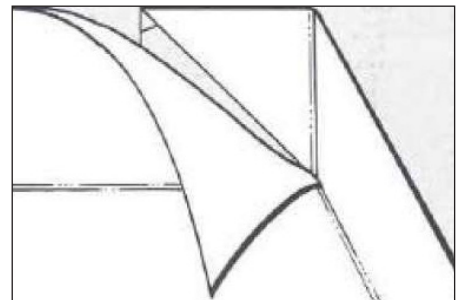
## External corners



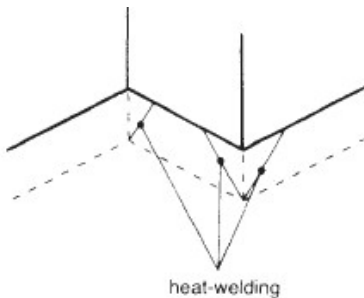
1. Fold the floor covering up to get 2 equal parts from each side of the wall. Cut in a line approximately 5mm off the floor, perpendicular to the fold. Fold up the floor covering against the wall. The gap must be filled in with an insert.



2. To enable the material to bend more easily, the reverse side of the insert should be grooved to approximately half thickness of the material using a 'P' Type grooving tool.



3. The filler is cut to the required height of the skirting



5. All exposed edges must be sealed with a sanitary sealant that is resistant to fungus and mould.

### **On completion of the 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 at: [www.forbo-flooring.com.au/downloads](http://www.forbo-flooring.com.au/downloads)

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 handover clean is started.

### **If in any doubt contact us:**

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📞 1800 224 471

🌐 [forbo-flooring.com.au](http://forbo-flooring.com.au)



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