

Installation Guidance Note: Allura Ease

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 resilient floor covering irregularities in the subfloor will be apparent in the finished flooring.

The installation of Allura Ease should be carried out in accordance BS8203:2017 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.*
- *It is 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 minimum 18°C for 48 hours prior to, during, and for 24 hours after installation. The material 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.

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.

Store Allura Ease tiles and planks in cartons stacked, maximum 5 cartons, and lying flat.

Allura Ease is occupier ready on completion of the installation. However, if the newly installed floor is going to be subjected to heavy site traffic, particularly high point load wheeled traffic, prior to occupation the floor should be protected during this phase (see “on completion” at the end of this guide).

Acceptable substrates

Allura Ease may be installed on the following substrates (subject to the conditions in this guide):

- New or existing concrete or cement screed substrate
- New or existing wood panel or particle board substrates
- Existing ceramic tiles
- Old in-situ floor finishes (resin) at least 2 mm thick
- Old floor paint
- Old compact resilient floor coverings (semi-flexible tiles, vinyl asbestos tiles, sheet vinyl flooring and linoleum).
- Raised Access floors

For any subfloor not listed above or if any doubt exists, contact Forbo Flooring Technical Services.

Concrete slabs or cementitious screeds: New and existing ground floor slabs must be cast on a damp-proof membrane in accordance with the requirements of BS8204. If an effective damp proof membrane is not present or any doubt exists, a surface damp proof membrane should be applied.

Structural movement/expansion joints should not be bridged by any part of the installed flooring system and a suitable proprietary movement joint profile should be used.

Where required, smoothing and levelling compounds rated for heavy traffic areas should be applied to screeds and slabs. Smoothing compounds are not required for clean, sound and smooth concrete surfaces, provided that they satisfy flatness tolerances stated above.

If a smoothing compound is not being applied to the surface of the slab/screed a suitable primer should be applied to keep the subfloor dust free.

Wood panel substrates (tongue-and-groove boards) - plywood or particle board floors should be prepared in accordance with BS8203:2017. Differences in height between boards greater than 1mm should be sanded flush.

Existing ceramics tiles: laid on a sound concrete or cement screed substrate, soundly adhered to the bedding screed (sealed ceramics tiles) or substrate (adhesive-bonded ceramics tiles) require no further treatment where tiles are level and grouted joints are less than 3 mm wide and 1mm deep. Small localised differences in level between tiles may be repaired/ levelled with a suitable smoothing/levelling compound.

Where the above requirements are not met, a general heavy duty self-smoothing/levelling compound suitable for the room's intended purpose should be applied across the entire surface area.

Existing in-situ resin floor finish: the old finish must be sound and fully bonded and at least 2 mm thick. If flatness, cleanliness and bond requirements are not satisfied, the old in-situ floor finish must be removed, and the subfloor prepared in accordance with BS8203.

Floor paint: existing paint finishes should be clean and sound. Sanding is not necessary if the paint is sound.

Old flexible floor coverings: semi-flexible asbestos free compact vinyl sheet and tiles or compact linoleum should:

- a. Be sound and bonded tightly to the sub floor.
- b. Have loose or broken areas removed and replaced with sound material or levelled with a good quality smoothing compound.
- c. Are level within the requirements stipulated

- d. Be abraded to remove old wax, seals and dirt (where adhesive systems such as tapes are to be applied) and then thoroughly cleaned.

If any doubt exists, or where full adhesion is required, existing floor coverings should be removed.

Note: Acoustic floor coverings in general, including cushioned PVC and acoustic linoleum floor finishes must be removed, and the subfloor prepared in accordance with BS8203:2017.

Note: Allura Ease can only be laid on a substrate that has previously received only a single layer of resilient floor covering. The performance rating of the old floor covering must satisfy the new rating required, particularly if the room is to be used for a different purpose.

Raised Access Floors should be smooth, level, free of movement and clean. Degreasing may be necessary on steel faced panels (chemical cleaning agents should be thoroughly rinsed/neutralized after cleaning). All old adhesive residues must be removed.

