

Forbo Installation Guidance Note - Sphera homogeneous vinyl sheet

General Installation Guidelines

The installation of Homogeneous Vinyl Sheet should be carried out in accordance with AS 1884-2012 "Resilient Sheet and Tiles - Laying and maintenance practice". Areas to receive flooring should be clean, free from other trades, fully enclosed and weather tight. Subfloors should be clean, smooth, sound and permanently dry.

- 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 minimum 17 °C, 48 hours before, during and 48 hours after installation. The material and adhesive should be conditioned in the same environment for at least 48 hours prior to the installation. Where national codes of practice exist they take precedence over these guidelines.
- Take the Homogeneous Vinyl rolls off the pallets. If stored for a longer period of time rolls should be stored standing up.
- Always conduct moisture tests on all substrates. All ground based level floors should have an effective moisture barrier.
- Ensure that all recommendations for substrate and jobsite 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.
- Use material from the same batch/dye lot and install in 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.
- Install one length of sheet at a time, making sure to place the material into wet adhesive and roll afterwards with a 60 to 75 kg roller (See point 3).

- Always pay particular attention to the direction and planning of the sheets to avoid that seams coincide with areas of heavy use or door ways.
- Within rooms with large windows always install the sheet towards the window.
- Newly laid floors should be protected from heavy traffic for 48 hours and from point loading and wheeled traffic for five days.
- Where liable to be subject to heavy traffic, the vinyl should be protected with hardboard or plywood for at least 48 hours.
- All Forbo floor coverings can be used in conjunction with under-floor heating systems. A separate guidance note "Installation of Forbo PVC and Linoleum Floor Coverings on Underfloor Heating Systems" provides more information on the conditions for installation in such circumstances.

Adhesive Section and Application

- For installing Sphera homogeneous vinyl sheet, Forbo recommends Forbo Fix 540 Vinyl adhesive. If alternative products are to be used consult with the supplier for more information, guidance and warranty.
- Always 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 also any potential bonding problems.
- Use a trowel to apply the adhesive. Trowels will wear during use, ensure that the trowel has got the proper and specified notch.

Installation

1. Measure the area to be installed and determine the direction in which the material will be installed and seam placement. Seams must be a minimum of 15 cm away from any subfloor joints such as days joints, saw cuts, etc.
2. Cut the sheet material to the required length and then back roll each cut length before scribing in the ends to release any roll tension from the winding of the sheet.
3. Homogeneous Vinyl should be laid and rolled with a 60 - 75 kg roller within the open time of the adhesive. It is therefore important to only spread sufficient adhesive that can be covered within the open time of the adhesive. 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. 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.
4. Leave the first sheet overlapping the second sheet (± 2 cm). Spread the adhesive with the recommended trowel and lay the sheet into the wet adhesive. After adhering, immediately roll the flooring in both directions using a 60 - 75 kg roller starting across the width and then lengthwise. The natural "roll curl" at the end of each cut should be manually relaxed to remove the tension in the material that is caused by being stored in a roll. Score the second sheet by running the scribe along the true edge. Make sure the scribe is vertical and pressed against the true edge. Cut through with straight and hooked blades, keeping the waste to the outside of the cutting hand and thereby giving a slight undercut. Adhere the second sheet and roll the seam with a hand roller. Repeat the same procedure for each sheet, completing one sheet at a time until the job is completed.
5. Homogeneous vinyl should always be hot welded at a minimum of 24 hours after installation
6. For installing in wet rooms a separate guideline is available.

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