

# Installation Guidance Note: Sarlon acoustic sheet vinyl

## General Advice

The appearance, performance and durability of the installed floor covering will be determined to a large extent by the quality of the prepared subfloor and the conditions in which they are laid.

Forbo floor coverings are manufactured for internal use only. The product performance is not guaranteed for use in external environments.

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 and permanently dry.

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. Rolls should be stored vertically at all stages of the contract up to installation.

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

The open time of the adhesive will depend on site conditions and porosity of the subfloor. 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.

Ensure that all recommendations for substrate and site conditions are met, prior to beginning the installation.

**Note:** Starting the installation is an implied acceptance of site conditions by the parties involved and liability for any failure directly related to inadequate site conditions may become the responsibility of the installation company.

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 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.

**Note:** As with all newly installed floor coverings Sarlon 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.

## Underfloor heating

Sarlon acoustic sheet can be used in conjunction with under-floor heating systems. It is imperative that the underfloor heating systems have been previously commissioned and found to be functioning correctly prior to the floor finish being installed. Ensure that the underfloor heating system is switched off 48 hours prior to the floor covering installation commencing and remains off for at least 48 hours after the installation is complete.

During the period of decommissioning of the underfloor heating system, an alternative heating source should be provided, if required, to ensure that the area of installation is kept at a constant temperature of 18°C - 27°C.

Gradually increase the temperature over several days by only a few degrees per day until the desired room temperature is reached.

The temperature should never exceed the industry agreed maximum of 27°C at the underside of the floor covering (the adhesive line). Failure to follow these guidelines can result in the floor covering de-bonding, joints opening, and on some occasions discolouring, all of which can occur within a long or short period of time.

Further information on the requirements for underfloor heated subfloors can be found in BS8203:2017.

## Installation

### Adhesive Recommendations and application

For standard installations Eurocol 640 Eurostar Special adhesive a low emission EC1 adhesive is recommended.

Use a 1.5mm x 5mm V notched trowel to apply the adhesive.

**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.

Install one length of sheet at a time, making sure to place the material into wet adhesive and roll afterwards 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.

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.

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

**If alternative adhesives are to be used consult with the supplier for usage information, guidance and warranty.**

### Direction of laying

Please refer to the product brochure for each colour/design requirement.

Details are also on packaging and printed on the underside of each roll as below:

#### All over/Uni designs:

Reverse installation of alternate sheet lengths is required.



#### Directional designs:

Sheet lengths should be installed in the same direction.



### Please Note the following:

**Sarlon Wood designs:** Wood designs incorporate a 2cm selvedge on each side of the roll to allow for trimming and pattern matching. Factory edges should **never** be laid together as the width of the planks on each side of the sheet will be larger than the rest of the design. The welded seam in plank designs should form the joint line of the plank.



FLOORING SYSTEMS

## General

Always check the recommended direction of laying before cutting sheet length (see above).

Cut the sheet material to the required lengths allowing an overlap of 1 to 2cm for cutting of seams.

It is recommended that the roll lengths are rolled out and laid out flat in the installation area the day before installation to allow the product to settle.

There is no maximum limit for the floor area that can be laid but structural movement joints should not be covered with any part of the Sarlon system and a proprietary movement joint should be used.

Cross seams should be formed and cut in the same manner as for side seams.

A suitable cover strip should be used at door thresholds.

## Cutting and fitting

Forbo recommends that Sarlon sheet flooring be installed one sheet at a time.

Always check the recommended direction of laying before cutting sheet length (see "Direction of laying above").

It is recommended that each sheet be scribed to fit and that the factory edge be properly removed before adhering (see below). Seams should always be under-scribed after the material has been placed into the adhesive and rolled.

Following these recommendations will give the installer the best opportunity to manage the open and working time of the adhesive and ensure that the flooring material is placed into wet adhesive.

Cut the sheet material to the required lengths and then back roll each cut length before scribing to the long wall and length ends in order to release any roll tension from the winding of the sheet.