Raised access flooring panels have a tendency to settle shortly after installation and this should be taken into account when considering the installation of the Allura Ease onto raised access flooring systems. Ridges between uneven raised access floor panels and/or gaps between adjacent panels will telegraph through to the finished tile installation over time and can cause lipping of tiles edges where they fall close to the joints between the panels below.

Raised access panels should be checked before commencing installation to ensure that they are close fitting and level. Uneven or loose floor panels should be levelled and/or re-fixed before installing Allura Ease tiles or planks. Particular attention should be paid to joints in floor panels lying close to or coinciding with joints in Allura Ease tiles or planks.

Notes:

- *Incidental low-level light will exaggerate any unevenness in the subfloor.*
- *Where the above conditions cannot be met or, if any doubt exists, the raised access floor should be overlaid with plywood or levelled using a suitable self-levelling underlayment compound.*

Textile floor finishes: textile floor finishes and any backing residues/adhesive must be removed, and the subfloor prepared in accordance with BS8203:2017.

Underfloor heating

Forbo flooring products may be installed over underfloor heated floors providing the maximum surface temperature of the substrate does not exceed 27°C under any condition of use.

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. The temperature of the substrate must not exceed 18 °C during the installation of the flooring material.

If necessary, an alternate heating source should be used to maintain the room temperature at a minimum of 18°C prior to, during, and for 72 hours after installation. The temperature of the underfloor heating system can be increased 72 hours following the installation. When raising the floor temperature, do so gradually so the substrate and flooring material can adapt to the temperature change together.

Adhesive Recommendations and application

Allura Ease tiles and planks do not require the use of a tackifier or any type of adhesive. However, a plasticiser resistant double-sided tape, or a high grab tackifier should be used on small cuts, at door thresholds and at the perimeters of open zones not restrained by walls.

This tape can also be used to secure the first row of tiles when starting installation in order to prevent the potential risk of shifting the tiles and between sections where a continuous open area installation over 250m² in size is required (see below Installation section).

Installation

General

Allura Ease is installed using conventional tile installation techniques. It is important that Allura Ease is installed without any perimeter expansion joints.

Allura Ease may be laid in individual areas up to 250sm subject to a maximum length of 20m on the longest side of the area and the flooring being constrained by fixed walls on all four sides.

For larger installations, the floor area should be divided into areas not exceeding 250sm. An expansion gap between these areas is not required but the perimeter row of tiles on the adjacent sides of each area should be adhered to the subfloor using a suitable commercial grade, extra wide, plasticiser resistant double-sided tape.

The separation of areas over 250sm should be set out so as to prevent the position of the double-sided plasticiser resistant adhesive tape and the seam between each area being situated in main traffic lanes to avoid heavy traffic.

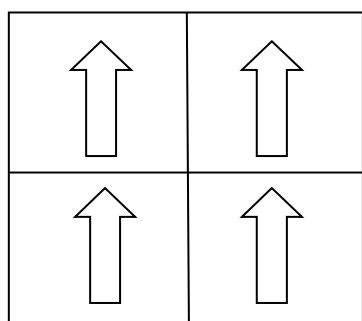
For installation in areas not constrained by fixed walls the perimeter tiles should be fully adhered to the subfloor (Forbo recommend Eurocol 640 Eurostar Special).

Finishing at doorways: at doorways or open walkways between large adjacent spaces the flooring should be finished at the door/space threshold adhering the tiles or planks (double-sided plasticiser adhesive tape or fully bonded). Where Allura Ease is continued into adjacent areas a joint should still be formed in the same manner as described above for separating large areas.

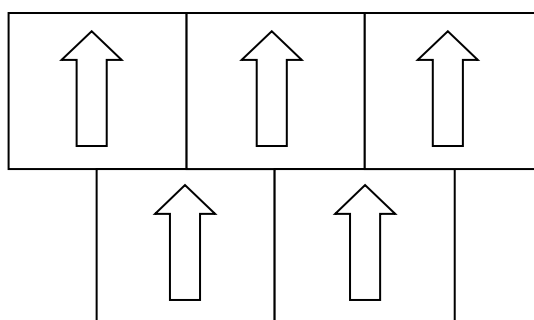
Note: structural movement joints should not be covered by any part of the flooring system and a suitable expansion joint profile should be used.

