Installing Sphera Homogeneous Vinyl Sheet Flooring

- Always refer to and follow the recommendations in ***Forbo's General Installation Guidelines*** prior to installing Sphera.
- Always refer to and follow the recommendations in ***Forbo's Substrate Evaluation and Preparation Guidelines*** prior to installing Sphera may be installed on approved substrates on all grade levels.
- For the tolerance in the sequence of roll numbers, refer to the ***Installation Direction & Sequence Section*** of ***Forbo's General Installation Guidelines***.
- Use Forbo V 1190, Sustain 1195, or 660 adhesive.
- Use a 1/32" x 1/16" x 1/32" fine notch trowel to apply the adhesive. Replace the trowel when proper coverage is no longer attainable.
- Never back roll Sphera.
- Cutting too full or back rolling may result in bubbles or wrinkles.
- Store Sphera rolls standing upright.
- Do not allow heavy traffic or rolling loads for a minimum of 72 hours following the installation. For installations over non-porous substrates, additional time may be necessary because the adhesive may take longer to cure.
- Wait a minimum of five days following the installation before conducting initial cleaning. For installations over non-porous substrates, additional time may be necessary because the adhesive may take longer to dry and cure.
- Take pride in your work and be Professional at all times.
- For additional information, contact Forbo's Product Support & Education Services at 1-800-842-7839 or www.forboflooringNA.com.

Cutting and Fitting the Sheets

Forbo recommends that Sphera be cut and fit one sheet at a time. Sphera is flexible and easy to handle. In most cases, a qualified installer will be able to hand fit the material in areas where base or trim moldings will be installed after the installation is completed. Following these recommendations will give the installer the best opportunity to manage the open time and working time of the adhesive and ensure that the flooring material is placed into wet adhesive.

- Measure the area to be installed and determine the direction in which the material will be installed and seam placement. Seams should be a minimum of 6" away from underlayment and concrete joints, saw cuts, etc.
- Cut the required length off of the roll, adding approximately 2" - 3" for extra trimming at each end.
- Push the length of the sheet as close to the starting wall as possible, letting the extra length run up the wall at each end.
- Starting at the main (long) wall, set the scribes to a minimum of 3/8" more than the greatest distance between the wall and the flooring material. Scribe the shape of the wall onto the flooring material. Cut the material along the scribe line using a hooked blade knife.
- Position the fitted sheet in place against the main wall.
- The factory edge must be trimmed in order to produce a clean edge suitable for seaming. The Forbo Seam & Strip Cutter has been developed to efficiently and effectively trim the factory edge. In lieu of the Forbo Seam & Strip Cutter, a straight edge, utility knife and hooked blade may also be used. Position the straight edge approximately 1/2"- 3/4"from the factory edge and score the material using the utility knife along the straight edge. After scoring, complete the cut using a hooked blade knife following the score line. Hold the blade at a slight angle to the surface of the material so the seam edge will have a slight undercut.
- Cut the required length for the second sheet off of the roll, adding approximately 2" - 3" for extra trimming at each end.
- Position the second sheet with a 1/2" - 1" overlap over the first sheet at the seam.
- Repeat these steps for as many sheets necessary to complete the job or as many sheets that can be installed that day.
- Lap half way back one sheet at a time. ***Do NOT back roll Sphera.***

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Adhering the Sheets

- Draw a pencil line along the area where the adhesive will be spread to assure an even and straight line of adhesive. Spread the adhesive over the entire area. Be sure to spread adhesive all the way to the pencil line without leaving any voids. Be careful not to leave any adhesive ridges or puddles.
- The open time and working time of adhesives will vary depending on site conditions such as ambient temperature and humidity, the porosity of the substrate and air circulation. It is the installer's responsibility to make adjustments to specific conditions as may be necessary to ensure 100% wet adhesive transfer to the material backing. A general indication of proper open time is when a light touch produces transfer of adhesive to the finger, but a firm touch will flatten and "smear" the adhesive. For additional information, refer to ***Forbo's Adhesive Technical Data Sheets***.
- The adhesive should be allowed to develop body before placing the flooring material into the adhesive, but **DO NOT ALLOW THE ADHESIVE TO DRY**.
  NOTE: If Sphera is placed into overly-wet adhesive on a non-porous substrate, there is a risk that sustainable bubbling may occur. Push the lapped flooring from the fold into the adhesive one sheet at a time, working towards the wall. Do not flop the material into the adhesive. This will trap air under the material causing bubbles.
- Check for adhesive transfer frequently. There must be **100% wet** transfer of adhesive to the material backing in order to achieve a secure bond. 100% wet transfer is a continuous film of adhesive, when wet, on both the backing of the material and the substrate with no trace of trowel marks or ridges.
- The flooring material **must remain in contact with the adhesive while the adhesive is drying and curing.**
- Immediately roll the flooring in all directions using a 100 lb. roller to ensure proper adhesive transfer. Additional rolling is required during adhesive setup to ensure that the material is flat and fully adhered.
- The use of a three-section wall roller or steel seam roller is required at walls, under toe kicks or anywhere the full weight of a 100 lb. roller cannot access or be applied.
- Proper sheet placement and rolling will result in a complete "explosion" of the trowel ridges, creating a continuous flat film of adhesive. Complete transfer of the sheet backing will appear in the surface of the adhesive.
- After the material has been laid into the adhesive, under scribe the seams using recess scribers with either the scribe blade or scribe pin. Set the recessed under scribers so that the seam will be net fit with no gap or fullness. If the material is cut too full, it will result in bubble or peaked seams. Gaps will contribute to weakened welds.
  NOTE: The guide button on the bottom of most recessed under scribers must be filed down to avoid removing adhesive at the seam.
- Cut the material along the scribe line with a hooked blade knife.
- Roll the seam with a steel seam roller.
- Remove fresh adhesive residue immediately with a clean white cloth. Dried adhesive can be removed with a clean white cloth and Forbo Adhesive Remover. If this is not available, a solution of properly diluted neutral pH cleaner may be used. The area should then be rinsed with clean, cool water to remove all residues from the floor.
- **NOTE:** If using Forbo 660 adhesive, refer to ***Forbo's 660 Adhesive Technical Data Sheet*** for additional information.
- Repeat the same procedure on the other half of the sheet until the job is completed. Take caution not to overlap adhesive lines or leave ridges of adhesive, as it may telegraph through the material.
- The seams should be heat welded no sooner than the day following installation. For complete instructions, refer to ***Forbo's Heat Welding Sphera Homogenous Vinyl Products Installation Guidelines***.

Installing Forbo Sphera Around Floor Drains

Forbo recommends the use of clamping type drains when Sphera is being installed to prevent water penetration. These drains can be obtained from plumbing supply distributors. Examples of these include but are not limited to Mifab F1100-FC, Zurn Z415H, and Wade 1100-FC.

Forbo's General Installation Guidelines contain additional information and are available for download at www.forboflooringNA.com. For additional information, contact Forbo's Product Support & Education Services at 1-800-842-7839.