***Note: regardless of the installation method being used the factory edges should always be trimmed to form a true and regular edge for seaming.***

## Fitting the first sheet

Once scribed to the walls cut a true edge along the factory edge of the sheet, a Forbo 'strip and seam cutter' is designed to carry out this operation in one cut. Alternatively, the factory edge can be trimmed using a straight edge and utility knives with straight and hooked blades. Place the straight edge approximately 2cm in from the factory edge and score the sheet using a utility knife and a straight blade.

After scoring the material cut through the sheet using a utility knife and a hooked blade. After trimming the factory edge trace the line of the seam edge onto the subfloor with a pencil, this will serve as a guideline for spreading the adhesive.

Pull the sheet back to approximately half of its length and spread the adhesive ensuring that the adhesive is spread right up to all perimeter edges and the marked pencil line. Feed the sheet back into the adhesive and roll immediately first across the width of the sheet and then along the length to ensure that complete wet adhesive transfer is achieved. Again, pay particular attention to the perimeters. A seam roller or rubbing hammer can be used to ensure the sheet is pressed into the adhesive around harder to reach areas such as door frames and overhangs from furniture or fittings.

Pull the other half of the sheet back and repeat the above process.



## Fitting the second (and subsequent) sheet/s

Unroll the next sheet and lay it on the floor overlapping the trimmed edge of the first fitted sheet by approximately 2cm. Trim the factory edge on the opposite side of this sheet as above and mark this edge of the sheet on the subfloor with a pencil. Scribe the ends of the sheet. Pull the sheet back halfway and adhere and roll the sheet as above.

Immediately after rolling the sheet trace the seam with recess scribers along the trimmed edge of the first sheet and cut through with a utility knife and hooked blade. Once the seam is cut, the cut edge should just fall into place alongside the edge of the first sheet. The Forbo Trimmer can be used to cut the seam in one operation. Roll the seam with a seam roller to ensure full contact with the adhesive. Repeat the process for the second half of the sheet length.

**Tip:** If the guide on your recess scribers is too thick it could remove adhesive from the subfloor when scribing the seam. Sanding the bottom of the guide on the recess scriber to reduce its thickness will prevent this and will also help to keep the guide clean and free of adhesive contamination.

## Seam forming and grooving

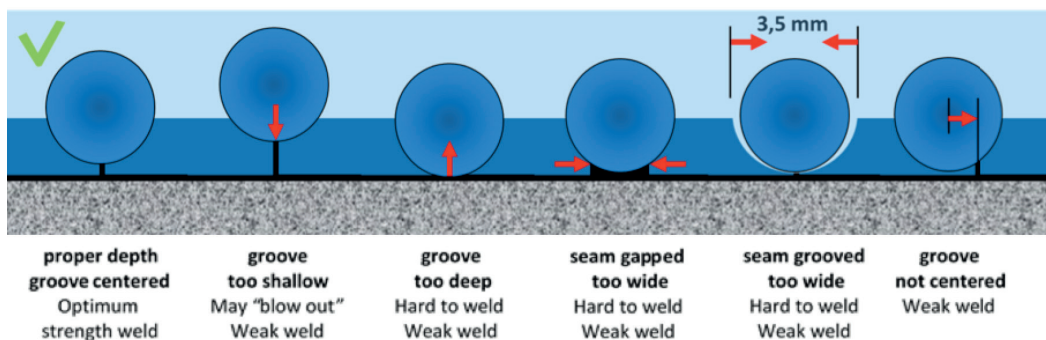
**All seams should be hot welded. Matching coloured weld cables are available for the full Sarlon range.**

### Seam forming and grooving

Seams should be cut with tight butt joints and grooved to a depth of approximately 2/3rds of the material thickness but no more than 2mm with thicker designs.

A 'P' Type groover is recommended for manual grooving of seams, however, automatic or power groovers may be more productive on larger installations.

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## Welding

Switch on the hot air gun and allow 5 to 7 minutes for it to reach the selected temperature. **Sarlon should be welded at a temperature of approximately 450°C. (see weld gun manual for setting details).** Fit the welding nozzle before switching on the hot air gun.