Design considerations and installation direction

Stone, concrete and other material design tiles may be laid either in monolithic or brick pattern.



Monolithic



Brick

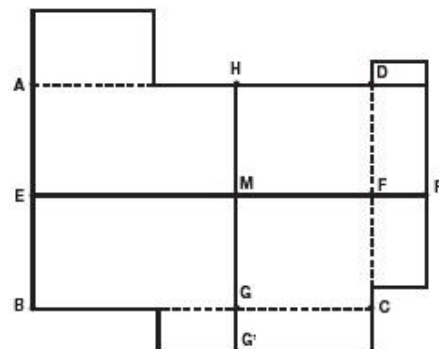
Wood designs do not require shuffling prior to installation, but dry laying will identify best use of the design. Planks should be laid with staggered cross joints with a minimum 30cm cut plank length or stagger between adjacent planks.

Note: as with all natural materials, some designs will vary in tone and colour. This is intentional and gives the floor a more authentic appearance.

Setting out

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. In some cases, 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-H (Figure A).

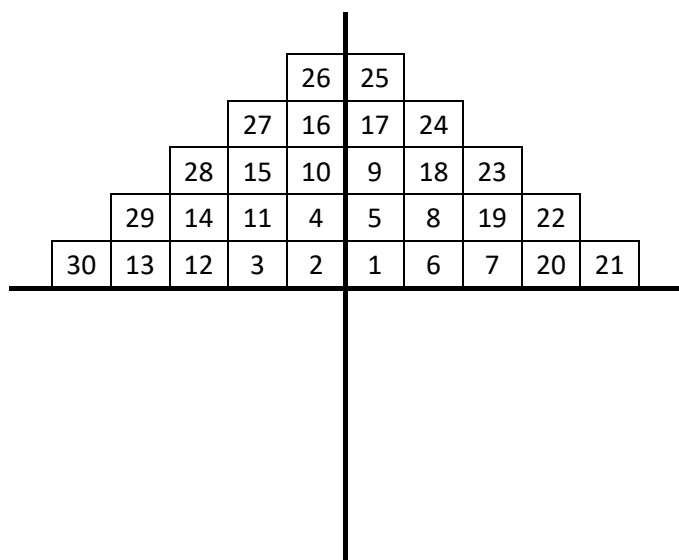


Starting at centre point M, measure out lengthwise and width wise to the walls. Wherever possible, cuts of less than 150mm or so should be avoided as these are more likely to come loose at some stage in the life of the installation. Adjust the position of lines E-F and G-H if necessary. Where this cannot be achieved, smaller cut pieces should be fully adhered.

Laying a few rows of tiles or planks in each direction will help to identify areas where adjustments must be made to the starting point to avoid small cuts.

Laying tiles

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. Securing the first row of tiles with a suitable plasticizer resistant double side tape will help to prevent the first row of tiles or planks moving during installation.



Lay subsequent tiles outward from either side of the centre start line, placing each tile firmly against the adjacent tiles, forming a pyramid as per the diagram above.

Note: In a large area, two or more fitters may be placing tiles at the same time. As the pressure applied in butting the tiles together may be slightly different, we suggest each installer works on a different side of the starting line working away from it to avoid tiles or planks going out of bond.

Laying Planks

As planks are designed to be laid with random, staggered, end joints for a realistic effect, it is possible to start from an end wall. Set out each row of planks making sure that each end cut is at least 30cm long. A minimum 30cm offset of the joints should also be maintained between adjacent rows of planks.

The width of planks at perimeter walls should be preferably at least half of the plank width.

***Note:** Allura Ease can be cut with normal installation tools such as utility knives. Warming the product will make cutting easier, when cutting and fitting around shapes and pillars, for example, but in good site conditions the product can be successfully cut by scoring from the top surface of the tile or plank with a utility knife and a straight blade. After scoring with a knife, bend the tile back long the cut line and complete the cut through the remaining thickness from the back of the tile/plank.*

In large areas cutting of perimeter tiles with powered cutting tools is also suitable.

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.

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: <https://cfa.org.uk/> (Tel: 01159 411126)