

# Installation Guidance Note: Allura Decibel

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

Subfloors should be clean and free of all 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.*

Areas to receive flooring shall be adequately lit to allow for proper inspection of the substrate, installation and for final inspection.

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

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.

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 Decibel tiles and planks in cartons stacked, maximum 5 cartons, ensuring that they fully supported and are laying flat.

Do not remove more tiles from the box than can be installed within 1 hour.

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



**Note:** Installation over the following substrates falls outside the scope of BS8203:2017 and the recommendations below should be followed:

**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 Decibel 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 Decibel tiles or planks. Particular attention should be paid to joints in floor panels lying close to, or coinciding with, joints in Allura Decibel 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.*
- *See additional advice below for the installation of Hungarian point planks.*

### **Old resilient flooring**

It is recommended that existing floor coverings are removed, and that the subfloor is prepared in accordance with BS8203:2017.

If existing floor coverings cannot be removed contact Forbo Technical Services for further advice.

### **Underfloor heating**

As with all Forbo floor coverings, Allura Decibel 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 a number of 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.

### **Adhesive Recommendations and application**

**The following information is provided for general guidance. In all cases the adhesive manufacturers' full usage and application instructions should be consulted and followed before commencing the installation.**

Allura Decibel tiles should be installed using a high grab, plasticizer migration resistant tackifier adhesive. Forbo recommends Forbo Eurocol 542 Eurofix Tack Plus. If alternative products are to be used consult with the supplier for more information, guidance and warranty.

Use a short pile roller to apply the tackifier. It is essential that tackifiers are allowed to dry to a tacky finish before laying the floor covering. Failure to do so could result in a permanent non-release bond.

**Note:**

1. *The adhesive must be spread evenly over the entire floor area including up to perimeter edges*
2. *Porous substrates may require priming with a diluted application of the adhesive.*
3. *Always clean away excess adhesive with a damp cloth before it is allowed to dry.*



In most applications Forbo Eurocol 542 tackifier adhesive will be sufficient in heavy commercial usage areas, however, where tiles or planks are liable to be subject to heavy static or dynamic loads, they should be fully adhered using Forbo Eurocol 640 Eurostar special (EC1 Low emission adhesive).

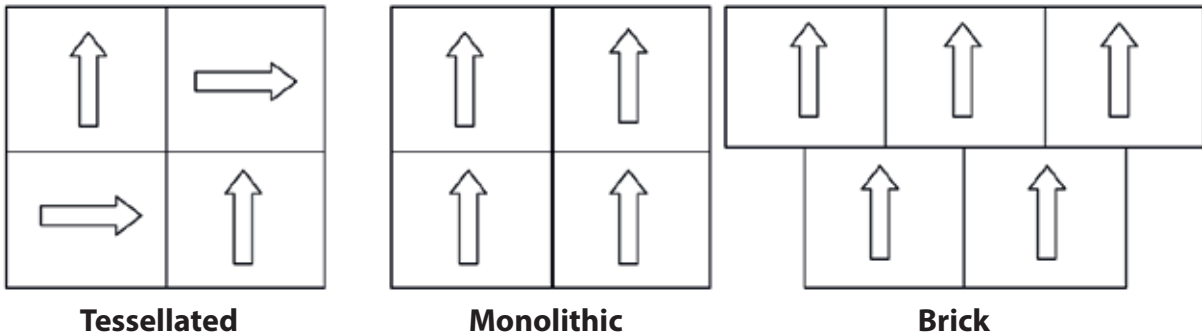
In areas liable to be subjected to extreme abnormal temperature variation in use, for example, retail premises with glazed window fronts, open spaces in offices with fully glazed areas, conservatories etc. The use of a high temperature adhesive that is compatible with the floor covering and the subfloor is recommended. Up to normal working temperatures a tackifier adhesive is suitable.

The installation, on completion, should be rolled with a 68kg roller, within the open time of the adhesive, to ensure good contact with the adhesive. 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.

## Installation

For the installation direction of Allura Decibel tile please note the following:

- Material design tiles may be laid either in bond (monolithic), brick pattern or tessellated.



- Traditional wood designs do not require shuffling prior to installation, but dry laying will identify best use of design.

Like the natural material, some designs will vary in tone and colour. This is intentional and gives the floor a more authentic appearance. Dry laying before adhering will identify best use of each design.

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

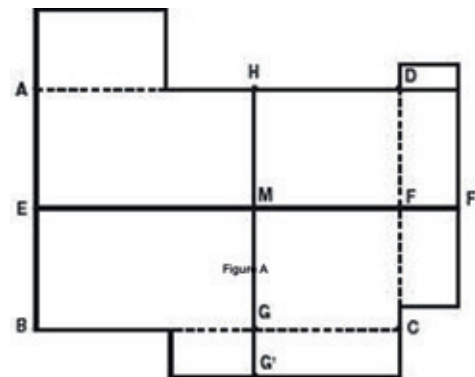
## Setting out

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-H (Figure A).



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

## 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. Lightly roll each row of planks with a hand roller to ensure an initial firm adhesive bond.

**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.

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.

## Fully adhered installation

In situations where the tiles or planks are being fully adhered 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 tiles, 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 can 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.

## 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 **www.cfa.org.uk (Tel: 01159 411126)**



FLOORING SYSTEMS