**If the gun is resting on the floor, ensure that the nozzle is not directed at the floor or anywhere dangerous.**

Weld guns will vary, so it is always advisable to practice weld techniques first on a piece of waste material to match the correct air gun temperature with welding speed. Sarlon should be welded with a 5mm Speedweld nozzle.

Make sure the groove is thoroughly cleaned before beginning to heat weld. Make sure that all electrical cables are laid out without tangles and that there are no obstructions along the seam to be welded.

Cut the welding cable to a consistent and generous length or unwind sufficient weld rod from the reel and put the reel in a position where you are working towards it. Have the power cable ahead of you if possible.

Start at a wall. Thread the cable through and weld moving backwards, away from the wall, maintaining a slight downward pressure so that the weld nozzle will force the weld cable into the groove. Do not let the cable melt in the nozzle.

A good weld is obtained by the correct combination of temperature, speed and downward pressure. The weld cable should be allowed to melt enough so that the melted rod reaches the bottom of the groove.



## Trimming

A Mozart knife is recommended to trim weld rods as the most effective option to provide a neat finish.

While the cable is still warm trim off most of the top half of the cable down to approximately 0.5mm using a Mozart knife which fits over the cable (alternatively careful use of a sharp spatula and slide). This enables the cable to cool more quickly and enables a quick first cut to be made without risk of gouging the material.

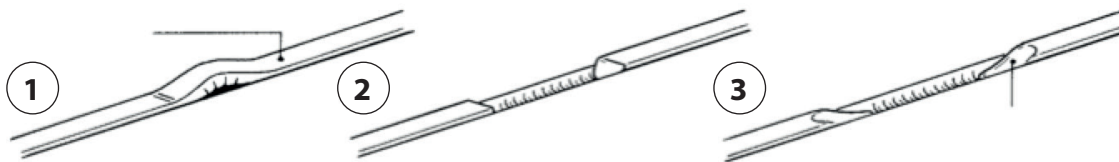
The welding cable will dish slightly (concave downwards) as it cools. Wait until the material is completely cool before trimming flush with the surface of the sheet with a Mozart knife (or careful use of a sharp spatula angled slightly across the line of cut).

**Note:** Making the final trim while the welding rod and material is still warm can result in the weld cable dishing of the weld cable. This may result in subsequent seam soiling problems or cause permanent damage to the surface of the flooring.



## Joining up a weld

To join a weld in the middle of a seam trim off the loose ends and chamfer down the section to be overlapped with a hand groover. Ensure hot air gets into the groove and heats the cable. As the gun travels over the un-welded section apply pressure and carry the weld on over the section to be joined. Allow to cool and trim as normal.



## Perimeter sealing

In areas subject to wet spillages or cleaning methods the following advice should be followed:

Where the floor covering is flat laid without coved skirtings the perimeter edges should be sealed with a suitable waterproof and mould resistant flexible sealant. This should also be applied at abutments such as architraves together with any areas where pipes, etc. come up through the floor covering.

## 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.

The use of the wrong type of cleaning products and/or abrasive cleaning pads can damage the flooring.

If the optimum performance of any new floor covering is to be achieved, it is important that the correct cleaning and maintenance products and procedures are used from day one.

Cleaning and maintenance guides for all Forbo Flooring sheet vinyl products are available for download at:

**[www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/downloads](http://www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/downloads)**



FLOORING SYSTEMS

**If in any doubt contact us:**

**Additional help and information**

Tel: **0800 121 4780** (office hours)

Email: **uktechnicalsupport@forbo.com**

24/7 AI Assistant: **www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/aiassistant**

**Forbo Flooring UK Limited**

Web: **www.forbo-flooring.co.uk**

**Additional Reference documents and information:**

- Forbo Floor Coverings Installation Guide: **www.forbo-flooring.co.uk**
- BS8203:2017
- The CFA Guide to Contract Flooring (Tel: 01159 411126)